



# Adventure Club Frequently Asked Questions & Parent Information

*Spring 2023*

## **What COVID-19 precautions are in place to support my child's health and well-being at Adventure Club?**

We are committed to following all health and safety protocols that are identified by the Ministry of Health or our local Public Health in order to ensure your child's Adventure Club experience is as safe as possible. Though only general public COVID procedures are currently in place, please note that procedures and guidelines related to masking, cleaning and disinfecting, cohorts, health screenings, physical distancing, hand washing and hygiene etiquette, and responding to illness may change in accordance to Public Health or provincial direction. Parents are encouraged to have back up care arrangements in place should their child become ill or if the program experiences staffing shortages due to illness or isolation requirements.

## **What happens if my child becomes ill or develops symptoms while at program?**

If a child begins to develop any symptoms during the program the parent/caregiver will be notified and will be required to pick their child up immediately. For the safety of everyone involved, the child(ren) will be removed from the group while waiting to be picked up.

## **What do I do if my child is ill?**

Parents are requested to complete a self screening at home every day in advance of attending the program using the provincial tool. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Children who are sick or have any symptoms associated with the COVID-19 virus should remain at home. Parents/guardians are encouraged to follow the direction provided by the screening tool, or refer to Niagara Region Public Health <https://niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/self-isolation.aspx>

## **What do I do if my child is going to be absent?**

Parents/caregivers should report any absences by 11:00 am on the day of the absence by using the link on the website or in the program information you will receive after registration.

## **Will my child be required to sanitize their hands?**

Children are encouraged to use sanitizer upon arrival and follow proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette throughout the program. Handwashing stations and sanitizer will be available on site for children and staff to utilize before and after eating, after using shared equipment and after using the outdoor washroom facilities (port-a-potty).

## **Do I need to wear a mask when dropping off and picking up? Does my child need to wear a mask?**

### **Will staff wear masks?**

Parents/guardians, children and staff are not required to wear a mask at this time, unless following the Public Health guidance after COVID 19 illness or exposure.

The YMCA of Niagara does support an individual's personal choice to wear a mask. If this is your choice, parents/guardians are responsible for providing their child(ren) with a non-medical mask(s) or face covering each day, and children will require a way to store their mask when not in use during eating etc.

### **Who do I contact if I am going to be late dropping off or need to pick up my child early?**

As staff will only be at the designated sign in and out location for the beginning and end of the program, you may tell them in advance or please contact the Adventure Club Team Leader at (289)686-4255.

### **Can my child switch to another group to be with a friend?**

Any requests for children to be in groups together must be received by the Wednesday prior to the program starting. Requests will be reviewed and accommodated when possible.

### **What happens if it rains, snows, it's too hot or too cold?**

*The Adventure Club program takes place 100% outdoors.* Please dress your child appropriately for the weather and send additional clothing if you like. A pavilion shelter is available in the event of rain, and planned activities will be modified, and frequent breaks scheduled in the event of extreme heat. During extreme weather the program may be relocated, cancelled, or hours adjusted at the discretion of the YMCA.

### **Can my child sign themselves out in or out of the program?**

An adult who is 16+ is required to drop off and pick up each day.

### **Who can pick up my child?**

Only individuals 16+ listed as authorized pick-up or an emergency contact during the registration process will be permitted to sign participants out. Authorized pick-ups including parents/caregivers will be required to show valid, government issued photo identification daily.

The YMCA must be notified of any legal custody arrangements and receive a copy of the signed legal documents, as per the information outlined during registration. If you have questions regarding custody and pick up arrangements, please contact the Day Camp office (905)934-9755 ext. 280.

### **Am I allowed to visit my child in the program?**

For the safety of everyone involved, visitors are not permitted inside the program. Parents/caregivers and authorized individuals are asked to remain at the sign-in and sign-out area and will not be permitted to enter the program space.

### **Is busing available?**

Transportation to site is not available for Adventure Club. Parents/caregivers are responsible for dropping off and picking up their children directly at the site and signing them in and out, with an YMCA staff.

### **My child requires medication. What do I do?**

The YMCA must be notified in advance of participant medication and will only administer prescription medication. For safety reasons, parents/guardians will complete and sign a medication form outlining dosage and times to be administered. Please send only one day's dosage at time in the original, labeled container, showing the child's name, date, name of drug, instructions for storage and administration. Parents must personally hand the YMCA staff any medication and are responsible for bringing it to the program each day. A medication form must also be completed for epi-pens and staff must be made aware at the point of sign in.

### **What should my child bring?**

- A backpack.
- Two snacks and healthy lunch that will fuel them for an active day.
- Wear running shoes and appropriate clothing for physical activity and the weather.
- A filled, cold water bottle.
- A raincoat or poncho according to weather conditions
- Sunscreen (please send children to program with sunscreen applied).
- A hat.
- Bug spray (depending on season)
- 1 to 2 additional face coverings or masks in a secure bag or container (optional)

*\*Personal items, electronics, phones or toys from home will not be permitted in the program. Please label all clothing, lunch pails, backpacks etc.*

### **What should I send for lunch?**

Recommended snacks: fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, pretzels, granola bar (**nut free**), fruit bar, cheese and crackers, yogurt, etc.

#### *Recommended lunch:*

- Sandwiches (brown bread, meat, cheese)
- Vegetables (carrot, celery, cucumber)
- Fruit (apple, pear, orange, banana)
- Treat (granola bars without nuts)
- Drink boxes / bottle of water

Children will not have access to a microwave or refrigerator. Please do not send items that need to be heated up. Sharing of food will not be permitted. Food or snacks will not be served as part of the program. All items must be nut-free.

### **Are there extended hours?**

There are no extended hours available. Parents/caregivers are responsible for ensuring their child is picked up on time (by 3 pm) by an authorized individual.

### **What happens if my child is not picked up on time?**

If you encounter an emergency situation and are unable to pick up your child by 3 pm as planned, please let us know by calling the Adventure Club Team Leader at (289) 686-4255. A late pick up may result in late fees.

### **Do you have a Code of Conduct in place for Adventure Club?**

YMCA of Niagara staff use a positive, values-based approach to guide appropriate behaviours and to encourage and reinforce positive behaviours. Our goal is for each child to have a positive and memorable experience. To achieve this, the safety of each child is of the utmost importance. Parent/guardian(s) and children must recognize a personal responsibility to learn and follow safety and other rules established by the YMCA.

All children are expected to follow the YMCA behaviour guidelines, and to interact in a positive and appropriate manner with their fellow peers, staff, volunteers and other members of the YMCA community. Behaviour (including but not limited to violence, swearing, harassment, verbal threats, physical behaviour, running away, destructive behaviour etc.) that negatively impacts others physically or emotionally may result in dismissal or permanent removal from the program at the discretion of the YMCA of Niagara. Children may also be removed from the program as a result of behaviour that places themselves or others at risk.

### ***Behaviour Guidelines***

All Adventure Club participants will:

- Be responsible for their actions, choices and words;
- Be respectful to each other and their environment;
- Be honest and true to their word;
- Care for themselves and those around them;
- Make healthy and safe choices; and
- Value diversity and seek to include others

In any instance where a participant is being sent home from the program (for behaviour or health reasons), it is the sole responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to make arrangements for the participant to be picked up immediately.

As appropriate, the YMCA will work with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to develop a joint plan to address inappropriate behaviour. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be required to play an active role in supporting the camp staff in implementing behaviour management strategies.

When you register your child for YMCA Adventure Club you are also agreeing to follow, support and adhere to the YMCA of Niagara Code of Conduct and Behaviour Guidelines. Contradictory behaviour may result in your child(ren) being removed from the program at the sole discretion of the YMCA of Niagara. In the event a child's behaviour results in damages or harm to property, belongings, an individual, etc., the parent(s)/guardian(s) is responsible for covering any applicable financial expense(s).

### **How will the staff communicate with me?**

If any major situations arise during the day staff will strive to reach you by phone. For minor situations or communication, a Communication Form will be completed and shared with you to read at sign out. In situations where a meeting is required between the YMCA staff and the family the meeting will be scheduled and completed by conference call or video conferencing.

### **Why can't I meet with a staff at drop off or pick up?**

Depending on the nature of the issue or concern and to respect confidentiality, parent communication may need to take place separately from the drop off or pick up routine. Staff will be encouraged to focus on greeting participants and ensuring safety of participants through sign in/out processes at drop off and pick up.

### **How are you handling lost and found?**

Each group will keep any lost and found items with them in a plastic bag to be returned or identified. Any items found without a name will be kept with the staff on site for that week. After the week, any remaining items will be disposed of.

### **Who do I contact if I have a compliment, question or concern?**

Please email the Day Camp office at [adventureclub@niagara.ymca.ca](mailto:adventureclub@niagara.ymca.ca). The administrator will direct you to the Director.

***Procedures are subject to change at any time based on guidance from the Ministry of Health, Niagara Region Public Health and/or local municipalities.***