

YMCA Camp Silver Beach a jewel on the bay

Why the Camping Experience is Important

Parents want the best opportunities for their children. They want them to have whatever it takes to be happy and successful - good health, the ability to get along with others, thinking and problem solving skills, a good self-concept. Children need resiliency skills; self-esteem, life skills, self-reliance and pro-social behaviors.

At YMCA Camp Silver Beach, resident camp offers a nurturing environment away from distractions, where children have the opportunity to grow and learn. Camp activities and group living in a natural environment are the tools used to create camp communities that provide for successful, healthy development and a place where having fun is a daily criterion.

In such a structured environment children interact with positive role models who have time to listen, talk, relax and reflect. They learn to work together, make choices, take responsibility, develop creative skills, build independence, and gain confidence. All are necessary steps on a child's path to a healthy productive life.

Campers make friends while learning new skills and enhancing the skills they already have. They also deepen their interest in helping others and learn that giving of their time and talents better humanity. Campers develop an appreciation for other cultures and learn that friendship can cross all borders. They learn tolerance and the benefits of teamwork. Through it all, they learn to make healthy choices and decisions.

With over 80 staff and more than 2,000 campers from across the country and around the world - 42 counselors from across the US and 40 from other countries - YMCA Camp Silver Beach can open a new world for its campers. They learn to water ski, climb to the top of a 55 ft. Alpine Tower and gain the confidence to sing in front of 400 people.

Summer Camp

Traditional Resident Camp

Ten weekly sessions are available to choose from beginning June 8 to August 16, for girls and boys from ages 8-16.

Teen Adventure Camp

Teen Adventure Camp is a program with freedom, responsibility, off-camp activities, service projects plus all of the traditional camp activities. Teen Adventure Camp is a three week teen program for rising freshman, sophomores and juniors.

Teens have boundless energy and idealism that need appropriate nurturing and role modeling to make a difference. Many teens are hungry for the opportunity to talk and learn more about themselves and the world they are entering, and when presented thoughtfully and with purpose many teens report these aspects of camp as being the best part of their summer experience.

Teen campers come together from around the world for three weeks, forming their own community in the Teen Village. They are a tight-knit nature, their own group in our community which fosters closer relationships with healthy leadership. They are with the same people, same leaders and same lodging for the duration of their stay. They live in a special village with living quarters equipped with refrigerators, microwaves, air-conditioning and front porch decks for "chilling out."

They spend one full week volunteering for agencies such as Habitat for Humanity, Light House Ministries and The Nature Conservancy. By helping our community with service projects they learn the importance of giving back and helping others.

One camper said, "I didn't think this would be of any value to my character: I found out you get a joy you can't get from money or tangible things."

"As long as you have friends to encourage you along the way any task

can be easy."

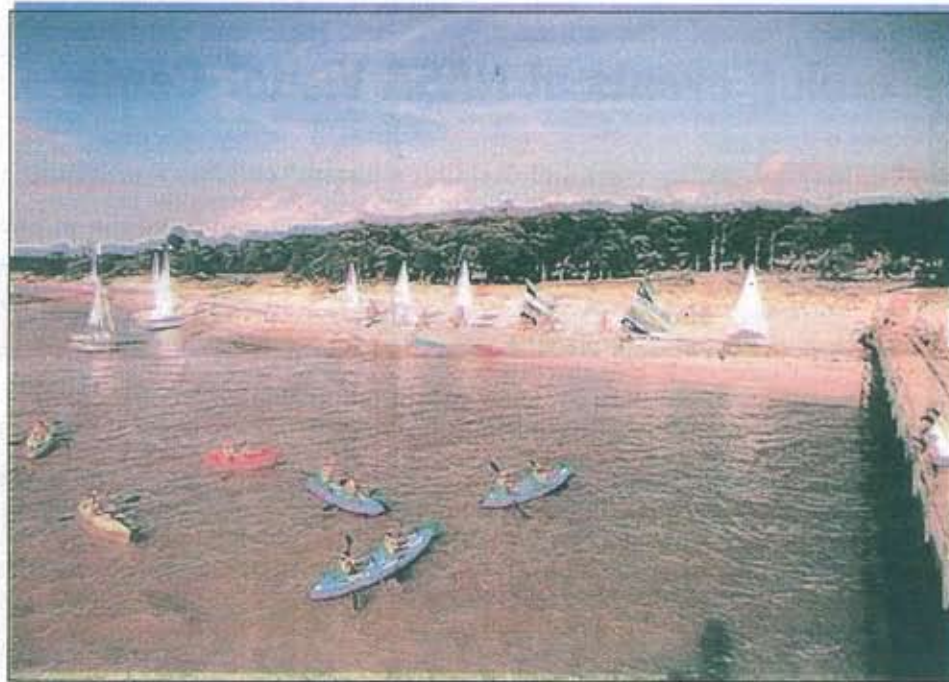
"This experience made me realize that the smallest stuff can make a huge difference."

Teen campers participate in fun-filled traditional camp activities, as well as off-site adventure trips. Last year some highlights were visiting the Exmore Diner, a private movie showing at Roseland Theater, day on Chincoteague Island visiting Assateague and Mr. Whippy and many other venues.

Campers build confidence, learn sportsmanship, find potential, grow friendships and develop a healthy independence from family through traditional camp and adventure-based activities. Respect and honesty come packaged in water adventures, woodland walks and campfire sing-a-longs. Friendships are what make campers and counselors return year after year. Well trained staff from around the world makes for the experience of a lifetime.

Conference Groups

YMCA Camp Silver Beach is the ideal venue for any occasion. Stay with us for customized



Kayaking and sailing are just two of the water activities enjoyed at Camp Silver Beach, located on the Chesapeake Bay.

overnight and day meetings, trainings, seminars and retreats.

Our serene setting and comprehensive facility include a full-service dining hall, educational environment and heated/air-conditioned cottages, accommodating up to 400 guests.

Qualified staff members customize both structured and unstructured programs to meet

the needs of any group.

Family Camp Memorial and Labor Day Weekend

A weekend jam packed with fun and exciting family activities; it's just like summer camp, but for Mom, Dad and the whole family! Grab your family and head to Camp Silver Beach during Memorial Day and Labor

Day weekends.

Adults and children of all ages will enjoy a variety of water and land activities, sports, arts and crafts and more. Evening programs include games, skits and a bonfire! Price per family includes lodging and all meals.

Contact YMCA Camp Silver Beach at 757-442-4634 or go to www.campsilverbeach.org.



Local campers interact with campers from the world at Camp Silver Beach. For more information about Camp Silver Beach, visit www.campsilverbeach.org.