



Edwards YMCA Camp Outdoor Education

Program Planning Guide



Dear Educators,

Thank you for your interest in Edwards YMCA Camp. This planning guide provides a framework for you to start thinking about a trip out to Edwards YMCA Camp. We offer both overnight and day trips out to camp that combine natural science, team building, and outdoor adventure into a unique program that fit your and your student's needs. In order to make it easy to pick classes that will support your classroom curriculum we have aligned the classes with the Next Generation Science Standards as well.

Here at Edwards we will tailor your program to your specific needs and wants. We do not have specific class packages assigned to each grade level, and that will allow you to choose programs that support your work back in the classroom. We can teach all of the class activities or assist you in teaching them yourself, whichever works best with your students. Our Outdoor Education Staff are fully trained professionals that come to us with a four-year degree or extensive outdoor education experience.

We are dedicated to running an outdoor education program that will inform and inspire your students. Staff and teachers have been first-hand witnesses to the difference that even a short time at Camp Edwards can make. We would love to work with you in order to provide a great educational experience for your students. I encourage you to contact me with questions or come take a tour of Edwards YMCA Camp.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Mike Rutenbar
Environmental Education Director
Edwards YMCA Camp

Contact Information

For all program related questions contact:
Mike Rutenbar, Environmental Education Director
(262)642-7466 x205
mrutenbar@campedwards.org

For all billing questions, please contact:
Heidi Schueller, Business Manager
(262)642-7466 x204
hschueller@campedwards.org

Office hours are 8a.m. to 4p.m. Mon. – Fri.

Camp Staff are available for after hour emergencies at **(262) 527-0166** while campers are on site.

Basic Pricing

In order to put together a complete trip for your group, we will build a package for you that will include all activities, meals, evening programs, and housing for your trip out to camp. Basic packages start at:

Day Trip
\$6 / student

One Night Trip
\$46 / person

Two Night Trip
\$70 / person

Frequently Asked Questions

How many people do I have to/ can I bring?

We have groups with 15 people up to hundreds of people that come to camp. We do have a billable minimum of 20 people for overnight stays/meals, just to make sure basic costs are covered.

What housing is available at camp? We have two housing areas to choose from while here at camp.

- Cabin Area – 16 rustic cabins with a central bathhouse that can hold up to 174 people. Each cabin has electricity, heat, bunkbeds, and a fan. Includes teacher housing above the dining hall.
- Lodge Area – We have two lodges with attached bathrooms, and eight bedrooms that each hold four people. Each lodge holds 32 people and can be booked individually or together.

Can we just come for a day?

Of course! We offer day trips from two to ten hours. Camp may be one of the coolest and most educationally diverse field trips around. We would love to work with you to allow your students participate in a trip any amount that they can.

Do you do overnight camps?

Absolutely! We love hosting our residential groups and keep a nice stock of wood for all those campfires!

How much does it cost?

Camp costs whatever your budget allows. We have options that cost as little as \$6 per student - it all depends on your length of stay and your program choices.

Do you help with the planning?

Every step of the way! Planning is one of the biggest parts of what we do. Our goal is to streamline and simplify the process so our guests can enjoy their time with us. We are happy to come to you and run student and parent information meetings, in order to get everyone on the same page for a trip.

What about meals at camp- what are our options?

We have a full service dining hall that serves hot meals to many campers each year. We also have space available for you to bring and eat your own lunch if you would prefer.

How do I book a date or see if a date is available?

Give us a call or email. Once you have your date and you have decided to come, we will send you a use agreement. You simply complete and return it with a small deposit to reserve your date.

Who will be working with our students?

We are especially proud of our program instructors. They are adults with backgrounds in education or recreation who show a strong commitment to working with children. All staff undergo extensive screening, including reference checks, interviews, and a national criminal background check before they are eligible for hire. Staff are trained to help children realize their fullest potential in a positive, experiential manner through a comprehensive training program.

Who provides health care for our trip?

Edwards YMCA camp staff are trained in first aid and CPR. However, the school/group has the primary responsibility to provide health care for students including first aid and dispensing of all medication. As we are in close proximity to nearby hospitals and urgent cares, we do not have an onsite nurse.

Program Checklist

8-12 Months Prior to Visit:

_____ Contact the Environmental Education Director in order to set dates and contract.

6 Months Prior to Visit:

_____ Sign contract and return it to Camp with deposit by the date written on contract.

_____ Mail certificate of insurance to Camp, if not already on file.

_____ Develop and carry out fundraisers (if necessary or needed)

2 – 3 Months Prior to Visit:

_____ Hold an informal meeting for students and parents.

(Camp Edwards staff members are happy to present this for no charge)

_____ Arrange for Transportation

_____ Select teachers and chaperones for the trip

(We recommend a 1 to 10; adult to student ratio)

_____ Recruit or assign someone to be in charge of dispensing medicine *(All Edwards staff are trained in first aid and CPR but cannot dispense medications to students)*

At Least 3 Weeks Prior to Visit:

_____ Assign the cabin lodging.

_____ Choose the classes and evening programs that you want for your trip.

_____ Fill out the School Information Sheet.

_____ Send all forms to the O.E. Director via direct mail, E-mail, or Fax.

_____ Hand out packing lists to students and chaperones.