



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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Welcome to Summer Discovery Camp!

Camp Director: Omar Perez || Camp Director Email: operez@metroymcas.org

Camp Cell Phone #: 862.400.6019

Camp Site Location: Saint Joseph's Church (St.Joes)

767 Prospect Street, Maplewood, NJ 07040

We are thrilled you will be joining our camp family! Our team has been preparing for a summer of great activities, trips, experiments, projects, and more. We can't wait for the first day, when our campers come through the doors and dive into all the great things we have planned. Throughout the summer, your child will participate in activities that embody our core values of Caring, Respect, Honesty, and Responsibility. We truly believe that camp enriches a child's life immensely and hope to create a nurturing, engaging atmosphere.

The following information is a basic guide to help you know what to expect this summer at Summer Discovery.

How will my child benefit from attending Summer Discovery this summer?

You can be confident that your child will be safe and have tons of fun while attending Summer Discovery this summer. Beyond that, we want to help your child gain positive developmental growth over the summer as well. As a result of our efforts, we hope that you will see growth in your child in the following 9 areas.

1. Social Skills
2. Independence
3. Teamwork
4. Confidence
5. Curiosity
6. Responsibility
7. Appreciation for Nature
8. Problem-Solving Confidence
9. Summer Learning Loss Prevention

At Summer Discovery, we focus on teamwork, curiosity, and appreciation for nature. We will incorporate specific strategies and activities that enable us to focus on achieving positive growth in those areas. Campers will utilize their curiosity and be challenged to think critically.

Before the First Day

- **Talk with your children about Camp.** Having pleasant, positive conversations about what will happen at camp, as well as going over the daily schedule/theme for the week and talking about friends that they will see while at camp before the week begins will help your child feel more comfortable and will hopefully excite them for camp!
- **Be sure to leave plenty of time** on the first day to get ready and to eat breakfast.
- **Have a plan.** Your child may become upset when you drop them off. We have found from experience that it is best for you to have a routine with your child for drop off. Tell your child that you will be back to pick them up - or tell them who will be picking them up that day. If you are struggling, please let our staff know and we will gently help your child get involved in an activity.
- **Having a routine and knowing what to expect** allows your child to have less anxiety about their camp day, and starts your day off right too!

NUT-SAFE FACILITY



Keep in mind that we are a **NUT SAFE FACILITY**. Please make sure your child comes to camp without any nuts, nut products or peanut butter items. Staff will check the ingredients and remove any items that may contain nuts. These items will be returned at pick-up, but we appreciate any effort to eliminate these. Any item that “may contain” peanuts or tree-nuts will not be permitted.

LOST AND FOUND

Clearly label with your child’s full name any clothing and possessions that your child brings to camp. “Found” items that have campers’ names on them are usually returned the same day or the next day. If you are ever in need, our staff will help you look for a lost item.

CAMP T-SHIRT

Campers will be given their camp T-shirt (included in the cost) on their first trip day. **On trip days, campers are required to wear their YMCA camp T-shirt.**



CAMP CHECKLIST

- **BACKPACK** The following items should be in your camper's backpack.
 - **Lunch**
 - ★ Labeled with name (especially on trip days)
 - ★ Non-spoilable food and drink (there is no refrigeration available for food)
 - ★ No gum or nuts of any kind
 - **Labeled water bottle**
 - **Towel** (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
 - ★ We will be having Waterplay on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Each camper should bring their own clean towel on those days.
 - **Change of clothes** (Tuesdays & Thursdays, for after Waterplay)
 - **Bag for wet bathing towels and suits** (Tuesdays & Thursdays, for after Waterplay)
 - **Swimsuit** (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
 - **Underwear Spare** (Tuesdays & Thursdays)(Although it may be a good idea to have a spare any day)
 - **Sunscreen** ** This is often a forgotten item, but very important! **
 - **No electronics.** We understand that some campers have phones and watches to communicate with parents when necessary. We ask that these items be kept away and if campers need to contact parents for any reason, they should let a camp staff member know.
- **SNEAKERS**
 - ★ We will be constantly on the move- walking between activities, playing games, running, and jumping! For their safety, they need to have sneakers to be able to participate in all of these activities. **Dressy shoes, open-toed shoes, sandals, and flip-flops will NOT be permitted.**
- **HATS/SUNGLASSES**
 - ★ A hat is a great way to keep the sun out of your eyes and help keep you cool while outside. We ask that these items are not worn indoors.
- **PERSONAL READING MATERIAL**
- **AN OPEN MIND**
 - ★ Summer Discovery is a diverse community with campers from different grades, walks of life, schools, and families. Each camper has their own academic skills and challenges which allows for



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our community to be an environment where campers learn not only from the staff but each other as well. Any type of bullying, verbal or physical, will not be tolerated and we celebrate diversity.

WHERE DO I DROP OFF?

CAMPSITE LOCATION: The address for Summer Discovery Camp is

Saint Joseph Church, 767 Prospect Street in Maplewood.

Although the address site is on Prospect St., our drop-off and pickup location can be found on Franklin Ave. During pick-up, you will drive in through Franklin Ave, where a staff member will greet you. The staff member will locate your child and bring them out to the car.

A note: This is the process for every camp at St. Joe's. There are three camps at our location (Summer Discovery, Basketball, and Global Experience) and we tried to find the best way to have drop off and pick up. It may take some time to adjust, but we are confident that it will work best this way.

To allow for a staggered drop-off for all children and staff prior to entry, we will be following the schedule below to minimize wait times.

Our curbside drop-off schedule will be the following:

8:00-8:30 am- Summer Discovery Jr & 1

8:30-9:00 am- Summer Discovery 2

- ★ Core Camp Program Hours (i.e. structured, scheduled hours) are from 9am – 3:00pm. Campers may be dropped off as early as 7:30am. Campers arriving should walk up to the tent and table at the Franklin Avenue gate. Staff will be on hand to greet you.
- ★ Campers who are permitted to walk to camp and sign themselves in should arrive during the 8:30-9:00am time slot.
- ★ If your time slot for drop-off does not work for you, please contact Omar Perez at operez@metroymcas.org to arrange an earlier time.
- ★ If you need to speak with a Coordinator at drop-off for any reason that may take longer than a quick check-in, please legally park your car to avoid traffic build-up.

WHERE DO I PICK UP?

CAMPSITE LOCATION: During Pick up, you will drive in through Franklin Ave where a staff member will greet you. The staff member will locate your child and bring them out to the car.

A note: This is the process for every camp at St. Joes. There are three camps at our location (Summer Discovery, Basketball and Global Experience) and we tried to find the best way to have



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drop off and pick up. It may take some time to adjust, but we are confident that it will work best this way.

To allow for a staggered pick-up for all children, we will be following the schedule below to minimize wait times.

Our curbside pick-up schedule will be the following:

3:00-3:30pm- Summer Discovery Jr & 1

3:30-4:00pm- Summer Discovery 2

- ★ Core Camp Program Hours (i.e. structured, scheduled hours) are from 9am – 3:00pm.
- ★ Campers who are permitted to walk home from camp and sign themselves out will be able to sign themselves out starting at 3:30pm. If you would like to request that these campers stay until a specific time, please let us know.
- ★ If your time slot for pick-up does not work for you, please contact Omar Perez at operez@metroymcas.org to arrange an alternative time.
- ★ Instead of parking and exiting your car during curbside pick-up, we will bring your camper to you to make it easier for sign-out.
- ★ If you need to speak with a Coordinator at pick-up for any reason that may take longer than a quick check-in, please legally park your car to avoid traffic build-up.
- ★ If you are picking up campers in both Summer Discovery Jr/1 and Summer Discovery 2, please let us know which time slot you would prefer, and we will ensure those campers are ready at the same time.

Aftercare runs from 3:30-6:30pm. To pick-up aftercare campers, please park legally and enter through the gym doors. There will be a staff member to guide you.

COMMUNICATION

- ★ **Electronic:** During the summer we will be communicating through regular emails and playerspace. This will be a main source of communication with you so [please let us know](#) if there are any changes in your contact information. We will send regular newsletters every week through Player Space. Please make sure you have logged in to Playerspace and updated photos, information etc. We use this information to ensure the safety of each child.
- ★ **BAND:** For photos and general fun announcements, we are using BAND! Our band invite link is here: <https://band.us/band/98994835>
- ★ **In Person:** Please feel free to request to speak to your child's coordinator at any time with questions or concerns. Our team will be working very hard to make every child happy. Please understand that drop-off and pick-up can be busy for us. If you feel that you need to have a longer conversation with a coordinator, kindly ask them to call you during the afternoon or the next morning when they have a chance, or schedule a time to speak in person that is during a better time.



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DAILY ACTIVITIES

(These are examples of activities campers might have each day)

- ★ Waterplay (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
- ★ STEM
- ★ 3Rs (see below)
- ★ Freeplay
- ★ Thematic Art
- ★ Invention Hour
- ★ Large Group Activities (i.e., Jeopardy)
- ★ Weekly Trips on Wednesdays

Specialist-Led Activities

Many of the camper group activities will be led by an activity specialist. The counselors of each grade-level group will attend their specials at assigned times. The specialists will guide the campers, with the assistance of their counselors, through a variety of activities in that specialty area. Topics explored in each special will be reviewed in weekly updates.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE:

this is just a sample daily schedule for an example, specific blocks and times may change

7:30-9:00am → Morning Care

8:30am-9:00am → Drop-off

9:15am-10:15am → Morning Meetings

10:15-11:15am → Morning Block 1 (i.e., Art, STEM, 3R's)

11:15am-12:15pm → Morning Block 2 (i.e., Waterplay)

12:15pm-1:15pm → LUNCH

1:15pm-2:15pm Afternoon Block 1 (i.e., Art, STEM, 3Rs)

2:15pm-3:15pm Afternoon Block 2 (i.e., Invention Hour)



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3:15pm-3:00pm Transition: Get ready for curbside, head to aftercare

3:00pm END OF REGULAR CAMP DAY/Curbside Pick-Up Begins

3:30pm-6:30pm Aftercare (Aftercare campers will be provided snack)

3Rs, STEM and the Arts

Our specialty programs are the backbone of Summer Discovery. 3Rs is a program where our campers use interactive activities to explore the content of books, articles, and other ways they may encounter language. It is designed for use in real-world applications. The idea is that they are critically thinking about words with multiple meanings and applying them in real life. STEM is where they will experiment to increase their understanding of the world and hone their curiosity. In our counselor-led Art, Campers will work with different materials, styles, and genres to express themselves and all they are learning.

We are ready for the summer and can't wait to meet all our campers! Please don't hesitate to call us with any further questions or comments you may have about camp. We are always open to your suggestions and ideas.

Omar Perez

SDC Director

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