



YMCA Camp Minikani MiniCamp Handbook



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Dear Families,

We look forward to working with you in order to ensure a fun and enriching experience for your child this summer. This guide will help prepare your child for MiniCamp at YMCA Camp Minikani. **Please read and save this guide**, as it will be a useful resource when questions arise in the coming months.

Your reason for sending your child to Minikani may change summer-to-summer. Perhaps, your hope is that they will enjoy a week or two of boating and swimming; building friendships; or trying archery and exploring the arts. For children like yours, Camp Minikani becomes more than a beautiful place with fun activities.

The heart of Camp Minikani is a strong sense of community—dedicated to helping your child realize that *their best self already exists*. Your child will have an incredible amount of fun. Those fun experiences—like meeting a new friend or scaling the climbing wall—will expand their comfort zone. However, they will come out of the experience with a sense of accomplishment that builds their confidence and resilience for years to come.

All of this is possible because of the intentionality of Minikani’s program. Every element—from the daily order of events to the dynamic of your child’s group—is thoughtfully designed in order to produce all types of social and emotional growth. Staff members are selected for their maturity, character and leadership capabilities, as well as their desire to be positive a role model for your child. More than 97 percent of staff—all but a handful of seasoned international counselors—were once campers at Minikani and have been trained through our extensive three-year Leadership Training program.

We are excited to share these aspects of Minikani with your family this summer. If you have any questions that are unanswered in this guide, please feel free to call or email the office at 262-251-9080 or minikani@ymcamke.org.

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YMCA Camp Minikani

875 Amy Belle Rd

Hubertus, WI 53033

262-251-9080



Directions

YMCA Camp Minikani is located about 30 minutes from downtown Milwaukee at **875 Amy Belle Road in Hubertus, Wisconsin**. Please note that many GPS units and online maps may direct you to our Equestrian Center located at 860 Amy Belle Lane, which is on the **opposite side** of the grounds from the main entrance. Here are detailed directions to Minikani's main entrance:

From Milwaukee

- Take US-41/45 north from Milwaukee and exit on Lannon / Mequon Road.
- Go **LEFT** on Lannon Road to the second set of stoplights, which is Hwy 175 (Appleton Avenue).
- Turn **RIGHT** on Hwy 175 and proceed one block to Willow Creek Road.
- Turn **LEFT** on Willow Creek Road and drive west for about one mile to Amy Belle Road.
- Turn **RIGHT** on Amy Belle Road and go one mile to the camp entrance, which will be on your left (there is a large camp sign just after the driveway).

From the North

- Take US-41/45 south and exit on Lannon / Mequon Road.
- Go **RIGHT** on Lannon Road to the stoplights, which is Hwy 175 (Appleton Avenue).
- Turn **RIGHT** on Hwy 175 and proceed one block to Willow Creek Road.

- Turn LEFT on Willow Creek Road and drive west for about one mile to Amy Belle Road.
- Turn RIGHT on Amy Belle Road and go one mile to the camp entrance, which will be on your left (there is a large camp sign just after the driveway).

MiniCamp Bus

Bus transportation to and from camp is available at an additional \$55 per week fee. You must choose a stop upon registering for camp and your camper’s morning and evening bus stops must be the same.

Day Camp Bus Transportation

Bus Route	Location	Pick-Up	Drop-Off
A	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, North Ave, Wauwatosa	7:45am	5:15pm
B	Bayshore Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hampton Road, Whitefish Bay	7:35am	5:25pm

Parents are responsible for meeting campers at the designated stop. Please arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled time. When dropping off your camper at the bus, please show your **photo ID** to the two Minikani counselors that are your camper’s designated bus captains. The bus captains and the First Student bus driver will ensure a safe bus ride by following the bus safety procedures outlined here: <http://www.firststudentinc.com/why-first-student/school-bus-safety>. Campers are expected to follow Minikani’s behavior expectations outlined in this handbook, as well as in the Behavior Agreement form that is signed as if they are at camp when riding the bus. Campers should also follow any rules posted in the bus or directives given by the bus driver or bus captains at all times.

Absences and missing bus pick-ups: Please email the Minikani office at minikani@ymcamke.org by 7 a.m. if your child will not be taking the bus due to absence. For morning pick-ups, if a child misses the bus, parents are responsible for transporting their child to camp. If a parent or designee is not at the evening bus pick-up, the child will remain on the bus and return to camp with the bus captains. The parent is then responsible for picking up their child at camp. If the camper is being picked up from camp instead of riding the afternoon bus, you must call the camp office by 3 p.m. to inform the staff. If we do not receive a call by 3 p.m., your camper may be put on the bus. There will be no refunds for bus fees.

Bus alerts: We will communicate any changes to the bus times due to traffic or weather via text alert. You can sign up for these alerts by texting the code that corresponds to your camper’s week and bus route to 81010. You must subscribe weekly if your camper is attending for more than one week. Please see the chart of codes below.

Session	Bus	Code	Session	Bus	Code
1A	Wauwatosa	@1abusa	3A	Wauwatosa	@3abusa
1A	Whitefish Bay	@1abusb	3A	Whitefish Bay	@3abusb
1B	Wauwatosa	@1bbusa	3B	Wauwatosa	@3bbusa
1B	Whitefish Bay	@1bbusb	3B	Whitefish Bay	@3bbusb

2A	Wauwatosa	@2abusa	4A	Wauwatosa	@4abusa
2A	Whitefish Bay	@2abusb	4A	Whitefish Bay	@4abusb
2B	Wauwatosa	@2bbusa	4B	Wauwatosa	@4bbusa
2B	Whitefish Bay	@2bbusb	4B	Whitefish Bay	@4bbusb

Camp Policies and Information



Camp Minikani is accredited by American Camp Association by meeting more than 300 individual health, safety, and program quality standards. These standards establish criteria for program, personnel, transportation, administrative procedures, health care, food service, program activities and emergency procedures. Accreditation assures parents and campers that Minikani has been measured against national standards in the camping industry. We are proud to be among the 25 percent of accredited camps in the United States.

Behavior Expectations

In order to promote a positive experience for everyone, campers are expected to behave appropriately while at Minikani. YMCA Camp Minikani has a strict policy against bullying and harmful behavior in order to ensure the physical and emotional safety of all campers. If behavioral issues arise, a director will work on a resolution with the camper and their parents or guardians. If bullying or behavioral issues persist, parents may be asked to pick up their camper early. Please note that refunds are unavailable in such cases.

Licensing Rulebook

A copy of DCF 252 Licensing Rules is available for parent review upon request. Our license is posted in the MiniCamp room along with any non-compliance information.

Arrival and Departure Information

We are looking forward to welcoming your family to camp this summer—a process that begins even before you arrive! By Sunday evening before camp, families will receive a call from the child’s counselor or unit director to touch base with parents and introduce

themselves to the camper. We encourage you to use this time to ask any questions or share any concerns you have – we are here to help!

Attendance for all MiniCampers is taken on a daily basis. For liability and safety reasons, it is extremely important we know when your child is not at camp. **If you know your camper will be absent, please notify the MiniCamp Director at 262-251-9080. If you need to pick your child up early, we ask that you inform the office before 12 p.m. that day via email to minikani@ymcamke.org.**

Sign-in & Sign-out

Minicamp drop-off is from 7:30-8:20 a.m. each day. Pick-up begins at 4:30 p.m. and ends no later than 5:15 p.m. All Minicampers must be signed in and out at the Halquist Family Lodge. Only authorized parents/guardians or an individual you authorized in writing can pick up your child. **Any adult authorized to pick up a camper must present a valid photo ID at Halquist Family Lodge prior to departure.** Please note that pets are not permitted on the grounds.

Character Asset Development & Program Objectives

1. **Helping campers grow personally.** They are given the chance to experience new things and interact with their peers with the support of caring, concerned adults.
2. **Fostering lifelong values.** From the simplest of values and attitudes like sharing, sportsmanship, and respecting others and ourselves we begin to build the foundation of values that will stay with your children as they mature.
3. **Appreciating diversity in one another.** We live in a culturally rich world and we try to reflect this in our Camp. Campers learn that each person is unique and they can all have fun together regardless of race, religion, gender, or social status.
4. **Learning new skills.** Whether it's playing a new game, further developing an existing skill, or focusing in on social skills, campers leave having learned something they can remember for a lifetime.
5. **HAVING FUN!** Children learn best through play and hands-on experiences. In our curriculum, counselors use fun experiences to convey the importance of character building and positive values. Games, swimming, crafts and much more are all done with the camper as our primary focus.

Packing for MiniCamp

Consider a few non-material things to give your child before they attend Minikani. Prior to their arrival, discuss the positive aspects of camp with your child. Share your enthusiasm for the new friends that they will meet or the new activities they will try.

Since the majority of camp play time is outdoors, please do not pack clothing that is too valuable to be dirty or stained. **Please mark all clothing and equipment with the camper's name.** Here is a list of daily items (weather dependent):

- Lightweight Jacket or Sweatshirt
- Shorts
- Swimming Suit
- Swim Towel
- Water Bottle
- Sneakers
- Sandals (optional, but NO flip-flops, must be athletic sandals with a heel strap)
- Hat with cap or brim
- Bag lunch and drink
- Raingear/Poncho
- Insect Repellant (non-aerosol)
- Sunscreen & Lip Balm (SPF 15 or higher)
- Backpack

*Campers do not return to the lodge between activities, so they need a bag or backpack to carry their swimsuit, water bottle, etc.

Bag Lunches

All MiniCampers are required to bring their own healthy lunch. Pack enough food, as the Campers are active throughout the day and burn a lot of energy! **Refrigeration is not provided for storing lunch.** For the safety of campers with allergies, foods containing nuts are not allowed in packed lunches.

Lost and Found

The camp experience is an opportunity for a child to learn responsibility for their personal items. As a family, please discuss the importance of caring for and keeping track of gear as Camp Minikani is not responsible for lost or missing items. If an item is lost, please check the Lost & Found during check out. Every effort is made to return *clearly marked* items; however, due to the large volume of items we accumulate, long-term storage is not possible. Unclaimed items are held for two weeks before they are donated to local charities.

Absolutely NO cell phones, video cameras, personal music or video game devices, laptops or other electronics, pets, fireworks, aerosol spray cans, alcohol, tobacco products, illegal substances or weapons of any kind should be brought to camp. They will be confiscated immediately.



Daily Schedule

8:00 a.m.	Drop Off/Group Time	12:05 p.m.	Rest Period
8:30 a.m.	Announcements/Clean-up	12:35 p.m.	Clean-up/Sunscreen
9 a.m.	Password (thought for the day)	1 p.m.	Pool
9:15 a.m.	Skills	2:15 p.m.	Group Activities
11:30 a.m.	Lunch	5 p.m.	Pick Up

Camp Activities

Some typical MiniCamp activities include:

- **Swimming:** Each group participates in daily free swim, weather permitting. Please supply a swimsuit and towel daily!
- **Experiencing Nature:** campers are taught about the environment, for example, becoming aware of nature and respecting all forms of life.
- **Singing:** Transition songs, action songs, and traditional camp songs may also be taught to the campers.
- **Playing Games:** Team-building games are a wonderful way for campers to develop friendships with others in their group.
- **Crafts:** Campers will learn how to make different crafts each week!
- **Discussing Values:** Our programming and staff promotes YMCA values, including respect, responsibility, honesty, and kindness.

Swimming

All campers can participate in recreational swimming and need to bring a towel and suit with them **every day**. During scheduled swim times, campers who choose not to participate must sit on the pool deck. All MiniCampers are considered to be non-swimmers and will be restricted to the shallow end of the pool (3 ft. depth). Parents are welcome to send in life jackets or bubble belts to aid their child while in the water. There is always a lifeguard on deck when children are swimming in addition to multiple counselors in the pool. As an additional safety measure, the counselors will check in and check out every child in the pool.

Staffing

Our staff is selected on the basis of responsibility, certifications, ability to relate to children, sensitivity to the children's individual needs, and their recreational skills. Our staff meets or exceeds day program requirements set by the YMCA of the U.S.A, American Camping Association, and the State of Wisconsin. Counselors work with small groups of children to build a positive rapport and develop mutual trust and respect.

Camp Counselors

All counselors are trained in CPR, First Aid, child abuse prevention, emergency procedures, water safety, and how to conduct camp activities including songs and games that incorporate values and education. All MiniCamp Staff are over 18 and have had previous experiences working with young children.

We also have many volunteers who work with our Leadership Training (LT) programs at camp. LTs, which are junior counselors between ages 15 to 17 years old, are selected into the program based on their ability to be responsible leaders. LTs will only work with MiniCampers when fully supervised by adult counseling staff.

Child Guidance Policy

Our intent is that your child has a very positive experience at our camp. We keep the children very active and engaged. Typically, if an issue arises, the counselors will deal with the issue and notify you at pick-up time. In extreme cases where behavior becomes a problem, we have established the following policy. With your support, we will be able to ensure the most positive experience for all campers.

Progressive Discipline:

1. Counselor's warning
2. Documented behaviors communicated to parents
3. Phone consolation with MiniCamp Director
4. Child's suspension from camp

Our regular methods of discipline include positive guidance (telling children what they can do instead of what they can't), redirection (refocusing them on another task), and clear-cut limits. Our goal is ultimately to encourage them to understand to self-regulate their own behavior, develop self-control, self-esteem, and respect for the rights of others.

Payment and Camp Store Information

Fees and Cancellation Policy

At the time of registration, a \$50 deposit per week, per child must accompany a camper's registration and will be applied to the total camp fee. **The remaining balance is due by May 1.** We understand that circumstances change and should a camper be unable to attend camp, we will refund in full up until **March 1.** Camper's sessions may also be changed at no additional charge as long as there is availability in the desired session. A physician-authorized medical excuse is required for a refund of full camp fees (including the deposit) after May 1. In case of dismissal due to poor behavior or voluntary withdrawal (including homesickness), there is no refund of fees.

All late payments will be assessed a \$25 late fee. All registrations made after May 1 need to be paid in full at time of registration. There will be a \$30 charge for all returned (NSF) checks.

Financial Aid

YMCA Camp Minikani is committed to making camp available to as many children as possible. Through the generosity of many donors, the YMCA Camp Minikani Annual Campaign provides funds to families that would otherwise not be able to send their child to camp. For financial assistance information, please contact our office at 262-251-9080. You may also contact us regarding donating to the Annual Campaign.

Payment Plans

You may set scheduled payments before your balance is due by May 1. If you are interested in a payment plan, please contact the office at 262-251-9080.

Camp Store

The Minikani Camp Store is fully stocked with tons of great apparel and souvenirs for our campers. The store is open for MiniCamp on Friday check-out in Halquist Family Lodge so that parents and campers can make decisions together about what items to purchase.

Group Requests

We understand that often campers may come to camp with a friend that they would like to spend time with. We strongly believe that camp is an opportunity for children to meet new people, and have new experiences. As such, we limit requests to one per camper. **Please contact the office at 262-251-9080 to make a request.** Requests are honored if both campers are the same gender and within one year of each other in age. Both families must

also mutually request the campers to be in the same group. Requests among three or more campers are not honored.

Communications

Camp staff will be contacting you via e-mail as well as phone prior to, during and after your child's stay. The e-mails come from minikani@ymcamke.org and phone calls come from 262-251-9080. Please make sure this address is not blocked as spam, and set our phone number up as a contact in your phone. Contact our office immediately if your e-mail address or phone numbers change. You can also stay in touch with what is happening through our Facebook page and we will upload a selection of photos each day of camp, which can be accessed [online](#). While we do our best to make sure that we take photos of all campers during the week, we only upload a limited number to show what happened at camp that day.



Healthcare Information

We have a well-equipped Health Center with a nurse onsite 24 hours per day. Counseling staff is also trained in emergency First Aid and CPR. Parents and guardians are contacted if the camper has any physical injury that is apparent or at all severe, such as scrapes or bruises. In case of sickness, campers may stay in the Health Center for no more than 24 hours. If deemed necessary, we will make arrangements to send sick campers home. If campers are ill; have been exposed to a contagious disease such as chicken pox, strep throat or whooping cough in the last 24 hours; or have a temperature, we ask that they not be sent to camp.

In case of injury, health care staff will take necessary steps to ensure proper emergency care, which may include treatment by staff for minor injuries, phoning the parent for instructions, calling local EMS providers or transporting to a doctor or emergency care facility. Parents must provide **complete emergency contact information and health history** on their online family account, located at www.minikani.campbrainregistration.com. If parents will be travelling while their campers are at camp, please list an itinerary and phone numbers where they may be reached. In the event of an injury requiring medical attention, we will make every attempt to contact the parents prior to treatment. In the event that parents are unable to be reached, we will have the health form on file, with parents' written authorization to treat the injury. Health forms are completed through the online family portal at www.minikani.campbrainregistration.com.

Insurance

Parents or guardians are responsible for all medical costs incurred because of injury or illness while children are at camp. Please upload a copy of your most recent insurance card to your online account.

Health Forms

All campers MUST have a completed health form completed online. We cannot accept campers without this form. The State of Wisconsin and our ACA Accreditation require it.

Medications

Do not pack any medication in camper's luggage. All prescription and over the counter medications, vitamins and creams must be submitted to the health care staff in the original container with the licensed physician's instructions. Please place packaged medications in a clearly labeled bag (zip-lock bags work well), with camper's name, dosage and directions for administering on the Authorization to Administer Medications Form, which is completed and printed through [the online family portal](#). All medications are administered by the camp health staff per the physician's instructions. All medications must be listed on the Authorization to Administer Medication form. Unused medications will be returned with the camper at check-out. Please note, unless taken on a daily basis, over the counter medications should not be brought to camp. The health care staff keeps a supply of common non-prescription medications on hand and will administer as necessary.

Lice Policy

Camp Minikani maintains a strict lice- and nit-free policy for our campers and staff. All campers are checked for lice and nits within 4 hours of their arrival at Minikani. If lice or nits are found, staff will contact the parent or guardian and ask that they pick up their camper to be treated. Campers may return to camp 24 hours after being treated, if they are 100 percent lice and nit free. Camp Minikani recommends treatment by a lice specialist or through your family physician. We do not recommend over-the-counter lice treatment

products as they are not always effective. Upon their return, the camp nurse will clear the camper before they may return to their group.

For a more detailed description of our policy or if you have any questions call the main office at 262-251-9080.

We hope that this information helps you and your camper prepare for Minikani. Please feel free to call or e-mail the office if you have any further questions.

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