



**JOIN
TODAY!**

**PRIORITY
REGISTRATION
BEGINS
JANUARY
16TH**

DARIEN YMCA CAMP GUIDE 2024

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SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFER

Join as a **family** between January 16 and March 15, 2024 while registering for camp and the Y will waive the joiner’s fee.*

*This does not apply to youth or teen membership types.



IMPORTANT DATES

Camp Info Sessions will be announced closer to camp season.

Date: 2024

Gymnastics Camp	TBD
Preschool Camp	TBD
School Age Camp	TBD

Session Dates	* One Week Sessions
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Week 1:	June 17 – June 21
Week 2:	June 24 – June 28
Week 3:	July 1 – July 5 (Closed July 4)
Week 4:	July 8 – July 12
Week 5:	July 15 – July 19
Week 6:	July 22 – July 26
Week 7:	July 29 – August 2
Week 8:	August 5 – August 9
Week 9:	August 12 – August 16 (Available for Preschool & School-Age only)

Registration Dates	*Please review page 11 for registration guidelines.
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January 16 at 10:00 am	Members who are Darien Residents or members who are returning 2023 campers.
January 18 at 10:00 am	Darien Y members who are not residents of Darien.
January 23 at 10:00 am	Registration for non-members.
June 4 at 10:00 am	Registration for Extended Care and Lunch Bunch.

WELCOME TO CAMP

The Darien YMCA Summer Camp is a wonderful opportunity for children of all ages and abilities to experience a wide range of activities. We offer an environment where campers build lasting memories and friendships.

The Darien YMCA Summer Camp is committed to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. We help children grow and have fun through exploration, building self-confidence and independence, learning core values, developing life skills and most importantly being active.

Our dedicated camp staff will help teach the campers new skills and facilitate learning in a safe and fun environment.

Campers can choose from our Preschool Camp, School Age Traditional Camp, Gymnastics Camp, Afternoon Navigators or our Swim and Sail Camp for children with special needs.

Our Summer Camp Brochure and website will give you the information you need to choose the right camp for your child. You will find information about our 2024 Registration Dates, Session Dates, Fees for each individual camp, Extended Care and the necessary forms needed to attend camp.

School Age Camp programs will be held at

[Middlesex Middle School, located at 204 Hollow Tree Ridge Road, Darien.](#)



PRESCHOOL CAMP

Your child’s first years at camp are so important. The Darien YMCA Preschool Camp provides a safe, nurturing and age appropriate environment while they play, learn and grow.

HOLLY HOPPERS • Ages 3-4 years

For 1st time campers, this is a great program for your child. Campers will explore at their own pace while building motor skills in a safe and nurturing environment. They will participate in music, creative movement, swimming, games, cooking, arts & crafts and special events. Holly Hoppers can also sign up for Lunch Bunch. **Camper must be fully potty trained and must be 3 by the start of session registered for.**

3 DAY AM T, W, Th 8:30 am – 11:30 am	5 DAY AM M – F 8:30 am – 11:30 am	5 Day Full Day M – F 8:30 am – 3:30 pm	** Week 3 Rates reduced for July 4th holiday closure
Fees: \$237/Week Members \$273/Week Non-members	Fees: \$287/Week Members \$330/Week Non-members	Fees: \$403/Week Members \$463/Week Non-members	
\$1,757 (8) Wks Members \$2,024 (8) Wks Non-members	\$2,127 (8) Wks Members \$2,445 (8) Wks Non-member	\$2,986 (8) Wks Members \$3,432 (8) Wks Non-member	

LUNCH BUNCH • For Holly Hoppers Only

Supervised lunch and quiet play is available from 11:30 – 12:30 for Holly Hoppers who would like to extend one hour of their day. Children must bring their own drink and lunch in disposable bag. Preregistration is required online or at the YMCA front desk beginning June 5.
Fee: \$20 per day

SUMMER FUN CLUB • Ages 4-5 years

Campers who have not yet completed kindergarten will enjoy this camp. Activities such as swimming, creative movement, crafts, cooking, canoeing/sailing, music, sports and free play give campers the opportunity to build self-esteem through creativity and exploration. Special events and a field trip to a local beach are enjoyed throughout the summer. Children must bring their own drink and lunch in a disposable bag.

3 DAY AM T, W, Th 8:30 am – 12:30 pm	5 DAY AM M – F 8:30 am – 12:30 pm	5 DAY FULL DAY M – F 8:30 am – 3:30 pm	** Week 3 Rates reduced for July 4th holiday closure
Fees: \$243/Week Members \$280/Week Non-members	Fees: \$303/Week Members \$349/Week Non-members	Fees: \$403/Week Members \$465/Week Non-members	
\$1,801 (8) Wks Members \$2,075 (8) Wks Non-members	\$2,245 (8) Wks Members \$2,587 (8) Wks Non-members	\$2,986 (8) Wks Members \$3,432(8) Wks Non-members	

WEEK 9 MODIFIED CAMP • Ages 4-5 years, space is limited

Half Day Preschool Fees:	Full Day Preschool Fees:
\$303 Members	\$403 Members
\$349 Non-Members	\$488 Non-Members



DARIEN YMCA PRESCHOOL CAMP



SCHOOL AGE CAMP

Our School Age Camp is a traditional day camp that provides campers with the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that help build confidence and friendships. Our campers are encouraged to try new things while they grow and learn about themselves and others all under the care of our wonderful, trained camp staff.

Our School Age Camp is held off site. **Camp for the 2024 Season will be held at MIDDLESEX MIDDLE SCHOOL, located at 204 Hollow Tree Ridge Road, Darien.** Drop off and pick up is at the Y or at Middlesex Middle School. Information regarding the Middlesex location will be provided prior to camp starting.



Our School Age Camp groups are co-ed and arranged by grade that the camper is just completing.

SUPER CAMP Completing Kindergarten & First Grade	EXPLORER CAMP Completing Second & Third Grade
Day: Monday – Friday Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm Fees: \$403/Week Members \$465/Week Non-members \$2,986 (8) Wks Members \$3,432 (8) Wks Non-members	Day: Monday – Friday Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm Fees: \$413/Week Members \$499/Week Non-members \$3,060 (8) Wks Members \$3,697 (8) Wks Non-members
ADVENTURE CAMP Completing Fourth & Fifth Grade	PIONEER TEEN CAMP Completing Sixth & Seventh Grade
Day: Monday – Friday Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm Fees: \$425/Week Members \$510/Week Non-members \$3,149 (8) Wks Members \$3,790 (8) Wks Non-members	Day: Monday – Friday Time: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Fees: \$435/Week Members \$526/Week Non-members \$3,224 (8) Wks Members \$3,897 (8) Wks Non-members

** Week 3 Rates reduced for July 4th Holiday Closure

WEEK 9 MODIFIED CAMP Space is limited

Fees:
\$403/ Week Members
\$488/ Week Non-members

ACTIVITIES Camp offers a variety of activities that give campers the opportunity to experience new things each day. Schedules vary weekly and will be emailed weekly.

- Swimming Lessons
- Sailing, Canoeing
- Paddle Boards (Adventure & Pioneers)
- Arts & Crafts
- STEM- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
- Sports & Games
- Field Trips- a field trip calendar will be provided prior to camp
- Playground Time
- GaGa Ball
- Electives- During elective periods, campers can choose one of many activities to participate in



“FRIENDSHIP is one of the great added benefits of my son's experience at the Darien YMCA”



DARIEN YMCA SCHOOL AGE CAMP



SPECIALTY CAMPS

GYMNASTICS CAMP • Ages 5-12

Eligibility: Girls who completed Kindergarten and up*

Come and train at our 11,000 sq ft state of the art gymnastics facility! Your daughter will be inspired and motivated by their gymnastics experience and accomplishments. Our Staff is extremely knowledgeable in gymnastics and will assess each gymnast throughout their camp experience. You will receive a recommendation at the end, as to where your child should be placed within our YMCA Gymnastics Program. Grouping is based on ability. Age is taken into consideration.

The girls will make new friends, participate in arts & crafts, along with a variety of special activities. Our goal is to build confidence, knowledge, skill, and life-long memories.

We will take a break for arts and crafts and lunch. Bring a bag lunch.

Afternoon Navigators provides an extended day option — please see our Afternoon Navigators section for more information.

Days: Monday - Friday

Time: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Fees:

\$340/Week Members

\$415/Week Non-members

****Week 3 Rates reduced for July 4th holiday closure**

\$2,519 All (8) Wks Members

\$3,075 All (8) Wks Non-members

***Exception: If your preschool aged child is enrolled in our Pre-team (Team Dev and Level 2) program then they are allowed to enroll.**



AFTERNOON NAVIGATORS • Ages 5-12

Afternoon Navigators is a great program for children attending Gymnastics Camp or Summer School who need an afternoon program. Afternoon Navigators runs Monday - Friday from 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm and is held at the Darien YMCA. (If your child attends the Gymnastics Camp, they will be walked from the Gymnastics Center to one of our designated classrooms) *Children must have completed Kindergarten to attend Afternoon Navigators.

Days: Monday - Friday

Time: 1:00 - 3:30 pm

Fees:

\$190/Week Members

\$229/Week Non-members

\$1,408 (8) Wks Members

\$1,689 (8) Wks Non-members

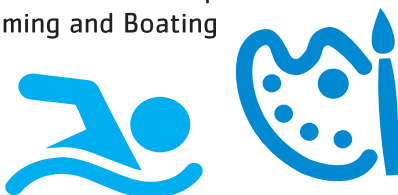
**** Week 3 Rates reduced for July 4th holiday closure**

ACTIVITIES

Monday & Wednesday- Arts & Crafts and Sports

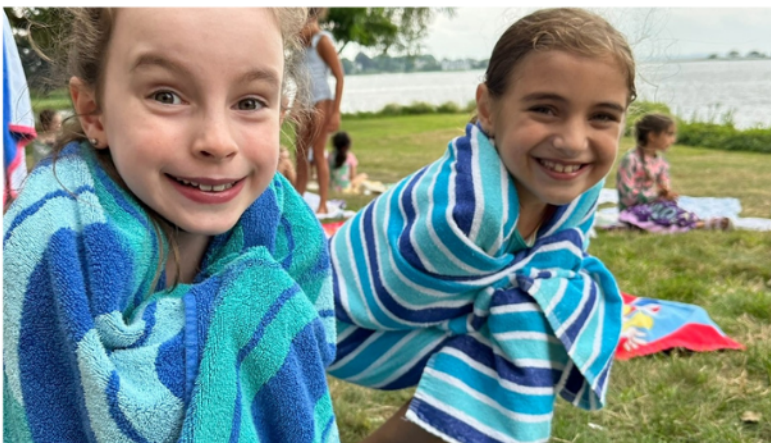
Tuesday & Thursday- Swimming and Boating

Friday- Special Events



"My girls absolutely loved the Darien YMCA Gymnastics camp. **They especially could not wait for the end of session demonstration that showed off their new tumbling skills.**"

DARIEN YMCA GYMNASTICS CAMP



DIVERSE ABILITIES

Ages Kindergarten-18 years

SWIM AND SAIL

The Swim and Sail program will be offered to children with diverse abilities to swim at the YMCA and sail, canoe, and kayak on Holly Pond. The Y's sailing staff and support staff will be conducting and facilitating this program, which includes social skills and development. Smaller groups will be formed by age.

Age Groups, Days & Times:

5-18 year olds, Monday, Wednesday, Friday 3:30 pm-5:45 pm

Sessions:

Session A: June 24 - June 28

Session B: July 1 - July 5 (Closed July 4)

Session C: July 8 - July 12

Session D: July 15 - July 19

Session E: July 22 - July 26

Session F: July 29 - August 2

Fees:

\$138/Week Members

\$159/Week Non-members

****Week 3 Rates reduced for July 4th holiday closure**

“My son struggled with his communication and social skills. Camp was a suggestion given to me to help improve upon these skills. I **never thought that he would be able to show such progress in such a short period of time.** This is 100% attributed to the staff and experiences that my son had during summer camp at the Darien YMCA. He was excited everyday to go and would come home excited to show me the new things he learned or created. **The size of the smile on his face truly showed his happiness”**

CAMP SUPPORT

The Darien YMCA is an all-inclusive camp. We feel that every child should be given the opportunity to participate in a fun-filled camp day. Campers are fully immersed in the camp program. At the discretion of the Camp Director, campers will have additional support at camp. Support staff will motivate campers to be actively engaged in their group activities and provide modification when needed. The Darien YMCA reserves the right to deem if a camper requires additional outside support. At this time, the Camp Director will contact the family to discuss a proper plan.

Please see specific camp based on age/grade for fees and times.

You must contact John Novak at jnovak@darinyymca.org to arrange for a support staff or to answer any questions. Registration is based on program availability. Once a session is full, your child will be placed on the wait list. Priority registration begins on January 17th.



“Darien YMCA is a beautiful facility where my daughter attended Summer Camp for two weeks. She enjoyed tremendously the swimming, sailing, playing outside and seeing gorgeous views of the Holly Pond. **We are definitely considering coming back next year for another happy and healthy summer.”**

DIVERSE ABILITIES

Ages: 14 +

INNOVATIVE VOCATIONS SUMMER PROGRAM

This summer program is offered to teenage students with diverse abilities. With a focus on vocational skills, students will be integrated with the summer program by working as a team to support the staff and the students. This transitional program is unique to the students who attend, where they can find a place of growth in skills, connection to the YMCA community and a sense of accomplishment, as they earn Y-bucks to spend. The Y-bucks are earned for individualized rewards, mirroring a summer job. The jobs and tasks given to the students are tailored towards each students' abilities and organized so they can work together as a group and as a community with the rest of the summer staff and students.

Our objective is to help students promote a sense of time management, money management, and group task-oriented goals, along with making connections to their peers in a fun and educational atmosphere.

Age Groups, Days & Times:

14+ year olds, Monday, Wednesday, Friday 3:45 pm-6:00 pm

SESSION DATES:

Week 1: June 17 – June 21
Week 2: July 24 – June 28
Week 3: July 1 – July 5 (Closed 4th of July)
Week 4: July 8 – July 12
Week 5: July 15 – July 19
Week 6: July 22 – July 29
Week 7: July 29 – August 2
Week 8: August 5 – August 9

Fees:

\$138/Week Members
\$159/Week Non-members

\$1,022 (8) Wks Members
\$1,178 (8) Wks Non-members



****Week 3 Rates reduced for July 4th holiday closure**

For more information or to register, please contact John Novak at jnovak@darien-ymca.org



COUNSELOR IN TRAINING (CITs) • Ages: Completed 8th, 9th, or 10th Grade

Our Counselor In Training program is a great step for 8th, 9th and 10th graders to learn what it takes to be a Camp Counselor.

The goal of the CIT Program is to find participants who have a true desire to work with children. It is our goal to teach you through hands-on experience the aspects of working with children at camp. This will include planning and implementing activities, organization of campers, discipline, and at times parent interaction. The program offers teenagers the opportunity to make a difference in our community while developing leadership skills and learning to become impactful counselors and role models to younger campers. To gain experience in all camps, and to learn how to work with different age groups, each C.I.T.

OUR NEW CIT PROGRAM WILL BEGIN IN THE SUMMER OF 2024.

All CITs regardless of previous participation will be considered first-year CITs as this program is new! To participate in the program, you are required to commit to a two-week session for training which needs to be completed in the first four weeks of camp. Depending on your preference, you may choose 2 of weeks One, Two, Three, or Four. During the first four weeks of camp, first-year CITs will learn how to develop lesson plans for activities and what makes a CIT.

The CIT Coordinator and the Counselors with these assigned CITs will fill out evaluations throughout the week. 9:00 am–11:30 am will be spent with the CIT Coordinator reviewing what is required to be a CIT. You can expect to learn how to develop an activity for the children and incorporate it into the day's schedule, child care supervision, teamwork, and working in a fun, fast-paced, professional environment. After four weeks, the first-year CITs will put their new skills to work in their assigned camp groups. Counselors will be evaluating the CITs weekly and working closely with the CIT Coordinator. The CIT Coordinator will then use those evaluations to solicit future employment for the CIT.

SECOND YEAR CITS PROGRAM WILL BEGIN IN 2025.

C.I.T.s who have already completed one summer of our C.I.T. program will participate in our 2nd year program. This program features a training refresher with evaluations at the end of each session. In addition to assisting with everyday camp responsibilities and groups, second-year C.I.T.s enjoy hands-on experience working with camp leadership staff to plan and implement activities. This additional experience will enable the more seasoned C.I.T.s to practice their skills as future camp counselors.

New and Returning CITs must fill out the CIT Application and return it to John Novak and Ashley Maignan. Once applications are received, applicants will be contacted by the CIT Coordinator Ashley Maignan to set up a short interview beginning in May. You will then receive a Welcome Letter and payment information.

SCHEDULE FOR CITs

Days: Monday – Friday

Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Fees:

\$190/Week Members

\$229/Week Non-members

\$1,408 (8) Wks Members

\$1,689 (8) Wks Non-members

****Week 3 Rates reduced for July 4th holiday**



EXTENDED CARE

The YMCA Summer Camp offers Extended Care hours for those families that need extra care.

Time:

3:30 pm – 6:00 pm at the YMCA

Fees:

Preschool Care: \$110 per week (\$86 for week 3)

School Age Care: \$110 per week (\$86 for week 3)

Registration:

All Extended Care Participants will register online or at the front desk. Extended Care registration will begin June 4, 2024.

****School Age campers will be bused from Middlesex Middle School to the YMCA at 3:30 pm.**

****We do not provide transportation to the YMCA in the afternoon for children not participating or registered in extended care.****

****Due to limited staff, we do not take children from extended care to any YMCA classes****



”

“My son was happy at summer camp. He never felt lonely, ignored or left out. He was excited to come and play with your toys and your counselors. They are fun and good hearted young staff. Very professional and polite. I love and appreciate their hard work and efforts endlessly!!!”

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

ONLINE REGISTRATION:

- Log in to your YMCA account. Choose Summer Camp.
- Once you choose the camp your child will attend, you will also have the opportunity to choose the group within that camp (ex: Group 1, Group 2, etc).
- Click on the Camp Name and you will see the list of weeks. Choose which weeks you want to register for.
- Choose the child you are registering.
- Please add Parent/Guardian to Authorized Pick Up List, along with additional authorized pick ups who your child can be released to.
- You will be required to read and sign the Participation Agreement and Refund Policy.
- If you will be registering another child, click on Add Programs at the top right and repeat steps above. If not, continue to next step.
- If you are registering for 8 weeks of camp, you may use the Promo Code: **8 Weeks**. Please note that if you use the Promo Code and are not registered for 8 weeks or later cancel any weeks, you will be billed for that discount.
- If you are registering two or more children, you may use the Promo Code: **Sibling Discount** (please note 8 Week Discount and Sibling Discounts may not be combined)
- Please review your registration.
Make payment.

REGISTERING AT THE FRONT DESK:

- Submitting Registration Forms is required for anyone setting up a payment plan.
- Fill out the Summer Camp Registration Form.
- If setting up a payment plan, you must fill out the Payment Plan form.
- Bring to the front desk.

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- Children who are members of the Darien YMCA or who have parents who are YMCA members will receive priority registration due to a ruling by the Darien Planning and Zoning Commission. Siblings of returning campers may register during priority registration if they are a member.
If registering for all 8 sessions, you will receive a 5% 8 Week Discount. If registering online the 8 Week Discount will not calculate unless you use the Promo Code: **8 Weeks**.
- The 8 week discount and Sibling discount cannot be combined
- If you receive Financial Assistance, you will not receive an additional 8 week or Sibling discount.
- Determine correct camp placement by noting what grade in school the child will complete in June of 2024. If a child has not completed Kindergarten, they must attend the Preschool Camp.
- You may not register for Camp 2024 if you have any outstanding balance for other YMCA programs.

REQUIRED FORMS

The following items **MUST** be on file at the Darien YMCA Camp in order for your child to attend.

- A Registration Form fully completed. If you register at the YMCA front desk, you will be required to complete at the time of registration. If you register online, all emergency contact information must be completed online.
- A complete Physical Form that is less than 36 months old. Campers may submit a copy of completed school physical or use the camp physical form.
- Any children bringing medication to camp must have their physician complete and sign the Authorization of Medication Form. Parents must sign the Parent Section on the form. Medications must be submitted in the original container with the prescription clearly visible. If it is an "over the counter" medication, this form must be complete and medication must be in original container. We will not accept any medication without a completed form.
- Individual Care Plans are required for any child who has a special health or behavior concern that our staff should be made aware of. Once filled out by the parent, the form will be shared with the Camp Directors, Camp First Aider and the child's immediate counselors if necessary.

HOW TO SUBMIT FORMS

Registration form, Medical Forms and Authorization of Medication Forms can be submitted in the following way:

Mail to Darien YMCA, 2420 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820 Attn: CAMP

Scan and email to the Director of registered camp listed below

Drop off at the YMCA Front Desk

2024 CAMP REFUND POLICY

A participant canceling before April 15 will receive an online credit or refund less a \$20 charge per week canceling fee.

A participant canceling after April 15 will receive a refund or online credit less a 20% charge per week canceling fee.

No refunds or credits are given after May 15.

All refunds will be processed with an additional \$20 processing fee.

Financial Assistance, Payment Plans, and

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Darien YMCA wants all children to have the opportunity to participate in summer camp, regardless of financial situation or ability to pay. Our Financial Assistance is based on family income, number of members in the household and the availability of YMCA funds.

- A Financial Assistance application can be obtained on our website or at front desk and can be emailed to Vanessa Ortega at vortega@darien-ymca.org or left at the front desk. The application process is kept confidential and requires proof of financial need.
- The form must be completed in full and accompanied by all required documentation listed in the application.
- Incomplete applications will not be processed.
- You will be notified when your application has been processed. If approved, you will be sent an approval letter with further instructions. Please do not register for your desired program/s before receiving this approval letter. Assistance discounts are not applied to existing registrations.
- Once camp registration begins, you may register online if you are paying in full, or at the front desk if

PAYMENT PLANS

The Darien YMCA Summer Camp offers a Camp Payment Plan. You must complete the Payment Plan Form. All payments are made on the 20th of the month, with the last payment being June 20th. You must pay the first payment at the time of registration. If you choose to do a payment plan, you must register in person at the

YMCA MEMBERSHIP

A non-member fee is applied to all camp fees. Your family or child can become a Member, which will give them the member fee and priority registration. Member must remain active through the last day of camp attending.

***Join as a FAMILY between January 16 and March 14, 2024 while registering for camp and the Y will waive the joiner fee.**

YMCA Camp Directors

School Age and Special Needs Camp

John Novak, Director of Youth Development Director

jnovak@darien-ymca.org

Preschool Camp

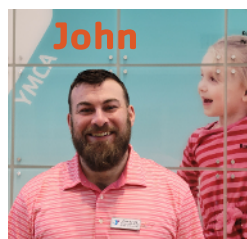
April Greene, Youth Services Director

agreene@darien-ymca.org

Gymnastics Camps

Nicole Kapitan, Gymnastics Director

nkapitan@darien-ymca.org





WE LOVE THE YMCA SUMMER CAMP

DARIEN YMCA

2420 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820 | 203.655.8228

darien-ymca.org