



2021 SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

YMCA CAMP KERN



To unleash the potential in all, through enriching outdoor experiences

- Camp Kern Vision -

Well, 2020 was certainly a year to remember! Although this summer was not what any of us expected, I’m so proud of the hard work, commitment, and creativity that went in to making camp happen. Despite the obstacles we faced, we were able to serve more than 650 campers and support our mission by creating a safe space for kids to make new friends, grow through shared challenges, spend time outdoors in healthy play, and learn with positive role models.


Last summer was the best preparation we could have asked for as we look ahead to 2021. We will build on lessons learned to deliver a more magical summer, while still focusing on campers mental and physical well-being. We were able to navigate 2020 with zero known cases of COVID-19. This is our goal for 2021 and we will need everyone’s help to achieve this once again. Although there are no guarantees, we are committed to safety, consistent and honest communication, and a focus on campers’ experience.

We truly understand that camp may not be possible for everyone this summer. We will be here when you are ready to join us. For those able to join us for a Kern experience, we look forward to serving you, providing a memorable summer, and thank you for doing your part in keeping us all safe.

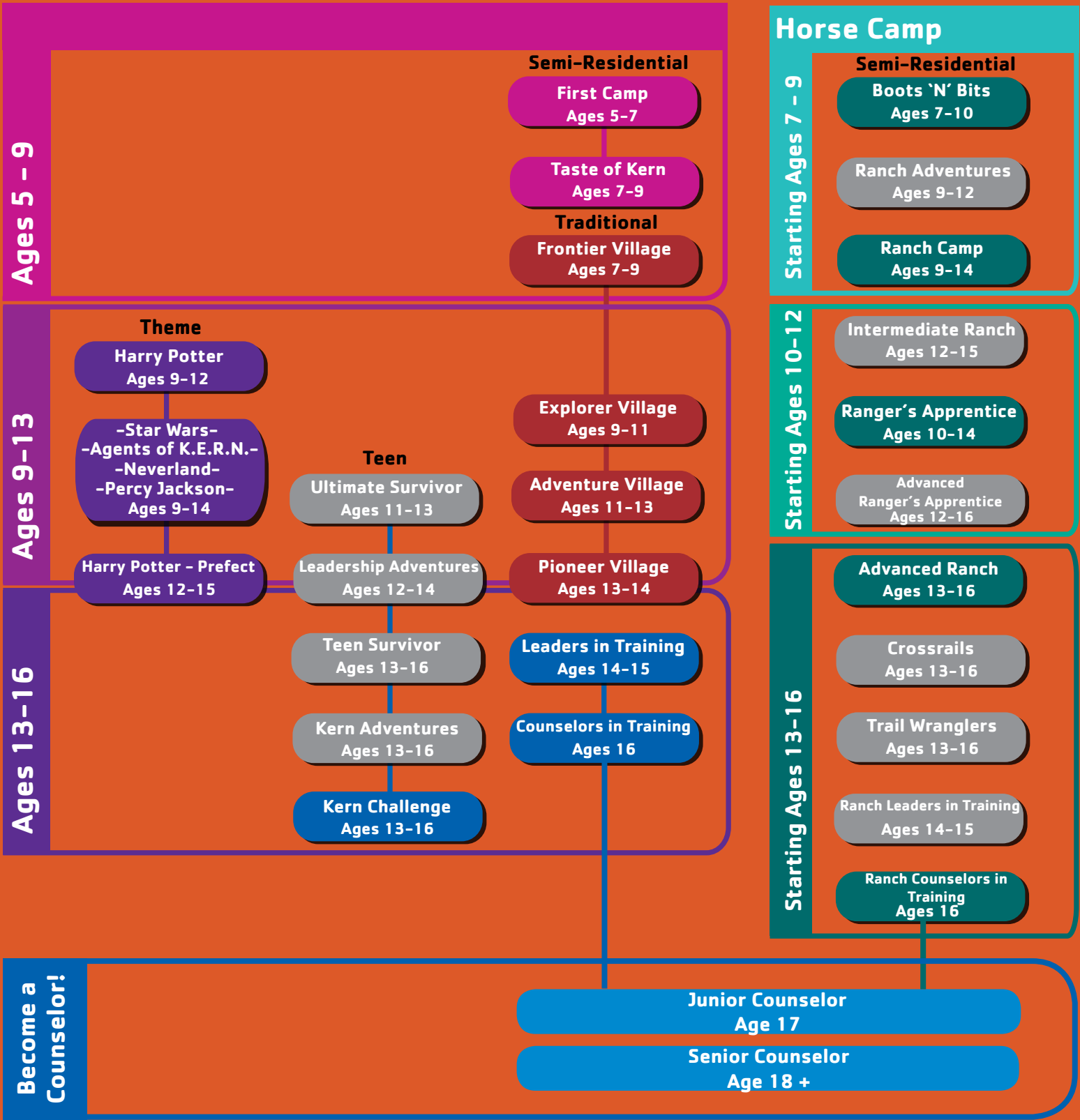
Camp is life changing. Camp is magic. Camp is ready to help kids be kids again. Just like we always have.

We hope to see you under the stars, in the gaga pit, and around the campfire this summer.

Chris Addison
Executive Director
YMCA Camp Kern

 = Not currently being offered - check website for updates

This diagram shows what programs we offer for each age range. We want our campers to feel comfortable in all our programs no matter what their experience level. Please note that the programs in gray are not currently being offered in 2021.



Welcome to Summer 2021!

These are the restrictions we had in place for summer 2020 and are planning to have in 2021. As we are able to loosen these restrictions, revisions and updates are available on our website campkern.org. (Updated 12/21/2020)

Check-in and Check-out

- Check-in and Check-out will be staggered based on which program your camper is signed up for.
- We ask that only one parent come to drop off and pickup



Welcome to Camp!

Follow Signs to Parking Lot



Please Stay in Vehicle

Check-in Process

- A staff member near the entrance will direct the vehicle to the appropriate check-in location.
- Staff at the parking lot will:
 1. Direct cars where to park
 2. Check that family has provided all necessary paperwork
 3. Review pre-camp health check form
 4. Sign camper in on cabin check-in / check-out sheet
 5. Turn in medications to camp nurse
 6. Check the camper's temperature
 7. Complete a lice check
- Once a camper has cleared the initial medical check a staff member will help remove camper belongings from the vehicle.
- Family member / guardian may exit car to say goodbye to camper at the car only.
- Camp staff will help camper bring their belongings to their cabin.

Mask Wearing

- It is too early to make a final decision on mask wearing for campers / staff for the 2021 summer season. We will continue to monitor the situation and hope that we will have less restrictions than in 2020.

Check-out Process

- Luggage will be organized into cabin groups near the parking lot
- Staff will check family member / guardian ID and sign them out on our check-in / check-out sheet.
- Staff will communicate with cabin that campers' family member / guardian has arrived.
- Camper and staff collect luggage and help load the camper's luggage into the vehicle.
- Camper will receive hand sanitizer and be allowed to enter the vehicle.
- Medication / parent packet will be placed in campers luggage prior to check-out.
- CHECK-OUT WILL BE FRIDAY NIGHT. This will give us time to sanitize the camp for the next week



Refunds and Cancellations

- Just like Summer 2020, we will be as flexible and forgiving as possible with cancellations and refunds for this upcoming summer. Our tentative date for camper families to receive a full refund (including deposit) is March 31st, 2021. If the pandemic is still creating a lot of uncertainty as we get closer to March 31st we will re-evaluate. If you do decide to cancel, you will have the following options:
- Move to another session / program in 2021.
- Move the funds over to a 2022 camp experience.
- Donate all or part of the funds to help camp operate during this incredibly difficult time.
- Request a refund - A refund via check will take about two weeks to arrive. Credit card refunds usually take five business days (at the most) to be credited to the account.

Meals

- We will be serving breakfast and dinner cafeteria style instead of our usual family style. Lunch will be grab and go with an option of 3-4 sandwiches and wraps.
- Meal times will be done in shifts to reduce the amount of people in the dining area at once.
- Each cabin has their own table that is spaced 6 feet from other cabins.
- Salad, sandwich, cereal, and toast bar will be replaced with pre-packaged items.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

- We have thoroughly reviewed and updated our cleaning and disinfecting procedures to ensure the safety of all camp guests, across every program. This includes increased cleanings, hiring of a 3rd party cleaning company and intentional program revisions to emphasize good hygiene.

Covid-19 at Camp

This year camp is going to look a lot different than what we are all used to. Here is a break down on all the biggest changes and what you and your camper can expect.

Cabin Groups and Programming

- Each cabin will have a maximum of six campers and one or two counselors.
- Throughout the day campers will go to activities with their cabins.
- In cabins, campers will sleep head to toe and each occupied bunk will be 6ft away.
- For evening activities, we will have station based activities so cabins are separated but all experiencing the same activity. This includes parking lot dances, Olympics, and out of the pool party.



Welcome to Summer 2021!

SESSIONS AND ALL CAMP THEMES

SESSION 1: June 13 – June 18	Star Wars
SESSION 2: June 20 – June 25	Harry Potter
SESSION 3: June 27 – July 2	Ultimate Kern
SESSION 4: July 4 – July 9	Neverland
SESSION 5: July 11 – July 16	Agents of K.E.R.N.
SESSION 6: July 18 – July 23	Willy Wonka
SESSION 7: July 25 – July 30	Rainbow Royale
SESSION 8: August 1 – August 6	Harry Potter
SESSION 9: August 8 – August 13	Jurassic Camp



OUR FEES

Fees include one week of camp, three meals each day, two daily snacks, all program supplies, and a cabin photo. Fees do not include Add-On or Specialty Programs.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

At YMCA Camp Kern we believe that every single child should have the opportunity to enjoy a week at camp. We offer:

- Monthly payment plans
- Loan of essential camp items such as sleeping bags, water bottles, towels etc.
- Extended Pick-Up and Drop-Off Times (with notice)
- Scholarships to parents who apply for financial assistance

For more information on Financial Assistance, please contact us at (513) 932-3756

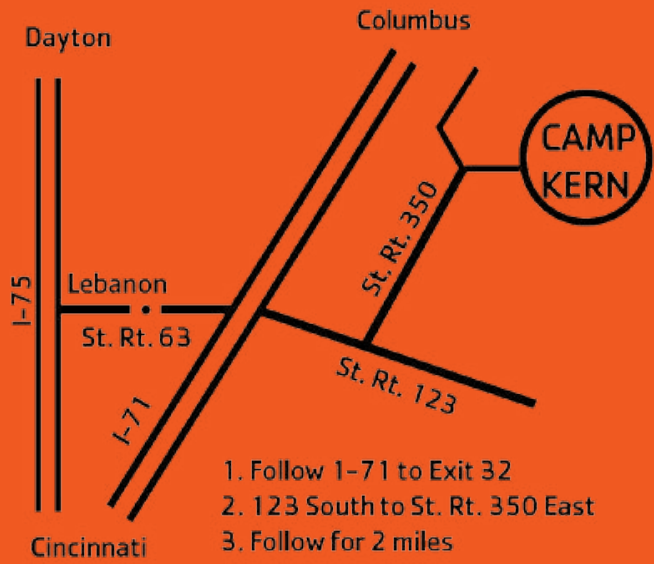
OPEN HOUSES

We offer three free open houses before camp starts:

March 7th
April 5th
May 17th

• Starting at 1:00 pm • Details on pg 20 •

TRANSPORTATION



1. Follow 1-71 to Exit 32
2. 123 South to St. Rt. 350 East
3. Follow for 2 miles

Most campers are dropped off by car. Any campers flying in should arrive at either Dayton or Cincinnati International Airports. Please call to make any arrangements for our free shuttle to pick your camper up from the airport.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: My camper has dietary restrictions, will that be a problem?

A: Absolutely not. Our kitchen handles dietary restrictions all year long. In fact, The Camp Kern Kitchen is completely Peanut/Tree Nut free!

Q: My camper is coming with a friend, can they be in the same cabin?

A: As long as they're in the same age group and program, it's not a problem! Just add the friend's name to your registration where it asks for "Cabin Mate Request".

Q: Do you have a camp nurse? What about camper medications?

A: Yes! We have a registered nurse who lives on site and is on call 24/7. We also have a nurse's assistant, who is typically a college nursing student. You will leave any medication your child may have with the us at Check-In. Please keep any medication in its ORIGINAL container.

Q: Am I able to set up a payment plan?

A: Definitely! For more information on payment plans or financial assistance, please call our office at (513)932-3756.

Q: Is my child allowed to bring their cell phone?

A: Nope! Camp is most successful when children can "unplug" for the week, so we require that they keep all electronics (like tablets and smart watches) and phones at home. In the rare case of an emergency, we can bring the camper to the office to receive calls.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The Camping Basics

Camp Kern has facilities and staff to support many activities including: canoeing, media, archery, BBs, drama, nature, arts & crafts, sports, swimming, and rock climbing. We also have campfires with songs and skits, and night hikes. Also, no week at Camp Kern is complete without a camp out under the stars!



All Camp Events

All of Camp Kern's campers come together during our unique and exciting all-camp activities! We have our Wednesday night All Camp Game, the Camp Dance, and the infamous Undersiege on Friday.



Challenge by Choice

Camp provides many unique opportunities for stepping outside your comfort zone. Our staff will help your camper test their limits, but all of our activities are challenge by choice. Campers always have the ability to decline to participate or participate only to their level of comfort.



Welcome to Summer 2021!

THE FOUR-CORE VALUES

• Respect • Responsibility • Caring • Honesty •

At YMCA Camp Kern our counselors are trained to live and teach these values through all that we do. Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility are the four core values of the YMCA, we hope that every camper departs feeling empowered to live these values at home too!



OUR SUMMER STAFF

Our summer staff are college-age leaders who are kids at heart. They all go through a rigorous application process, including background checks, reference checks, and attend a week long training at camp, preparing them to ensure the emotional, physical, and mental well-being of your child. Specialty positions such as lifeguards and equestrian staff attend an extra week of training, and every staff member at camp is CPR / First Aid Certified.



ACA ACCREDITATION

YMCA Camp Kern is proud to be accredited by the American Camp Association. Developed exclusively for camps, this nationally-recognized association focuses on program quality, and health and safety issues. ACA requires us to review every facet of our operation. Camp Kern has voluntarily submitted to this independent appraisal by camp experts and has earned its mark of distinction. The most recent ACA Inspection was in 2015, we are excited to welcome them back this summer for our re-accreditation visit in 2021.



FIRST CAMP

Ages 5-7 • \$330 • Sessions 1-9
First Camp Runs Mon - Fri

This is the perfect opportunity for first time campers to begin building independence through the magic of camp. Our focus is on positive interactions and new experiences. First Camp follows a modified schedule: Monday and Tuesday campers spend the day at camp and return home each evening. On Wednesday, campers are dropped off in the morning and spend two nights at camp. Check out is on Friday evening beginning at 5:30 pm.



SEMI-RESIDENTIAL

These unique programs are designed for the first time camper. The first half of the week is structured as a day camp. The second half of the week, the campers will pack their pillows and sleeping bags and get ready for their two night residential Summer Camp experience.

What do I love? All of it! I have been here for seven years and I love it here, it's like a second home to me and I couldn't imagine my life without camp.

-2019 Camper



TASTE OF KERN

Ages 7-9 • \$380 • Session 1-9
Taste of Kern Runs Mon - Fri

Get a taste of everything YMCA Camp Kern has to offer in this program specially designed for first-time campers. Spend the week enjoying the amazing activities of camp including canoeing, arts and crafts, rock climbing, nature hikes, and much more. On Thursday, pack your bags and head back to camp for two nights of intense fun! Taste of Kern follows a modified schedule: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are spent at Camp and campers return home each evening. Campers are dropped off Thursday morning and spend two nights at Camp. Check out is on Friday evening at 5:30 pm.

Traditional Camp

This is our most popular program and what Summer Camp is all about! Traditional Camp is the heart and soul of the summer camp experience. Each week has an all-camp theme and includes a campout, personal choice of activities, campfires, all-camp games, and SO MUCH MORE!

FRONTIER VILLAGE

Ages 7-9 • \$610 • Sessions 1-9

Frontier Village is the perfect program for your camper to begin feeling comfortable away from home. Each day is filled with exciting games and activities specially designed for younger campers.

EXPLORER VILLAGE

Ages 9-11 • \$610 • Sessions 1-9

A week in Explorer Village gives campers countless chances to try new things. From exploring all kinds of activities offered at camp to testing their bravery on the Giant Swing, Explorer Village will get your camper comfortable with trying new things.



PIONEER VILLAGE

Ages 13-14 • \$610 • Sessions 1-9

Pioneer Village is designed for the teen who wants the Traditional Camp experience and is ready to push themselves to new heights. This program is the only Traditional Camp program to do our High Ropes course.



ADVENTURE VILLAGE

Ages 11-13 • \$610 • Sessions 1-9

During their Adventure Village experience, campers spend their days building relationships through shared challenges and new risks including the Twin Zipline!



Kern Challenge

Ages 13-16 • \$635 • Session 2, 4, 6, 8, & 9

Challenge, adventure, and fun await any camper ready to take on the Kern Challenge! This is a program designed to help teens see all the amazing things they are able to accomplish! Teens will live in our Tree House Village (no A/C). There will be daily challenges including Tango Tower, High Ropes, and Giant Swing. Kern Challenge will also have the unique opportunity to take on the Ozone Zip Line Adventures Canopy Tour and a Little Miami River canoe trip. Will you step up and take on the Kern Challenge?

KERN LEADERSHIP LADDER

	Senior Counselor Ages 18- infinity
	Junior Counselor Age 17
	Counselor in Training Age 16
	Leader in Training Age 15
	Kern Camper Ages 6-14

Teen and Leadership

YMCA Camp Kern prides itself on its teen programming which helps develop our campers into the future leaders. These programs focus on character building, leadership development, teamwork, and challenging oneself physically and mentally.

LEADERS IN TRAINING

Age 15 • \$605 • Sessions 1, 3, & 5

Our LIT program fosters and develops group dynamics, problem solving, and the camping skills we look for in future staff members. While living in our Tree House Village (No A/C), campers participate in the main camp activities and programs while focusing on their leadership skills and program development. This training is a stepping stone for teens who are interested in transitioning into future camp leaders.

COUNSELORS IN TRAINING

Age 16 • \$750
Sessions 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

This two week program is a wonderful opportunity to enhance and develop self-confidence, self-awareness, communication skills, tolerance for adversity, and personal leadership style. Your training as a CIT will begin with optional retreats in April and May at no cost to you. This program is an opportunity to become a positive role model and to make new friends. We will ask you to push yourself and be the best version of yourself!

After registering you will get more information on our mock hiring process and the spring retreats.

Horse Camp

Circle K Ranch at YMCA Camp Kern is home to the most exciting equestrian programs around! With so many options to choose from, you're sure to find a summer ranch program that will help you create memories to last a lifetime! There is a unique bond between rider and horse, and we want every camper to experience that!



RANCH CAMP
Ages 9-14 • \$675
Co-Ed • Sessions 1,3,5,7,& 9
Girls Only • Sessions 2,4,6, & 8

Ranch Camp at Circle K is a great way for your camper to build confidence in themselves and their riding ability. Ranchers will spend most of their week learning ride and care for their horses. In addition to horseback riding lessons and trail rides, campers will enjoy other traditional camp activities such as swimming, archery, and more! Ranchers will stay at Elk Lodge, right next to the horse pastures; all riding levels are welcome, with both English and Western riding styles offered. Saddle up and join us for a week like no other!



ADVANCED RANCH
Ages 12-16 • \$675
Co-Ed • Session 7
Girls Only • Sessions 2 & 4

Advanced Ranch camp will help ranchers gain confidence and expand their horse knowledge through more advanced lessons on riding and horse management. Advanced Ranchers will also spend a day at the Kentucky Horse Park, where they will get the opportunity to learn about horses all over the world! Both English and Western riding styles will be explored in this fast-paced week! Advanced riders must be comfortable riding at the walk, trot, and canter. Please contact Russ Lee, Equestrian Director, if you are interested in signing-up at (513) 932-3756 ext. 1531.

BOOTS & BITS
Ages 7-10 • \$390 • Day Camp Only • Co-Ed • All Sessions

Boots & Bits is an exciting semi-residential Ranch Camp designed to help young ranchers build independence and horsemanship through hands on horse experience. Campers will learn the basics of horse care and horseback riding by participating in daily lessons on horse safety, grooming, tacking, leading horses, and riding.



RANGER'S APPRENTICE
Age 10-14 • \$675 • Sessions 3&4

Apprentices! Are you ready to become a Ranger? Are you ready to join your fellow man as you build the courage necessary to take the next step in your training? Bond with your horse as you master trail riding. Become adept at archery, tracking, survival, stealth and other ranger missions. If you love Ranger's Apprentice, this officially-sanctioned camp will test your strength, loyalty and commitment. Defend the kingdom from Morgarath's Wargals, Skandian Raiders, and the fearsome Temujai warriors. Come as an Apprentice. Earn your Oak Leaf. Become a Ranger!

RANCH COUNSELORS IN TRAINING
Age 16 • \$800
Sessions 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

This two week program is designed to help ranchers develop horse riding and teaching skills, self-confidence, communication skills, and a personal leadership style. Ranch CITs spend their first week honing their skills as riders and lesson instructors, and learning to be positive role models for younger campers. Week two gives Ranch CITs the opportunity to practice their leadership by assisting riding lessons, trail rides, and other camp activities. The Ranch CIT program is the first step in becoming a YMCA Camp Kern counselor.

After registering you will get more information on our mock hiring process and the spring retreats.



Theme Camp

YMCA Camp Kern's Fully Themed Camps are unique, fully immersive programs that give campers an experience that you can't find anywhere else. From the second they arrive till the moment they leave, campers live and experience the adventures, challenges, and moments of their favorite characters and stories. A truly one of a kind experience!

STAR WARS

Age 9-14 • \$650 • Sessions 1

The First Order is back and Camp Kern is in imminent danger! It is up to you to help us get rid of them. Join us for a full week of Jedi Training at the Jedi Academy of Camp Kern. Throughout the week our Padawans will learn the ways of the Force, the art of the lightsaber, and how to calm their mind and trust their instincts. All these skills are vital to help save our galaxy. Then, at the end of the week all Padawan campers will appear in front of the Jedi Council to see if they have what it takes to be a Jedi.



HARRY POTTER

Age 9-12 • \$650 • Session 2 & 8

From the moment you arrive, until you check out on Saturday, you will enter the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry as a student. Do you have what it takes to learn Potions? Are you ready for daily Quidditch practice? Do you know your spellbook forwards and back?

This week will have tons of activities, imagination, and fun! Come prepared to immerse yourself in the world of Harry Potter, while enjoying all that Camp Kern has to offer!



HARRY POTTER - Prefect Years

Age 12-15 • \$650 • Session 6

Are you ready to take the next step in your Hogwarts adventure? This week will be completely immersed in the wizarding world and will push our students farther than previous years. The challenges will be fiercer, the classes more advanced, and the fun neverending! Show off your witch or wizarding skills and don't miss out on the magic!



I love the atmosphere and how everyone is their most crazy, fun, brave self!

-2019 Camper

NEVERLAND

Age 9-14 • \$650 • Session 4

New for 2021! Welcome to the wonderful world of Neverland! Come join your favorite characters for our newest fully themed camp. Explore a whole new world. Go canoeing just beyond the river bend. We'll just keep swimming all week long! Come be a part of our world at Camp Kern this summer!



AGENTS OF K.E.R.N.

Age 9-14 • \$650 • Session 5

Hero's unite! With an upsurge of suspicious activity in the area, a new outpost of S.H.I.E.L.D is being established right here in Ohio! Come train with your favorite characters from the Marvel Universe and test your hero skills to see if you have what it takes to be an Agent of K.E.R.N. (Kern's Enforcement and Reconnaissance Nation)!



PERCY JACKSON

Age 9-14 • \$650 • Session 3

Have you always been drawn to ancient Greek culture? Do you want to grow up to be a hero? Then a week at Camp Half Blood is perfect for you! Spend a week training your body and mind to be the best demigod this modern world has seen! Daily quests, monsters to vanquish, and a god-written destiny await all who answer the call of heroes!



Registration

HOW TO REGISTER

ONLINE REGISTRATION

The easiest and fastest way to register! Save time, pay easily and securely, and register any time of the day. Simply visit www.campkern.org/register and your camper will be ready for summer!

OVER THE PHONE

Call (513) 932-3756 and register via telephone. Our office is open 9am-5pm Mon-Fri. We can also answer any questions you may have about summer!

BY MAIL, E-MAIL, OR FAX

You can find our paper registrations on our website, www.campkern.org/register. We can also get you a registration form if you call our office or email Loretta at ldeters@daytonymca.org.

Completed registrations can be sent to:
YMCA CAMP KERN
5291 ST. RT. 350
OREGONIA, OH 4505
FAX: (513) 932-8607



WHAT DOES CAMP MEAN TO YOU? Help Send a Child to Camp

Every year YMCA Camp Kern raises funds through its Annual Campaign so we can provide financial assistance to hundreds of families who otherwise would not be able to give their kids a meaningful and positive camp experience. Our goal in 2021 is \$98,000, and we would love you to join our hundreds of alumni, staff, volunteers and board members who support our campaign. You can donate online when you register your child for camp, or simply visit www.campkern.org to donate. Thank you for supporting our mission!

Camp is a second home for me.
-2019 Camper

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

At YMCA Camp Kern we feel that every single child should have the opportunity to enjoy a week at camp. This is why we offer financial aid to all families on an as-needed basis. Payment plans are also available to help make camp more affordable. Camp Kern is also able to provide necessary camp items such as sleeping bags, water bottles, or bug spray, in order to ensure every child has a successful week at camp. For more information on financial assistance, please contact Camp Kern at (513) 932-3756.

OPEN HOUSES March 7th

OPEN HOUSES

March 7th - VIRTUAL

April 4th - TBA

May 2nd - TBA

Each Open House will take place on
Sunday starting at 1:00 pm

Whether virtual or in-person, our Open Houses include a tour and an information and Q & A session. The information on how to participate in our virtual Open House will be on our Facebook page and on our website at www.campkern.org.

GOT QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about a specific program, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Traditional, Theme, and Teen Programs
Karley Holdeman: kholdeman@daytonymca.org
(513)932-3756 ext.1530

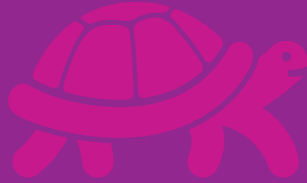
Equestrian / Horse Camps
Russ Lee: russlee@daytonymca.org
(513)932-3756 ext.1531

Help with Registration
Loretta Deters-Bailey: ldeters@daytonymca.org
(513) 932-3756 ext. 1513



YMCA Camp Kern
5291 St. Rt. 350
Oregonia, OH 45054

www.campkern.org
(513) 932-3756



YMCA Camp Kern welcomes all individuals and families regardless of race, ethnicity, color, nationality, sex, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, union activity, physical or mental disability, military or veteran status.

