



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA CAMP CARSON



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

CURRICULUM GUIDE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

YMCA Camp Carson's Outdoor Education Program is designed to provide a safe, fun, and unique education experience for students. Each school has the opportunity to customize their day(s) at Camp Carson with facilitated activities that focus on Teambuilding, Outdoor Education, and Recreation.



YMCA Camp Carson

campcarson.org

812-385-3597

carsonoffice@ymcacampcarson.org



OUTDOOR EDUCATION LESSON OPTIONS

For more information about how these lessons match Indiana state standards, please reference our Outdoor Education Standards Guide



PREDATOR-PREY PLAY ELEMENTARY

Students will learn about the importance of the relationships between predators and prey in this series of highly active tag-based simulations.

ENCHANTED FOREST ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will explore the forest and learn to appreciate nature using their senses of sight, smell, touch, and hearing.

LIVING HISTORY

UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will get first hand experience as to what it would be like to have lived here at camp in the 1800s through a series of activity stations.



INVADERS!

UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will learn about several species of wildlife that are invasive to Indiana and participate in a full-body movement game that simulates how invasive species compete with native species for habitat and resources.

TREE IDENTIFICATION ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will use their sight, touch, and smell to identify the trees at Camp.

MAP CHALLENGE

UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will learn how to read several styles of map in order to find tokens hidden around camp.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION LESSON OPTIONS

For more information about how these lessons match Indiana state standards, please reference our Outdoor Education Standards Guide



AMAZING RACE

UPPER ELEMENTARY TO HIGH SCHOOL

Students will race to complete a series of physical and academic challenges in order to be declared the winner of this camp-wide "escape room" style challenge.

ORIENTEERING

7TH & 8TH GRADE

Students will learn to utilize a compass and map in order to navigate our Orienteering Course.

CREEK HIKE

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will have the opportunity to explore Camp Carson's creek and will identify different environmental factors that can influence the health of a body of water. (requires 2 activity blocks).



CAMP CARSON SURVIVOR

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students will work together to build a shelter and fire in this hands-on survival simulation.

CSI CAMP CARSON

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

Students will study the skulls and bones of common Indiana Wildlife and discuss how the different structures have adapted over time to allow the organism to survive in its habitat.



RECREATION OPTIONS

CLIMBING WALL

Students will enjoy climbing our 35-foot portable climbing wall (recommend 5th grade and under).

CANOEING

Students will canoe around the scenic Lake Seminole.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Students can explore art projects, create tie dye t-shirts, and learn how to make friendship bracelets and lanyards.

ARCHERY

Students will have a chance to hit the mark at our Outdoor Archery Range

WATER ZIPLINE

Students will be harnessed to a cable 30 feet high and released down a 500 foot zipline that splashes into Lake Seminole.



RECREATION OPTIONS



ALPINE TOWER

Students will enjoy this 50 foot climbing tower that can be used to develop a sense of trust, accomplishment, and communication (recommended 6th grade and up).



POTTERY HANDBUILDING

Students will create works of art at our Pottery Studio



BLACK HOLE

Students will sled down our 80 foot tunnels.



WOOD SHOP

Students will learn wood shop safety as they complete beautiful artisan projects with our scroll saws and wood burning pens (recommended 6th grade and up).

TEAMBUILDING & TEAM BONDING

A customizable program, working with YMCA Camp Carson staff members to develop appropriate activities specific to the needs of your students. These activities can be facilitated with groups as large as 200+ or as small as 10.



Team Building

Different groups seek different outcomes from their experience at Camp Carson, and our program allows you to customize your activities to reach your desired outcomes. Activities can provide an experience for the group to work together to overcome challenges or can be more targeted to challenge specific group dynamics.

Low Ropes & Initiatives

There are a plethora of Low Rope and Initiative Challenges available at Camp that facilitate growth. Camp offers a selection of more traditional Low Rope elements that are generally more close quarters and physical as compared to other team building opportunities. These challenges are designed to encourage groups to plan ahead and think creatively as they work together to overcome the obstacle. Camp also offers many low and no prop Initiative Challenges that are designed to give the whole group a platform by which to demonstrate and grow their strategy, effective communication, and problem solving abilities. Either style of Challenge can be used to facilitate conversations about group dynamics and communication.



You may sign up for as many Team building blocks as you would like. Speak with a Camp Carson representative to develop a schedule

EVENING PROGRAMS (EPs)

ORGANIZED MASS CHAOS

Each players attempts to complete as many tasks as possible, but they may be interrupted to help other players complete their tasks during the game.

NIGHT HIKE

Explore the night, learn some tricks, and hear a great story.



HOOTENANNY

Your students take center stage as they perform some classic camp skits.

S'MORES FIRE

Enjoy a relaxing evening around the campfire while enjoying a camp favorite treat.

PRICING & SCHEDULE

Program	Price per Student	# of Activities	w/Meals	# of Meals
Day Program (9 AM - 2 PM)	\$17.50	3 Activities	\$ 27.50	1
Extended Day Program	\$21.50	5 Activities	\$ 46.50	2
2 Day / 1 Night	\$35.00	6 Activities, 1 EP	\$ 81.00	4
3 Day / 2 Night	\$52.50	10 Activities, 2 Eps	\$ 132.50	7

Prices valid for group sizes of at least 25 students.

Schools select number of activities based on the program chosen above. These activities can be any combination of Outdoor Education, Recreation, and Team Building/Bonding.

Sample Schedule for 2 Day, 1 Night program

Day 1	
9:00 AM	Arrival/UnPack
9:30 AM	Welcome to Camp & Tour
10:30 AM	Activity 1
11:45 AM	Transition
12:00 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM	Open Rec Time
2:00 PM	Transition
2:15 PM	Activity 2
3:30 PM	Transition
3:45 PM	Activity 3
5:00 PM	Get Ready for Dinner
5:30 PM	Dinner
6:15 AM	Open Rec Time
7:00 PM	Evening Program
8:00 PM	Showers
9:00 PM	Cabin Time
10:00 PM	Lights Out

Day 2	
7:00 AM	Wake Up & Pack
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Activity 4
10:15 AM	Transition
10:30 AM	Activity 5
11:45 AM	Transition
12:00 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM	Activity 6
2:00 PM	Closing
2:15 PM	Depart Camp



To learn more about this unique experience, or to schedule a program for your school or organization, please contact Ryan Meeks:

rmeeks@ymcacampcarson.org or 812-385-3597