


2012 PARENT HANDBOOK



Everything You Need to Know About Sending Your Child to Camp.



**YMCA**  
**CAMP MASON**  
**2012 PARENT**  
**HANDBOOK**



<b>YMCA CAMP RALPH S. MASON</b> 23 Birch Ridge Rd. Hardwick, NJ 07825 Phone: (908) 362-8217 FAX: (908) 362-5767 www.campmason.org	
<b>IMPORTANT INFORMATION:</b> <i>Camp Director:</i> Don Jennings don@campmason.org Phone: 908-362-8217 x103 <i>Registrar:</i> Shani Kately shani@campmason.org Phone: 908-362-8217 x104	
<b>DATES:</b>	<b>TUITION:</b>
<i>One-week sessions for first-time campers grades 2-5:</i> - Starter 1: June 24 – June 30 - Starter 2: August 5 – August 11	\$760 <i>Starter Sessions are for first-time campers who have completed grades 1-5.</i>
<i>Two-week sessions for campers grades 2-9:</i> - 1A: June 24 – July 7 - 1B: July 8 – July 21 - 2A: July 22 – August 4 - 2B: August 5 – August 18	\$1375 <i>Traditional camp is for campers who have completed grades 2-9.</i>
<i>Ranch Camp for campers grades 7-9:</i> - 1A: June 24 – July 7 - 1B: July 8 – July 21 - 2A: July 22 – August 4 - 2B: August 5 – August 18	\$1575 <i>Ranch Camp is for campers who have completed grades 7-9.</i>
<i>Four-week sessions for campers grades 2-9 and CIT's:</i> - Session 1: June 24 – July 21 - Session 2: July 22 – August 18	\$2650 <i>Please note that 4-week campers who stay at camp during the middle weekend must pay the stayover fee.</i>
<b>NOTE:</b> - 50% of balance due March 1 - Remainder of balance due May 1 - Registrations after these dates make payment arrangements with the camp office.	<b>ADDITIONAL FEES:</b> <i>YMCA Membership:</i> \$10 (required) <i>Trading Post:</i> \$50 (suggested minimum) <i>Riding Lessons:</i> \$90/wk (optional/grades 4-9) <i>Stayover Weekend:</i> \$100 (4-week campers only)

**CONTENTS**

About Camp Mason .....	1	Communicating With Your Camper.....	6
Daily Schedule.....	2	Health Services.....	7
Camp Activities.....	3	Laundry, Lost & Found, Trading Post .....	7
Registration Information.....	3	Ranch & Riding .....	8
Packing List.....	4	Counselor-In-Training Program .....	8
Arrival & Departure.....	5	Camp Mason Staff & Trustees.....	8
Stay-over Weekend.....	6	Directions to Camp.....	8
Telephone Policy .....	6	Frequently Asked Questions .....	8



# Welcome to YMCA Camp Mason!

YMCA Camp Mason has welcomed youth and families of all nationalities, backgrounds, and faiths since 1900. We offer a variety of programs focused on building character and developing leadership skills through a shared community camping experience. The mission-based programs of YMCA Camp Mason afford personal growth opportunities to people of all ages.

Located on 650 acres adjoining the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, an extensive, well-maintained facility blends with more than 100 years of tradition to provide an exceptional camping experience. Generations of men and women from all walks of life have spent their summers at Camp Mason.

Camp Mason provides a traditional residential summer camp experience for children 7-16 years of age. Campers learn important life skills and values while residing in small cabin groups, gaining a better understanding of themselves while living and working cooperatively in a diverse community.

Camp Mason also prepares teens for responsible citizenship, service, and leadership roles through specialized programs. Our Counselor-in-Training program helps young adults to become conscientious members of the camp community with an eye toward joining the staff in the future. The Senior Guide program gives older campers the opportunity to share their mastery while assisting program specialists in their areas. Both are excellent sources of community service experience, as well.



### Our Mission:

“Through the transforming experience of outdoor camping – rich in bonding friendships, physical activity, and fun – YMCA Camp Mason will lead youth, families, and community to an awareness of our core traditions: environmental stewardship, spirituality, and respect for our fellow man.”

### Our History:

Camp Mason’s story begins in 1900 when the Trenton/Mercer County YMCA organized its first season of residential summer camp at Camp Washington, near Washington’s Crossing, NJ. Several years later the camp moved to Marshall Island (also known as Eagle Island) in the Delaware River and changed its name to Camp James J. Wilson. An epic flood inundated the island in 1955 and the camp was moved to its current location in Hardwick, NJ. Another name change accompanied the move: Camp Wilson became Central New Jersey YMCA Camps.

At this time the camp organized itself as an independent YMCA association, serving children from across the tri-state area. In the 1970’s the camp’s name was changed again to Camp Ralph S. Mason to honor the man who was instrumental in relocating and rebuilding the camp after the flood. Mr. Mason was a camper and staff member who grew up to serve as President of the Board of Trustees for 34 years; his two sons, Rip and Tom, remain involved with the camp to this day.



Washington-Wilson  
1901-1956



Central  
1957-1979

Each year Camp Mason hosts approximately 800 campers in its summer resident camping program, as well as over 10,000 at its Outdoor Center. With 394 beds available in winterized cabins and lodges, the Mason Outdoor Center welcomes off-season participants come from over 120 different schools, groups and organizations that use our facility for environmental education, outdoor education, recreation, retreats, and group getaways.

### Staff:

YMCA Camp Mason employs approximately 85 seasonal staff during the summer. International staff members are hired for a number of positions, but most (80%) are domestic college-age students. All staff members participate in a week-long training program prior to working with campers (Admin, aquatics, ranch, trips, and program specialists train for 2 weeks). In addition to counselors, the camp hires teaching specialists for activities such as swimming, the arts, and our extensive adventure programs. Support staff work in the office, kitchen, and at maintenance. Thoughtful hiring, training, and shared experience create a summer staff at Camp Mason that is energized, dedicated, and focused on providing an exceptional camping experience to your child.

Camp Mason is committed to creating a safe environment for our campers. We adhere to the stringent hiring procedures and policies of the YMCA of the USA and the American Camp Association. All staff members are subject to state and federal criminal and sexual offender background checks, as well personal and professional reference checks.

All staff members sign our Code of Conduct as part of the hiring process, which details our abuse prevention policies and general conduct expectations. We would be happy to send you a copy of this document or to address any questions you might have about our hiring policies and procedures. Please direct any requests or questions to the camp office.

**Facilities:**

Camp Mason features extensive program facilities including two recreation lodges, an arts center, playing fields, boating and canoeing facilities, two ponds, basketball/volleyball courts, a skateboard park, heated swimming pool, high and low ropes courses, archery and riflery ranges, and miles of hiking trails. Cabins are simple and comfortable. Each duplex building is home to two cabin groups. Junior cabins hold 8 campers and two staff members. Senior cabins hold 10 campers and two staff members. Each cabin has electricity and full dormitory-style bathrooms. Campers and staff sleep in sturdy bunk beds in the main cabin area. Our dining hall seats 250 in family-style comfort. Food is served buffet-style by our experienced food service staff. The kitchen is equipped to deliver healthy meals in sufficient quantity year-round.



YMCA Camp Mason is accredited by the American Camp Association ([www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org)). The camp complies and is licensed with all state and local health authorities and is inspected annually by the local health department.

**Daily Schedule:**

Resident summer campers follow a daily schedule that is designed to provide both structure for skills-based learning, and free-time activity choices to promote independence and self-direction. A sample of the daily schedule is can be found on our website ([www.campmason.org](http://www.campmason.org)).

Campers begin their day at 7:30AM. Breakfast is served shortly thereafter. Cabin cleanup follows breakfast, after which is morning cabin activity, a time when each cabin group participates in an activity they've planned together early in the week. A brief free-time follows morning cabin activity. The camp store is open during this time. Lunch is served at midday and is followed by siesta, a rest period. Campers often spend this time reading, playing cards, or writing home.

The afternoon is devoted to individual interests. There are three activity periods each day. Campers select their activities twice, on the first and second Sundays of the session, for a total of six activity options over the course of 2 weeks. Campers may change an activity after a short time, though they are encouraged to give careful thought to their choices. Afternoon open activities are next. Open activity areas include the courts, the pool, boating & canoeing, arts & crafts, the climbing wall, and the athletic field. Dinner follows open activities.

Evenings consist of an all-camp, village, or age-group activity, such as a campfire, talent show, or carnival. Evening activities are followed by cabin chat, an opportunity for individual cabin groups to reflect on the day's events and discuss a topic of interest. Cabin chats are directed by the counselors. Bedtime varies for age groups, but ranges from 9:00 – 10:00PM.

Weekend schedules are slightly different. Each Saturday has a themed all-camp activity that consists of mixed cabin and group events. Past themes have included Wild West, Medieval, Olympics, and Outer Space. Sunday is 'Sunday Funday', an all-camp open activities day that includes special events, tournaments, and games. The entire camp also gathers for chapel on Sunday, a non-denominational meeting that is planned and presented by villages, in turn. Chapel often includes readings from inspirational sources, music or a skit, and a brief message based on one of the four core values.

## Camp Activities:

Our core activity offerings are listed below. Others added, depending on the talents and abilities of our staff.

<b>Land Sports:</b>	Baseball, Basketball, Disc Golf, Fencing, Flag Football, Mountain Biking, Street Hockey, Rugby, Skateboarding, Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball
<b>Target Sports:</b>	Archery, Riflery
<b>Aquatics:</b>	Swimming, Canoeing, Kayaking, Boating, Fishing
<b>Creative Arts:</b>	Arts & Crafts, Painting, Drawing, Photography & Video, Jewelry Making, Music, Dance, Drama, Tie Dye, Pottery
<b>Adventure:</b>	Climbing Wall, High/Low Ropes, Rock Climbing
<b>Trips:</b>	Daily optional Hiking, Climbing, and Paddling trips in the Delaware Water Gap.
<b>Other:</b>	Nature, Pond Exploration, Gardening, Farming



## Registration Information:

The following documents must be completed in order for us to admit your child into camp. We unfortunately cannot make any exceptions to this policy. Copies of these documents are available in PDF format on our website.

- **Camper Health History Form with Copy of Insurance Card Attached:** Making a copy of both sides of your insurance card before you get here will significantly shorten your wait on Opening Day. Double-check that your medical form is complete and signed by a physician. Many pediatricians are able to print records in the office – these documents can be accepted in place of our medical form, provided they describe the same information.
- **Camper Information Form:** This confidential document will be shared with your child's counselor before they arrive at camp. Our staff members use this information to ensure that your child has a safe, meaningful, and enjoyable camping experience. It is our primary means of documenting and communicating your expectations regarding your child's experience at camp, so it is important that you complete and return this document *before camp starts*.
- **Program Permission and Release Waiver:** This document provides permission for your child to participate in the following activities: rock climbing, skateboard park, archery, riflery, boating + canoeing, off-site trips. It also provides permission to treat your child in the case of a medical emergency, and contains a photo release.

Copies of these forms must be mailed or faxed to us prior to your arrival at camp. Keep the originals and bring them with you for backup, if necessary. The medical form is required by law in the state of New Jersey. Your child's doctor should include records of all immunizations, instructions for administering prescription medications, and the results of a physical examination conducted within the last twelve months. The YMCA does not offer accident or insurance to individual campers.

## Refunds and Cancellations:

Registration deposits are refundable by written request before May 1st. Registration deposits are not refundable after May 1st. Tuition fees are not refundable after May 1st except in the case of verified academic or medical restriction. Please notify the camp if you must cancel your registration. No refunds are available for children sent home from camp for behavioral reasons.

## Cabin-Mate Requests:

The camp makes every attempt to honor cabin-mate requests, but cannot guarantee placement in every instance. Make your requests early for the best consideration. The camp reserves the right to change village and cabin assignments at any time, up to and including opening day of any camp session.

## Medical Costs:

The camp retains Sparta Medical Associates of Blairstown, NJ as a medical consultant and uses Newton Memorial Hospital in Newton, NJ for emergency treatment. The camp will attempt to contact parents prior to making any necessary appointments for off-site treatment. Sparta Medical Associates will bill you directly for co-payments. The camp will bill you for any uncovered medical expenses. A detailed invoice will be provided for the purpose of claim processing. Emergency trips to a dentist, optician or orthodontist will be handled in the same manner as a visit to our doctor.

We recommend that you review your family’s health insurance rules and activate any applicable vacation or travel stipulations prior to sending your child to camp. Make sure we know who your primary care physician is and how to reach them. If your HMO insists that your child be seen by a specific doctor you will need to make the appointment and take him/her yourself.

**Financial Aid:**

Financial assistance toward the cost of tuition is available. Contact the office to request an application. If applying, your financial aid application must accompany your registration.

**What to Bring:**

The following is a list of suggested items to pack for a two-week stay at camp. Your child may bring additional items such as a fishing pole, baseball glove, football, lacrosse stick, deck of cards, etc. The camp is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

**Packing List**

- |                                                  |                                |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 18 Pair Underwear & Socks                        | Sleeping Bag (required)        |
| 18 Shirts/T-Shirts                               | Sheets & Blankets (optional)   |
| 3-6 Pair Jeans or Pants (5 if in Ranch)          | Pillow & Pillow Case           |
| 3-4 Sweatshirts                                  | Letter Writing Supplies        |
| 1 Jacket (can substitute sweatshirt)             | Toiletries                     |
| 6-8 Pair Shorts                                  | Sunscreen                      |
| Pajamas (or preferred sleepwear)                 | Insect Repellent (no aerosols) |
| 1 Raincoat or Poncho                             | Flip-flops (for the shower)    |
| 1 Pair Able-to-Get-Wet Shoes/Sandals             | Water Bottle (required)        |
| 2 Pair Sneakers/Athletic Shoes                   | 2 Swimsuits                    |
| 1 Pair Closed- Toe Comfortable Boots/Light Boots | 2 Beach Towels                 |
| 2 Bath Towels + Washcloth                        | Flashlight (extra batteries)   |
| Laundry Bag (camper’s name on outside)           | Cap/Hat                        |

- Please label ALL of your child’s belongings with their full name.  
 - The camp is not responsible for lost, stolen, or unlabeled items.

*Personal belongings are best packed in a sturdy suitcase, duffel bag, or trunk.*

*The camp cannot provide secure storage for ANY expensive or irreplaceable personal items.*

**Do Not Bring**

- Weapons of any kind
- Matches or lighters
- Alcohol, tobacco Illegal drugs or paraphernalia
- Candy or gum
- Expensive items
- Any device that can record, store, or play video
- Cell phone
- Excessive amounts of food or drink

**A Note on Electronic Devices:**

We urge you to consider leaving all gadgets at home. Many campers recall being ‘unplugged’ as the best part of their camp experience, and it makes it easier to connect with friends, activities, and the outdoors. However, we recognize that a camper who’s away from home might take comfort in being able to listen to music at bedtime, or read a favorite book. If you choose to send your child with an iPod or MP3 player, it must simply be that: a music listening device. We recommend an iPod Shuffle or other small music player (without a camera or video screen) loaded with songs from home. Additionally, if your child owns a Kindle or similar reading device, be sure that it’s not internet-enabled, or that the function is turned off via parental controls. Finally, please note: The camp cannot guarantee the safety or security of ANY device that’s brought to camp. They are solely the responsibility of the camper. A small lockable bag or box might be helpful in securing a gadget inside of a trunk or duffel, but as mentioned at the top of the paragraph – consider leaving everything at home. Your camper will thank you!

**Arrival**

Plan to arrive to drop-off your child at camp between 2:00 – 4:00 PM on opening day. A staff member will greet you at the entrance - follow their instructions and proceed to the tables in front of the business office. The staff members there will let you know if you need to visit the nurses or go straight to your child’s cabin, where a staff member will help you move in. Be sure to visit the trading post – this is the perfect time to acquire a Camp Mason tee shirt, hoodie, sweatpants, or one of our famous Fruifull frozen snacks! Try not linger when you’ve finished checking-in; prolonged farewells may cause distress. All families are asked to leave by 4:00 PM. Counselors hold the cabin group until everyone arrives before starting tours and swim assessments. Please call if you are going to be late so we can let them know, as well as be available to greet you at the office when you arrive.

## Departure

You may pick-up your child between 9:30 – 11:00 AM on closing day. A staff member will greet you at the office. Afterward you may proceed to your child's cabin. Your child's counselor will greet you and help to load your vehicle. Stop by the trading post to claim any money left in your child's account. Unclaimed trading post funds are added to our campership fund for tuition assistance. Visit the camp nurse if there are medications that need to be retrieved.

**A Note to Ranch Camp Parents:** There is a rodeo at the Upper Barn on closing day. It begins at 9:30 AM and lasts about an hour. You may proceed directly to the Upper Barn to meet your child. At the conclusion of the rodeo you may go to your child's cabin to sign them out and retrieve their belongings. For parents that have children in both camp programs, we suggest picking up the resident camper first, taking them with you to enjoy the rodeo, and departing from there.

## Stay-over Weekends: July 7-8, August 4-5

There are two stay-over weekends that occur between sessions 1A and 1B (July 9-10), and 2A and 2B (August 6-7). Four-week campers may stay-over for an additional fee (\$100) which covers the weekend's associated costs. Parents may also choose to take their children away from camp over these weekends. The camper registration form contains a space to mark whether or not your child will be staying-over. The camp will assume your child is not staying-over if that space is left blank. Last minute additions to the stay-over weekend are not possible. There is NO mid-season stay-over weekend option. The weekend between Session 1 and Session 2 is our change-over weekend. The camp is CLOSED and all campers go home at this time. (July 23-24).

## Visiting Days: Sunday July 8, Sunday August 5: 9AM-4PM

Parents may visit campers on the Sunday of each stay-over weekend. Contact the office with the details if you plan to visit your child. Your child may be picked-up after 9:00 AM and must be returned to camp by 4:00 PM. Please be sure to check-in at the office before departing and upon arriving back at camp. Note that Sunday is opening day for many families – there will be lines and traffic starting around 1:00 PM and lasting to about 3:00 PM that day. Plan your return accordingly.

## Homesickness:

Homesickness is a normal and healthy response to being away from home; parents of younger children and first time campers should expect it. Our staff members are well-trained in techniques that help campers develop coping skills for overcoming the challenges of separation from home and family. These skills often lead to more confidence and independence, a key outcome of the camping experience. If the first letter from your child is a little down-hearted, don't be alarmed. Send a reassuring response encouraging them to stick with it. Resist the temptation to include phrases that would lead them to believe you or other family members (including pets) are missing them or that your child is missing out on important things at home. If the problem becomes serious we'll give you a call: we want to involve you in developing useful strategies for your child's success. Remember that what was a crisis on day two might be forgotten by day four.

Keep your letters positive and supportive when you write - let your child know how proud you are that they are facing this challenge. Allow some time for their letters to get home. And finally, feel free to call the camp director at any time if you still have concerns. In our experience, putting children on the phone with parents seriously compounds homesickness issues and typically makes the situation more difficult; however our staff is always willing to speak with you regarding your child's experience. As will be mentioned below, it is our experience that the least helpful thing you can do is send your child to camp with a cell phone. Give them the chance to learn and grow on their own – it's what summer camp is all about!

## Our Telephone Policy

Here at Camp Mason we work to develop strong, independent young people who can function on their own as part of our community. Our staff members are ready to assist campers in dealing successfully with any challenges that arise during their stay with us. Cell phone usage by campers is counter-productive to this process. It bypasses the development of confidence in a community setting, removes the opportunity to resolve conflicts, and undermines our ability to provide guidance within a given situation. Please - don't send your child to camp with a cell phone. Give them the chance to succeed on their own. If you must get an important message to your camper, we will pass it along.

**OUR OFFICIAL CELL PHONE POLICY:** Cell phone use by campers is prohibited. We will confiscate any cell phone in a camper's possession and return it at the end of the session. Thank you for helping us to provide your child with the opportunity to be a confident, independent member of our community.



### **Communicating with the Camp Director or Your Child's Counselor:**

The camp director is available through the camp office in case of emergency. Parents are encouraged to call with any questions or concerns. Your child's counselor or village leader is also available to speak with you as needed. The camp office is open during the summer from 9AM-9PM, M-F, and 9AM-5PM on the weekend.

### **Communicating With Your Camper**

**Letters:** We encourage campers to write home once every two weeks. You can help by encouraging your camper to write frequently. Your chances of receiving mail will be increased if you pack pre-addressed, stamped envelopes or postcards. Mail is delivered every afternoon except Sunday. Send mail to your camper at:



YMCA Camp Mason  
23 Birch Ridge Rd.  
Hardwick, NJ 07825  
ATTN: Your Camper, Village, Cabin

**FAX:** You may send a FAX to your child if you wish. Our FAX number is 908-362-5767. Please limit your FAX to a single page. A busy signal in the morning is normal - we suggest you FAX the night before. Campers cannot send letters via FAX. FAX are delivered with camper mail.

**PACKAGES:** Campers enjoy receiving packages from home. Please keep consumable treats to a minimum. All packages are opened in the presence of a staff member. It is expected that treats will be shared with the group. Packages should be addressed in the same way as letters. Packages are delivered with camper mail. **DON'T OVERDO IT.** A small package about the size of a shoe box is more than sufficient. Anything larger will be confiscated until the end of the session.

**EMAIL:** Email communication is secured by Bunk 1, an online company that provides secure email and photograph services for summer camps. Sending email to your child is free. You can purchase credits for the following: BunkNotes (used by your child to write back to you), word games, and decorations for your emails, photos of your child. Details regarding Bunk1's services can be found in Bunk1 documents available at our website or included with this document.

### **Health Services**



Our Health Services staff includes an RN or other advanced medical personnel on-site at all times. The camp doctor's office is ten minutes away. In case of emergency, we use Newton Hospital, which is twenty minutes from camp. When your child arrives at camp, he or she is required to check-in at the dining hall for a health check. We are required by law to screen all incoming campers for contagious illnesses or conditions. The nurse will check your child's Health Form and ask you for any necessary clarification. This is a good opportunity for you to meet the health care staff and discuss special concerns or situations.

Remember to bring your child's medication with you on opening day. Do not pack it in their bags. All medication must be turned in to the nurses upon arrival. This includes prescriptions, over the counter medications, and vitamins. All prescription medication must be brought to the nurse in the original container, from the pharmacy, with the child's name and the proper administration directions on the label. Your child's health form must include your doctor's written instructions for administering the necessary medications. Our medical staff can administer over-the-counter products with a parent's permission and instructions. Medications for your child not following these requirements cannot be accepted or administered. Please note that the Health Center has its own phone number: (908) 362-8245. It's appropriate to call the nurses there if you have any questions about your child's health care or medication.

## Laundry

There are no provisions for doing laundry for two week campers, so please be sure to send a sufficient supply of clothing. Campers staying for four weeks will have their laundry done near the middle of their stay, so a bit more than a two week supply of clothes is required (see packing list in this document). Please make sure that all clothes are well labeled, and that the camper has a sturdy, cloth laundry bag with their name written on the outside.

## Lost and Found

We cannot urge you strongly enough to mark or tag all of your child's belongings. Lost and found is kept for one month after the end of camp and then donated to a local charity. Please be sure to check the lost and found area by the trading post when you come to pick up your camper.

## Trading Post

Items available in the Trading Post include snacks, juice, clothing, stamps, postcards, small toys, batteries, stationary, minor necessities, toiletries and personal items. We suggest depositing \$50 in your child's account for each two weeks they're at camp. Unspent money in your camper's account will be refunded on the last day of camp. Any unspent money left in Trading Post accounts after closing day will be placed in the camp's scholarship fund.

## Horseback Riding Lessons

Horseback riding lessons are available to campers that have completed grades 4-9, as space permits. There is an additional fee of \$90/week and pre-registration is required. Your registration form has a sign-up area for this option. The program includes five days of general lessons and trail riding. Most children in this program are beginner to intermediate riders and are placed in groups accordingly. Though there is ample opportunity to move up in skill level, a child who has extensive horsemanship experience will likely find this option too basic. We cannot offer refunds for this program if your child changes their mind about participating. We suggest that you talk it over and sign them up for one week of lessons rather than two or more. If the Riding Director decides that a child is not capable of handling a horse, then we will inform you right away. In this instance a full refund will be issued. All campers who ride must wear hard soled shoes or boots that have at least a 1/2 inch heel. They also must wear long pants. A safety helmet will be provided by the camp.



## Ranch Camp

Ranch Camp is a horsemanship program open to all campers in grades 7-9. Ranch Camp is an intensive horsemanship experience - ranch campers spend several hours a day at the barn learning the many facets of horse ownership - grooming, saddling, equine health care, feeding, care of equipment, and riding. Time spent at the barn does limit the time available for other activities, though Ranch campers have many opportunities to get involved in camp programs. All Ranch campers must bring proper riding clothes. This includes a pair of sturdy, hard-soled shoes/boots with at least a 1/2 inch heel, and plenty of loose fitting long pants. A pair of work gloves is also recommended. All riders must wear a safety helmet while mounted. Camp provides these, but if your child may bring their own if they choose. The helmet must have an SEI/ASTM approval rating and be labeled as such inside.

## Counselor-In-Training Program

The CIT's are campers who have completed the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and are 16 years old. They live in the CIT Lodge near Apache Village, and spend 2 weeks of their 4-week program providing service and support to camp programs, undergoing staff training, and learning to live well together. They spend their last 2 weeks living in cabins with counselors and campers, learning how to be a good staff member first-hand. CIT's are accepted to the program in limited number, and must complete an application essay and interview before being asked to join. CIT's will receive documentation of their service and a certificate of participation. Expectations are high, and a successful CIT is considered for a position as a junior counselor the following year. The CIT's are, in many ways, the living spirit of camp.

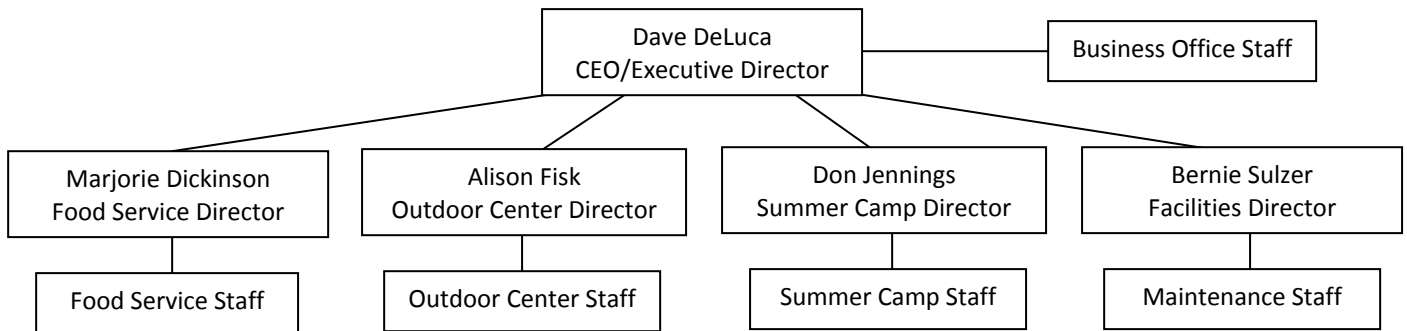
## Senior Guide Program

The Senior Guides are campers who have completed the 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades and have either attended camp for a number of years, or possess expertise in one of our program areas or activities. Senior Guides assist in activity areas, gaining valuable teaching skills and experience. They also provide a strong example to younger campers by their leadership and commitment. Volunteering as a Senior Guide is a good first step toward joining the CIT's in the future, and eventually becoming a staff member. Senior Guides will receive documentation of their service and a certificate of participation.

## YMCA Camp Mason Professional Staff:

Dave DeLuca	Executive Director	dave@campmason.org
Shani Kately	Registrar	shani@campmason.org
Alison Fisk	Outdoor Center Director	alison@campmason.org
Don Jennings	Summer Camp Director	don@campmason.org
Marjorie Dickison	Food Service Director	margie@campmason.org
Bernie Sulzer	Facilities Director	bernie@campmason.org

## YMCA Camp Mason Organizational Chart:



## YMCA Camp Mason Board of Trustees:

### OFFICERS:

<b>President</b>	Thomas Mason
<b>Vice President</b>	Martin Birkenthal
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Schwarz
<b>Auditor</b>	John Katsock
<b>Secretary</b>	Barbara Cooper

### MEMBERS:

Ralph Mason III	Emily Vickers
James Jennings	Donna Marcks Line
David Bath	Christian Knigge
Kent Weber	Steven Bath

## Driving Directions to Camp Mason

Camp Mason is located north of the Delaware Water Gap, in Warren County. It is about 1.5 hours from the George Washington Bridge, and 2 hours from Philadelphia. To reach Camp Mason, take the most direct route to Interstate 80, near the New Jersey/Pennsylvania border. From the New York area, take I-280, I-287 or the GSP to I-80. From the shore, take the GSP to I-287 or I-280 to I-80. From Trenton/E Philadelphia take Routes 31 or 206 north to I-80. From W Philadelphia or Bucks County, Rt. 611 N or the NE extension to 78/22, east to Rt. 33 then north to I-80 East.

### From Interstate 80 West-Bound (NYC & New Jersey)

- Take Exit 12: Blirstown/Hope. Turn north off ramp on 521 towards Blirstown. Follow 521 to junction of Rt. 94. Turn left.
- Proceed ¼ mile to Sunoco and Valero gas stations on left. Bear right (opposite gas stations) and turn right onto Main St.
- Follow "From Blirstown" directions below.

### From Interstate 80 East-Bound (Pennsylvania and Delaware Water Gap)

- Take Exit 4C: Blirstown/Rte 94N, follow Rte. 94N to Blirstown (approx. 7 miles).
- Pass A&P center and go through one traffic light. At Valero gas station (on right) turn left and then right onto Main Street.
- Follow "From Blirstown" directions below

### ***From Blirstown***

- At the old mill with stone arches (waterfalls and park behind) bear left and go up short, steep hill.
- At top of hill, bear left at split, and proceed towards Millbrook, on Millbrook Rd. (multi-camp signs on corner)
- Stay on Millbrook Rd. for about 3 miles. Past Princeton Camp, watch for Birch Ridge Rd. on the right. A sign is on a tree.
- Pass one house. Camp Mason sign and driveway are on the left. Proceed to the end of driveway to the office.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What are the most important things I can do to ensure my child's success at camp?**

- a. *Send your child to camp WITHOUT a cell phone.*

Having a cell phone doesn't make camp easier - it makes it harder! Asking and searching for phones strains the relationship between staff and campers, and adds anxiety to the cabin experience during the crucial first week of camp. Give your child the gift of their own potential... make sure they leave their cell phone at home!

- b. *DON'T send massive care packages.*

Each year there are a few parents who send HUGE care packages to their children at camp. Boxes that are 30 inches on a side are not uncommon, often crammed with enough junk food and drinks to feed a cabin for a month. For the sake of everyone's health, safety, and sanitation, PLEASE DO NOT SEND GIANT CARE PACKAGES! An appropriate care package is smaller than a shoebox and contains enough of ONE SNACK to share with the group. Consider adding fun, non-food items like comics, Mad-Libs, and mini-games. Send a reasonable care package that lets your child know you're thinking about them – let us take care of the food, snacks, and drinks.

### **2. What are the most important things I can do to make registering for camp an easy process?**

- a. *Get your paperwork in early.*

This is the simplest way to make opening day an enjoyable experience for the entire family. Getting your paperwork in early means check-in will be quick and you can spend more time making sure your child is settled in their cabin. Read this handbook, complete the paperwork, and send it in well ahead of time, and opening day will be a breeze!

- b. *Don't forget the physical.*

Your child needs to have had a physical within 24 months of attending camp. By state law, we cannot be flexible on this requirement. Double-check the date of your child's last physical, and make sure your family physician either:

- Completes the appropriate section of the camp's health form, or
- Has their office print out a document that contains the same information

### **3. How do I apply for financial aid?**

- a. Applying for financial aid is easy! Simply contact the camp director, Don Jennings. You can call him at the office or send him an email – his contact information is on the first page of this handbook. Ask for the financial aid application and he'll send one to you, either attached to an email, by fax, or through the mail. Don't be shy about asking for help if you need it. Camp Mason provided support to almost 100 campers last year, many of them from long-time camp families. Making sure every kid gets to go to camp is at the very heart of our mission!