



YMCA CAMP JACKSON WELCOME GUIDE

SINCE 1916,

YMCA Camp Jackson has been providing a transformative and inclusive summer experience, fostering the development of compassionate, environmentally conscious, and resilient leaders.

WELCOME!

Dear Camp Jackson Families,

Greetings and a warm welcome to YMCA Camp Jackson! As the proud Director of such an exceptional summer camp, I am thrilled to extend my heartfelt welcome to both new and returning families.

At YMCA Camp Jackson, we believe in fostering an environment where your children can thrive, learn, and create lasting memories. Our commitment to the core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility forms the foundation of everything we do. These values guide our actions and interactions, ensuring that your child's experience at camp is not only enjoyable but also filled with positive growth opportunities.

This summer, our dedicated and enthusiastic staff is ready to create a safe and nurturing space for your children to explore, discover, and build lifelong friendships. Through a variety of exciting activities, outdoor adventures, and team-building exercises, we aim to instill valuable life skills that extend beyond the boundaries of our programs.

Communication is key, and we encourage open dialogue between parents/guardians/caregivers, campers, and our staff. If you have any questions, concerns, or if there's anything specific you'd like us to know about your child, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to ensure that your child has the best possible experience at YMCA Camp Jackson.

Thank you for entrusting us with the opportunity to be a part of your child's summer journey. We look forward to creating cherished memories and a summer filled with laughter, growth, and fun!

Let the adventure begin!

Jordan Baxter
Director of Camping Services
YMCA of Pueblo



HOW TO CONTACT CAMP JACKSON:

**YMCA CAMP JACKSON
IS OPERATED BY**
YMCA of Pueblo
3200 E Spaulding Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81008

ADDRESS:
YMCA Camp Jackson
9126 Hwy 165
Rye, CO 81069



Summer Office Number: (719) 489-3822
Email: cjackson@puebloymca.org
YMCA Office Number: (719) 543-5151 ext 323

Directions to Camp Jackson:

Follow Interstate 25 to Highway 165 at exit 74 (Colorado City and Rye). Exit to the West and follow Highway 165 through Rye. About 5 miles past Rye, on the left-hand side of the road, will be our front gate. Turn left on to the YMCA Camp Jackson property and stay to the right as you pass through the gate. In a ¼ mile, you will be in our parking lot. Please stop at the dining hall for camper safety.

Camp Jackson Mission:

At YMCA Camp Jackson, our mission is to empower campers with the skills and values necessary to make a positive impact on the world. Through engaging activities and a supportive community, we aim to provide a transformative and inclusive summer experience, fostering the development of compassionate, environmentally conscious, and resilient leaders.

Goal: COMPASSION FOR ALL

Objective: Instill a sense of empathy and understanding by creating a culture of kindness and inclusivity.

Strategies:

- Implement structured activities that promote teamwork, cooperation, and appreciation for diversity.
- Facilitate discussions on empathy, compassion, and the importance of treating others with respect.

Goal: ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Objective: Foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the environment.

Strategies:

- Incorporate nature-based activities to deepen campers' connection with the outdoors.
- Provide educational sessions on environmental conversation, sustainable practices, and the impact of human activities on nature.
- Implement eco-friendly practices within camp operations, such as waste reduction, recycling initiatives, and gardening.

Goal: LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Objective: Equip campers with the tools and confidence to become effective leaders in various aspects of their lives.

Strategies:

- Offer leadership development activities focused on 7 principles of leadership.
- Provide opportunities for campers to take on leadership roles within their cabins or groups.
- Foster a positive and inclusive leadership culture where every camper feels valued and encouraged to contribute.

Goal: RESILIENCE

Objective: Cultivate resilience in campers by fostering adaptability, perseverance, and a positive mindset.

Strategies:

- Design challenges and activities that promote problem-solving, critical thinking, and overcoming obstacles.
- Encourage campers to reflect on their experiences, emphasizing the value of learning from setbacks.
- Implement mindfulness and stress-management activities to help campers develop emotional resilience.

These goals align with our mission to provide a holistic and enriching experience at YMCA Camp Jackson, where campers not only have fun but also grow into compassionate, environmentally aware, resilient leaders ready to make a positive impact in their communities.

Camp Jackson Staff:

Our standards for staff are extremely high. We aim to hire and develop the **BEST** role models for your children. All of our staff members go through CPR/First Aid training, thorough reference checks, a comprehensive background check, as well as an intensive interview process. We provide a ratio of 2:12 to ensure each child is getting the attention that they deserve and that there are always 2 adults present with any group of campers. All staff participate in extensive training with focuses such as; child abuse prevention, diversity and inclusion, emotional support, managing group dynamics, and risk management. Your camper(s) will feel safe, cared for, and inspired by our excellent staff.

Special Health Practices:

Please contact the Camp Jackson Director **in advance** so we can make reasonable accommodations for campers that require special medical or health attention.

Health Screening:

During arrival at camp, each child will undergo a health screening. This will include a lice check, temperature check, and communicable diseases check. A child may be asked to change sessions if they show signs of illness. Your child's health and safety is our highest priority, so honesty is important when completing health history forms and providing medications and instructions.

Check-In and Check-Out:

Check in occurs on Sunday from 1:00pm–3:00pm. Check out occurs on Wednesdays (Mini Camp) and Fridays (Everyone EXCEPT Mini Camp) from 2:00pm–3:00pm.

ARRIVAL TIMES

Sunday Drop-off at Camp Jackson

Please arrive **between 1:00pm–3:00pm (no later than 3:00pm)** to YMCA Camp Jackson, 9126 Highway 165, Rye, CO 81069.

Sunday Drop-off at YMCA of Pueblo

Please arrive **between 1:00pm–1:30pm (no later than 1:30pm)** to the YMCA of Pueblo, 3200 E Spaulding Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81008. Meet at the white YMCA bus at the front of the YMCA building. There will be a check-in table and Camp Jackson staff waiting for you. The Y bus will depart at 1:30pm sharp, please be on time and have your child ready to board the bus with their belongings for the week.

CHECK-IN PROCESS

Whether you are dropping your camper(s) off at the YMCA of Pueblo to ride the bus or at YMCA Camp Jackson directly, we will follow the same check-in process. Closing Ceremony will take place in the Jackson Lodge at 2:00pm sharp.

1. Confirm your transportation plan for pick up on Friday.
 - Are your campers riding the bus or being picked up at camp?
 - Who is authorized to pick your camper(s) up from either location?

Anyone picking up a child from camp is legally required to provide a valid ID matching our authorized pick up list.

2. Complete the camper health screening.
 - All campers will be checked for lice and existing injuries like cuts or scrapes. If a camper has lice, they will be asked to return home for treatment and then come back to camp OR select a different camp session to attend after treatment.

3. Check in Medications

- **ALL camper medications both over the counter and prescription, including: vitamins, supplements, probiotics, melatonin, or vitamin C must be turned in to Camp Jackson staff at the designated check in tables AND MUST BE LISTED ON THE MEDICATION PERMISSION FORMS SIGNED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER. All medication must be in the original container with accurate labels. We strongly recommend turning in all medications for your camper in a single gallon sized zip lock bag labeled with their first and last name. We must have a physician signed OTC med permission form AND a physician signed prescription medication form in order to accept and provide medication. We will need to know the medication name, dosage, reason, time of day and start and end date for each medication.**

4. Add money to your campers' camp store account. Please bring cash or a check to do so.

Parents and guardians MUST accompany their children throughout the ENTIRE CHECK IN process; childcare begins when campers board the bus or are dropped off at their cabin with their cabin leaders.

CAMPER PICK UP ON WEDNESDAY (Mini Camp Only) or FRIDAY:

Pick up at Camp Jackson – Between 2:00pm–2:30pm (no later than 2:30pm)

- Closing ceremony will take place in the Jackson Lodge at 2:00pm sharp. You may arrive 15–20 minutes before 2:00pm to get settled at Jackson Lodge. The authorized person picking up a camper must check out with camp staff and present a valid ID. You will be able to make last minute camp store purchases at this time.

Pick up at the Pueblo YMCA – Between 2:30pm–3:00pm (no later than 3:00pm)

- You can expect to pick up campers at the first tee building south of the main YMCA building. In the case of rain we will conduct check out in the YMCA Lobby.

Pick up times are very strict. You MUST pick up your child on time; we do NOT provide after-camp childcare; LATE FEES will apply if this is the case at the discretion of the Executive Director. Please take traffic, route time, stops, etc. into account when planning to pick up your child on Friday.

***PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CAMPERS KNOW THE BUS SAFETY RULES BELOW BEFORE ARRIVAL**

Please make sure your campers know the bus safety rules below before arrival:

1. Passengers should remain seated at all times with hands and arms inside the vehicle.
2. Seatbelts should be fastened – one person per seatbelt.
3. Noise level should be such as to not distract the driver. There should be no throwing of objects or other disruptive behavior. There should be nothing blocking the exit.
4. Passengers should enter and leave the vehicle under the direction of a staff member and/or driver. If the vehicle makes an emergency stop, passengers should follow directions of staff member and/or driver and use a buddy system if leaving the vehicle.
5. Any campers in wheelchairs are locked into position and secured as applicable.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, OR CHANGES THAT WOULD AFFECT YOUR CAMPERS PICK UP AND DROP OFF TIME OR LOCATION, YOU WILL BE CONTACTED VIA EMAIL.

Cancellation Policy:

Please note: The \$100 deposit per session is non-refundable.

CANCELLATIONS prior to JUNE 1, 2025

- Will result in a refund of payments. The \$100 deposit is non-refundable.

CANCELLATIONS AFTER JUNE 1, 2025

- All payments will be forfeited or may be held over as vouchers for one year. (If you choose to reschedule for 2026, a \$20 change fee will apply)
- If cancellation is necessary due to illness, a refund will be issued; except for the \$100 non-refundable deposit. A doctor's note stating the child is unable to attend Camp Jackson is required.

MID-SESSION CANCELLATION

- Campers who must leave for medical reasons or family emergencies may request a pro-rated refund.
- No refunds will be given to campers choosing to attend late, depart early, or those sent home for behavioral reasons as described in our Behavioral Agreement Form during registration.

Forms and Documents:

Please fill out all the forms and documents in your Camp InTouch account two weeks prior to your camp session. Failure to do so may result in your child not being able to attend camp. You can find Forms and Documents by logging in to your Camp InTouch account and click the "Forms & Documents" tab. You may view the FORMS AND DOCUMENTS VIDEO on the Camp Jackson website (puebloymca.org/camp) for detailed information on accurately completing your camper forms.

Communication with Campers:

In order for campers to experience independence at camp, we ask that parents do not call or visit during their child's camp session. Please speak with the camp director directly if you need to contact your camper in case of emergency. We will contact you by phone or email in case of illness or emergency, behavioral problems that cannot be handled by staff, dangerous camper behavior, or extreme homesickness.

Camp Store:

Campers will be able to purchase Camp Jackson gear during the week. You can deposit money into your campers account and view their balances by logging into your CampInTouch account and clicking on "View accounts (Camp store)" tab. This summer, the camp store will be selling items such as sweatshirts and hats in addition to smaller items such as stickers. On average, \$20-\$50 is sufficient for camper funds. T-shirts typically cost \$15-\$20. Campers will be able to purchase snacks daily for \$2-\$5. Any remaining funds in your campers store account can be spent at the camp store at pick up or will be donated to camp in order to fund camper scholarships. Refunds will not be available during checkout, but will be available by request up to two weeks after your child's departure from camp.

Lost and found:

We encourage all parents to check the lost and found before they leave. Please label all of your campers' belongings with camper initials or names in permanent markers. Lost and found items will be held for two weeks, so please call immediately if you are missing an item. ***We are in the great outdoors, so please do not send your child to camp with valuable items. Camp Jackson is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**

Billing and Payment:

A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required at the time of registration to secure a spot in the camper's desired session. The balance can be paid in full or in monthly installments. Camp payments must be paid in full two weeks before their camp session. Balances not paid by the deadline risk cancellation of the reserved sessions. If you have any questions, please email jbaxter@puebloymca.org or call 719-543-5151 x 323 or 719-489-3822.

Medications:

All medications (including over the counter medications) must be turned in to the Camp Health Manager during check in.

Please have medications in hand at the time of check-in. Medications will be distributed during meal times and bedtime. It is encouraged to only send the amount of medication necessary for the campers stay.

PLEASE:

- Keep medication in its original container labeled with the child's name and address; as well as the phone number of the pharmacy with the practitioner's name. ****We cannot distribute medication that is not in the original container and we can only give medication in the dosage and manner prescribed. Please bring a signed doctor letter stating the new dosage if the prescription is no longer correct.****
- Please put all medication in a gallon zip lock bag labeled with your campers first and last name.
- All state required forms for prescription and over the counter medications need to be completed with a parent/guardian and physician signature. They need to be uploaded two weeks prior to your camp session
- Current and correct dosage is listed
- Medication is listed on the child's "Physical Exam Form"
- Medication is from a licensed pharmacy
- Medication is not expired

Emergency Medication:

With written request from the parent and a signed emergency care plan from the prescribing physician, emergency medication may be kept with the child. Otherwise, it will be kept at the camp health center. Misuse or misplacement of the medication will be cause for medication to be kept at the camp health center.

Insurance:

It is highly encouraged for parents to have insurance for their children at camp. Parents are responsible for any charges incurred for outside medical care. Short term or student insurance can be purchased through any independent insurance agent. If you are in financial need, you can contact CHP plus [Colorado Health Plan] at (800) 359-1991, or the Department of Human Services and inquire about Medicaid at (303) 866-5700. Your school system can typically help obtain insurance as well.

Camper Mail:

Camper mail can be dropped off at check in. Please label all mail with the camper's name, and the day that you want it to be delivered. We will distribute mail daily. USPS mail is also encouraged, although it is typically suggested that parents mail letters two to three days before their session to ensure it is received in time. Writing letters home is also encouraged. It is a good idea to send campers with pre-addressed and pre-stamped letters.

Please address mail for campers to:

Camper's Name
YMCA Camp Jackson
9126 Hwy 165
Rye, CO 81069

Inclement Weather:

YMCA Camp Jackson reserves the right to change activities due to inclement weather or unusual circumstances.

Dietary Restrictions:

Camp Jackson is well equipped to provide for a variety of dietary restrictions. Please reach out to the Camp Director at least 2 weeks before your child's session to discuss any dietary needs/restrictions so that we can plan to accommodate your needs. At check in, parents will get the opportunity to talk with the camp chef and discuss further details as needed.

Closed Campus:

For security reasons, Camp Jackson keeps its gates closed for outside visitors. Please call if you need to come by camp so we can open the gate and plan accordingly.

Behavior Management:

Our staff members go through extensive training on behavior management. We urge staff to use methods that emphasize positive reinforcement, relationship building, and redirection. On the rare occasion that staff are not able to redirect or assist a camper who is struggling to behave at camp, we will work with parents to do everything we can to keep campers on site. If that method is still not working, parents will be asked to pick their camper up. If any other staff member or camper's physical or emotional well-being is jeopardized, the parents or guardians will be asked to pick up their camper. Please note that we want to keep children at camp and sending a child home will be our last resort.

Nature of Activities:

YMCA Camp Jackson has inherent risks that campers participate in. Activities include: Challenge course, low ropes course, archery, axe throwing, slingshots, canoeing, horseback riding, overnight camping, hiking, and high intensity games.

- Adventure Camp also participates in white water rafting (off-site through a licensed provider), rock climbing, and rappelling.
- Horsemasters spend their mornings riding, caring for, and working with horses.

YMCA CAMP JACKSON PACKING CHECKLIST



WHAT TO BRING

- (2) Water bottles
- Raincoat/Poncho
- Sleeping bag **WITH a stuff sack**
- Pillow
- Pajamas
- Underwear
- Socks
- 3-4 pairs of shoes
- 1-2 long pants
(Required for those signed up for a trail ride)
- 1-2 long sleeved shirts
- 4-6 short sleeved shirts
- Light jacket or heavy sweater
- 1 towel and 1 washcloth for showering
- Sunscreen SPF 30 or above
(Label with child's first & last name)
- Hat with visor
- Soap and shampoo
- Comb/brush
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Menstrual hygiene products
(When necessary)
- Non-Aerosol mosquito repellent
- Flashlight/batteries
- Small backpack
- Pre-addressed and pre-stamped cards for writing home

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- **ELECTRONICS/PERSONAL EQUIPMENT:** Please do not send phones, or any electronics to camp. Not only are they at risk of being lost, stolen, or damaged, it is also a part of the camp experience to be without technology. **Phones discovered at camp will be turned into the Director and held in the office until the end of their session. Phones should be left at home.**
- **FOOD OR CANDY:** We will have ample food and snacks available for the kids throughout the day. Food attracts unwanted critters. Please leave food at home.
- **MONEY:** You can load money onto your child's account through Camp InTouch. There is no other need for money at camp and will likely get lost.
- **DRUGS, ALCOHOL, KNIVES, LIGHTERS, MATCHES, OR WEAPONS OF ANY KIND:** Although it might seem obvious, these are prohibited for campers to have on Camp Jackson property.

* Camp Jackson reserves the right to search and seize when any illegal substances or weapons are suspected.

**Campers will be going on an overnight pack out trip. Please pack accordingly for cold weather overnight. Camp Jackson is in a rustic environment. Please only send belongings that you are okay with getting dirty, broken, ripped, etc.