

PRESCHOOL CAMP WELCOME GUIDE 2022

Little Pioneers & Pathfinders



FOR MORE INFORMATION & FULL VERSION PARENT GUIDE:

[HTTPS://NSYMCA.ORG/SUMMER-CAMP](https://nsymca.org/summer-camp)

WELCOME TO PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP!

The NSYMCA Little Pioneers and Pathfinders summer camps offer a fun and unique experience for preschoolers. Campers will have their Best Summer Ever™ by meeting new friends, playing outside, discovering new interests, being physically active and creating memories that last a lifetime!

Attending camp with us this summer will be beneficial to each child's personal development. Our camp experience teaches essential leadership and social skills, helping youth develop confidence and independence. We foster peer friendships and adult mentoring relationships that build resiliency and encourage healthy decision making.

Participation in summer camp is a great way for parents and caregivers to keep kids' minds and bodies active while having FUN!

Please review the official [Parent Guide](#) on our [Camp Website](#) for full camp details.

Thank you for choosing us and we can't wait to meet our new friends this summer!

Ricky
Gonzalez
Camp Director





DROP-OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

Morning Drop-Off begins at 8:45 am. If you drop-off earlier than 8:45 am, your child will go to Extended AM Camp – charges will apply.

Little Pioneers & Pathfinders should park and enter through the main entrance. Do not use the drive-up drop off lines, as they are intended for elementary and middle school aged camp groups.

Little Pioneers and Pathfinders camp check-in is outside of the K Club room at the end of the hall. Our staff will be waiting with signage.

During drop-off, the coordinators will sign campers in.

For the safety of everyone, our counselors will sign your child out of camp daily. Pick-up begins at 11:45 am (AM-only campers). Any AM-only campers not picked up by 12:00 pm will be put into Lunch Bunch – charges will apply.

Full-day Pathfinders pick-up begins at 3:45 PM.

Pick-up locations: Little Pioneers (K Club Room) & Pathfinders (X Zone)

Please provide ID when picking up and checking out your child. If someone else is picking up, they must be listed as an approved pick-up permission relative/friend. Email registrar@nsymca.org for all pick-up communications.

PARENTS AT CAMP POLICY

The NSYMCA summer day camp does NOT have an open-door policy. We ask that parents do their best to give a hug and kiss and say their goodbyes during the drop-off time.

Since we do not provide background checks on parents and guardians, we ask that parents and guardians do not stay to participate in camp activities (nor to simply observe).



WHAT SHOULD WE BRING?

- Swimsuit and towel (Pathfinders Tues & Fri – AM & Th PM)
- Sunscreen (please also apply on your child prior to camp)
- Closed-toed shoes (no flip flops or open-toed shoes)
- Snack(s) that don't require cooling or heating
- Reusable water bottle
- Extra pair of clothes (that can stay at the NSYMCA)
- Backpack
- Clothes appropriate for weather forecast
- Extra diapers (that can stay at the NSYMCA)

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

In 2020 and 2021, we successfully facilitated camp with no outbreaks of COVID-19. We successfully kept campers safe in large part due to the NSYMCA day camp following all CDC guidelines. Our primary resource is the Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance, which is prepared by the Environmental Health & Engineering, Inc. specifically for all certified American Camp Association and YMCA summer day camps.

At this time, we have not instituted any COVID-19 protocols. However, if the IDPH makes any policy updates, we will adhere to the Governors' mitigations.

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL THIS SUMMER.

Please let us know if you have any personal requests for your child while at camp.

[Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance Prepared for: American Camp Association and YMCA of the USA](#)

We will not accommodate refund requests for self-quarantining due to IL state travel mandates. Cancellation requests will be considered for camper (or household member) positive COVID-19 test results. A doctor's note may be required.



SWIMMING INFORMATION

Pathfinders campers will swim on Tuesdays and Fridays 9:30 am – 10:10 am and Thursdays 2:20 pm – 3:00 pm. Further details can be found in our camp Parent Guide. The instructional swim time will be facilitated by our experienced aquatics director, Missy Contri. For any specific swim questions, please feel free to contact Missy at MContri@NSYMCA.org.

We recommend sending your Pathfinder to camp Tuesdays and Fridays with their swim attire already on to help with the transition into the pool.

Little Pioneers DO NOT swim. However, they may have outdoor water play days. We will communicate planning the week of, and Little Pioneers will be invited to dress for water play on the specified days. See calendar for more details.

We are very invested in providing personal growth and development opportunities for our campers in the areas of:

- Character development
- Coping skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Self-confidence and self-esteem
- Social emotional development

We are more than happy to set up conferences for families who would like additional information on their child's participation and successes at camp! Email camp director Ricky Gonzalez: rgonzalez@nsymca.org to arrange.

PATHFINDERS FULL-DAY

Full-day Pathfinder friends will take a quiet/rest time daily from 12:50 pm – 1:40 pm. Campers will all have assigned cots that we will disinfect daily. Campers do not have to sleep during this time, but they will need to remain on their cots. You are welcome to pack a tote bag with quiet/rest time activities for friends who will not sleep. Our recommendations are coloring books with crayons and/or 1-2 stuffed animals (quiet items only please). We recommend leaving your quiet/rest time tote bag at the NSYMCA for the week to be sent home on Fridays.

Please let us know if you have any specific instructions or requests for your child that we should be mindful of during quiet/rest time.



SNACK TIME

Please provide a snack for your child each day. The NSYMCA does not provide snack for preschool campers.

The NSYMCA does not have a formal peanut-free policy (or any other food restrictions). We ask our families to be mindful with their lunch and snacks of other potential common allergies. All campers wash hands before and after eating. Sharing food is never allowed.

LITTLE PIONEERS DAILY SCHEDULE

8:45 AM – 9:20 AM: DROP-OFF & WELCOME TABLE ACTIVITIES
9:20 AM – 9:30 AM: MORNING MEETING
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM: DAILY LESSON & ACTIVITIES
10:00 AM – 10:20 AM: SNACK TIME
10:20 AM – 11:10 AM: PLAYGROUND & OUTDOOR GAMES
11:10 AM – 11:50 AM: INDOOR FREE CHOICE & PLAY
11:50 AM – NOON: PICK-UP (K CLUB)

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9:30 AM – 10:00 AM: DAILY LESSON & ACTIVITIES
10:00 AM – 10:20 AM: SNACK TIME
10:20 AM – 11:10 AM: PLAYGROUND & OUTDOOR GAMES
11:10 AM – 11:50 AM: FREE CHOICE & PLAY
11:50 AM – NOON: PICK-UP (AM-ONLY CAMPER)
12:00 PM – 12:50 PM: LUNCH & STORY TIME
12:50 PM – 1:40 PM: QUIET/REST TIME
1:40 PM – 2:00 PM: SNACK TIME
2:00 PM – 3:10 PM: FREE CHOICE & PLAY
3:10 PM – 3:45 PM: PLAYGROUND & OUTDOOR GAMES
3:45 PM – 4:00 PM: PICK-UP (X ZONE)

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Little Pioneers and Pathfinders will have weekly Mini Movers dance/music classes facilitated by our Performing Arts Department's Miss Val (Wednesdays - AM) and weekly art lessons facilitated by the NSYMCA Art Department's Miss Vicki (Thursdays - AM).



LUNCH BUNCH

Any half-day camper can register for lunch bunch. Lunch bunch participants bring their lunch daily and have extended camp hours of noon-1 pm.

Full-day Pathfinder friends do not have to register for lunch bunch. Lunch supervision is included. Please send a lunch every day.

Please note, on Fridays we offer special lunch where we purchase lunch for all campers (Noodles & Co, Subway, etc.). You can view the special lunch schedule on the official [Camp Calendar](#). If you do not wish to have your child eat special lunch, please send a lunch with your child on Fridays (and let us know as well).

COMMUNICATION

We send general all-camp welcome emails every Thursday and general all-camp recap emails on Saturdays. We will send home daily camp re-cap letters with your child each day!

Additionally, photos will be shared via our Camp Website.

Any news regarding minor injuries, social conflicts and milestones will be communicated at pick-up. We will call you immediately regarding anything major, reoccurring, or urgent and important.

Please make sure the NSYMCA has your correct and current phone numbers, emails, and emergency contacts.

Check out the 2022 Preschool Camp Calendar on the last page to see all the fun we have planned at camp this summer!

THANK YOU!

On behalf of everyone at the NSYMCA, thank you for choosing us as your summer camp. We know you had a lot of options and we will work very hard to ensure safety and success this summer. Please feel free to contact our camp director (Ricky Gonzalez - rgonzalez@nsymca.org) with any questions, comments, or concerns at any time!

Ricky Gonzalez
Camp Director
rgonzalez@nsymca.org

Nicole Hatfield
Camp Registrar
registrar@nsymca.org



**BEST
SUMMER
EVER**



2022 Preschool Camp Calendar Little Pioneers & Pathfinders

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| | Welcome to Camp! | Dress Up Day | Mini Movers Day | Art Class Day | Friday Fun Day |
| Week 1 | June 6 READY, SET, GROW! | FUN HAT DRESS UP DAY! 🐟 | 8 MINI MOVERS DAY! | 9 ART CLASS DAY! 🐟 | 10 PLANTING SEEDS IN OUR GARDEN! 🐟 |
| Week 2 | June 13 UNDER THE SEA! | 14 INSIDE OUT DRESS UP DAY! 🐟 | 15 MINI MOVERS DAY! | 16 ART CLASS DAY! 🐟 | 17 WACKY WATER DAY! (BATHING SUIT READY) 🐟 |
| Week 3 | June 20 ALL ABOUT ME! | 21 WACKY DRESS UP DAY! 🐟 | 22 MINI MOVERS DAY! | 23 ART CLASS DAY! 🐟 | 24 LIFE SIZE PORTRAITS! 🐟 |
| Week 4 | June 27 COMMUNITY HEROES! | 28 TIE-DYE DRESS UP DAY! 🐟 | 29 MINI MOVERS DAY! | 30 ART CLASS DAY! 🐟 | 1 4TH OF JULY PARADE! (PARENTS INVITED) 🐟 |
| Week 5 | July 4 DOWN ON THE FARM! NO CAMP! | 5 COSTUME DRESS UP DAY! 🐟 | 6 MINI MOVERS DAY! | 7 ART CLASS DAY! 🐟 | 8 PETTING ZOO AT THE Y! 🐟 |
| Week 6 | July 11 SPACE CAMP! | 12 PAJAMA DRESS UP DAY! 🐟 | 13 MINI MOVERS DAY! | 14 ART CLASS DAY! 🐟 | 15 EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE & PLANETS! 🐟 |
| Week 7 | July 18 ERIC CARLE WEEK! | 19 TWINNING DRESS UP DAY! 🐟 | 20 MINI MOVERS DAY! | 21 ART CLASS DAY! 🐟 | 22 ERIC CARLE SHOWCASE! 🐟 |
| Week 8 | July 25 SUPER HEROES! | 26 SUPERHERO DRESS UP DAY! 🐟 | 27 MINI MOVERS DAY! | 28 ART CLASS DAY! 🐟 | 29 WACKY WATER DAY! (BATHING SUIT READY) 🐟 |
| Week 9 | August 1 RAINFOREST ANIMALS! | 2 SPORTS DRESS UP DAY! 🐟 | 3 MINI MOVERS DAY! | 4 ART CLASS DAY! 🐟 | 5 RUNNING THROUGH THE RAINFOREST! 🐟 |
| Week 10 | August 8 FRIENDSHIP WEEK! | 9 NEON DRESS UP DAY! 🐟 | 10 MINI MOVERS DAY! | 11 ART CLASS DAY! 🐟 | 12 WACKY WATER DAY! (BATHING SUIT READY) 🐟 |

PATHFINDERS SWIM LESSONS: TUE & FRI (AM) & TH (PM)