2016
Camp Phoenix
Day Camp
Welcome Packet

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Welcome to Camp Phoenix

Summer is on the way! As we begin the 2016 season, we would like to welcome all of our new summer families and would also like to extend a great welcome back to each of our returning families. We know that finding the right summer camp can be a tough decision, but we can assure you that your child will have the most amazing experience at Camp Phoenix this summer.

You should know that by making the decision to send your child to camp, you are providing him/her with an experience that will have a lasting impact. Camp is a place where your child will learn new skills, make friends, grow in confidence, gain a sense of independence, enjoy the outdoors and just have FUN!

At Camp Phoenix we pride ourselves on the safety and supervision of each camper in our program. We carefully select a staff team that is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable experience for your camper. These counselors are rigorously screened and extensively trained prior to the start of the summer.

We look forward to meeting your families at one of our Open House dates: March 7th or April 19th, 7:00pm-8:00pm. We will also be hosting a “Meet the Counselor/Open House” on Saturday, June 11th, 2:00pm-3:00pm. On any of these dates you will get an overview of the camp experience, receive camper shirts and meet the camp directors.
Meet the Camp Director

My name is Julie Szerenyi and I am the Director of Camp Phoenix. My journey with Camp Phoenix began in 2002, and what was supposed to be a one-time unique experience, turned into a 14 year (and counting) calling. I believe in Camp. I believe in what camp does for children, all children. Camp is a magical place where you can just be yourself, come out of your shell and try new things. It is a place where you can feel good about yourself and develop your self-esteem. It is place where you build lifelong friendships and step outside your comfort zone. Camp is a place where children can walk away at the end of the day a little taller, a little happier and with an “I CAN DO ANYTHING” attitude.
With the Y core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility guiding our mission and our staff, I know we can make a real difference in the lives of children, your children. Our well-trained staff gives our campers the opportunity to gain a sense of independence and build self-confidence within the safety of our camp community. We laugh, sing, smile, play hard and have fun. At Camp Phoenix we challenge each other to become better people.

As you can see, Camp Phoenix has had a strong impact on my life and the lives of many campers over the years. I invite you to become part of this wonderful place and experience the magic that is Camp Phoenix! Over the next few months our staff team will put a lot of hard work and effort into getting Camp ready for you and your loved ones. I look forward to welcoming many new and returning faces into our camp family in June. See you there!

In the meantime, If you have any questions or concerns, I am available at 610- 933- 5861 or jszerenyi@philaymca.org
A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

CAMP PHOENIX DAY CAMP

Our camp focuses on campers being outdoors, building new relationships, and experiencing exciting new things. Our co-ed groups are broken down by age and each group participates in activities including: swimming, Arts & Crafts, nature study, field games, team-building activities, weekly entertainment, field trips, camp wide events and more.

7:00-9:00 AM
Before Care:
Our Friendly Staff will help your kids out of the car and into the building. They will participate in various activities and gym games. At 8:30 AM they will gather into their camp groups for attendance.

9:00 AM
Groups walk down to camp for morning announcements
Daily updates, and camp songs

10:00 AM-3:45 PM
Outdoor activities and fun ensues!
Get to know you games, field games, name games, circle time, and team building activities, etc.
Remember to pack sunscreen daily!

11:00 AM-1:00 PM
Lunch:
Camper groups will eat at different times throughout the afternoon. Please pack a lunch daily with ice packs and plenty of healthy snacks and water. Lunch bags will travel w/campers throughout the day so please do not pack perishable food items (mayonnaise, yogurt, milk products).

3:00-3:30 PM
Campers will break into age groups and walk to the building for After Care

4:00-6:30 PM
After Care:
Campers will participate in gym games and other activities. Please bring your Photo ID for pick up. If you need to speak with a staff member, please park in the parking lot.

SWIMMING
Groups will swim daily at their scheduled time.
Traditional day campers will participate in recreational swim. Please pack a bathing suit & towel. All items should be clearly labeled.
Camp Phoenix Day Camp
FAQ

Q. Is there a camp open house?
A. Yes! We have three that parents and campers can attend. Monday, March 7th and Tuesday, April 19th, both from 7:00- 8:00PM. You will have a chance to ask questions, meet several unit leaders, and see the campgrounds if weather permits. You will have a chance to meet more of the camp staff on Saturday June 11th, 2:00-3:00pm.

Q. What time can I drop off / pick up my child?
A. Normal camp drop off is from 8:30-9:00 AM and pick up from 4:00 PM - 4:20 PM. Extended care runs from 7:00-9:00 AM in the morning and 4:00-6:30 PM in the evenings.

Q. What is the plan for Transportation for Field Trips during Inclement Weather?
A. Your child's safety and well-being are our top priorities. The YMCA reserves the right to delay or cancel programs and field trips based on inclement weather that could affect your child's safety and program quality. All transportation is provided by a local licensed bus company.

Q. If I need to have a conversation with my child’s Camp Director or Camp Counselor(s) when is good time?
A. We encourage parents to reach out to the appropriate Camp Director with all questions or concerns. Feel free to call/email to set up a time to speak or you may stop in during camp hours and we will do our best to accommodate you. We do ask that you not have a conversation in the Drop off lines as it does back up our parking lot and slows down the process of Drop Off. Please park in the lot if you wish to speak to a specific person. Several camp leaders will have an e-mail address that you may contact them through.

Q. What should I send (not send) with my child to camp?
A. Please check out our “What to Bring / Not to Bring” page for detailed information.

Q. Who is caring for my child while he/she is at camp?
A. We hire counselors with excellent character, strong values, enthusiasm and experience working with kids. Before camp starts, we add to their skills with more than 40 hours of instruction in training such as child development, first aid and conflict resolution.

Q. What do you do in case of hot weather?
A. When weather reports indicate an unhealthy heat index or poor air quality, we adjust our camp day to safeguard campers from dehydration and overexposure to sun and heat. We provide cool, indoor or shaded places for camp activities, provide frequent water breaks and monitor sun exposure. We are committed to providing a safe environment for kids, but if your child isn’t feeling well, our staff is fully trained in first aid.

Q. Does my child eat during the day?
A. You will need to pack your camper’s lunch. Please check out our What to Bring/Not Bring page for information on what to pack.

WHAT TO BRING FOR FULL DAY CAMPS
• Lunch (no mayonnaise or milk based products please—there is no access to a refrigerator)
• 2-3 drinks (we encourage water)
• 2 snacks
• Please pack lunch, drinks and snacks in a LABELED cooler or lunch bag.
• Refillable Water bottle (please label)
• Swim bag packed with their swimsuit and towel clearly labeled. * All Campers will swim every day other than trip days. If your campers schedule changes we will notify you.

SUNSCREEN
The sun at camp is always a concern for us. We want you to know that we are committed to making sure your child is safe from the sun. We strongly encourage you to pack your camper with non-SPRAY ON SUNSCREEN. We will assist our youngest campers in applying sunscreen during each sunscreen break. However, campers 8 years old and up will be responsible for applying their own sunscreen during the day (with plenty of reminders from their counselors). If sun exposure is ever a problem – please notify the director immediately so that extra precautions and applications can be made.

WHAT NOT TO BRING
Some of our Specialty Camps may ask campers to bring specific toys/props for use in the program. We ask that they refrain from bringing any of the following:
• Money, alcohol, drugs, vehicles, animals or weapons
• Any valuables
• Skateboards and scooters
• iPods, cell phones or other electronics
• Electronic games (including Nintendo DS)
• Toys, balls, playing cards, etc.

Parents, please help us with these requests. We do not want something precious to your child to be lost or broken. Thank you very much!

WHAT TO WEAR TO CAMP
• Sunscreen (Lotion)
• Shorts
• Light-weight top
• Hat
• Comfortable, CLOSED TOE shoes
• Camp t-shirt
  ○ required on trip day

WHAT NOT TO WEAR TO CAMP
• Revealing clothing (i.e. halter tops) or any clothing with an offensive message/logo
• JEANS
• Black/dark colored clothing
• Expensive clothing, dresses, etc.
• OPEN TOED SHOES OR FLIP FLOPS
  ○ If your child chooses to wear these please be aware that they may be restricted from participating in certain activities for their own safety and you will be contacted by our camp director.

Camp Phoenix
Day Camp

Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures:

Drop off is a curb-side drive thru procedure. Please drive into the Camp Lane and pull up to the stop sign. Camp staff will be there to greet your child, help them out of the car and get them signed in. The drive thru drop off closes at 8:50 AM. After 9:00 AM you will need to park and walk your child/children into the Camp Office located inside the red door to the far right of the Bradley Thomson Center of the YMCA where they will be signed in and taken to their groups.
If you need to speak with a Director during drop off we ask that you park your car and walk over to help from congesting the drop off line.

In the event of a rainy day drop off will be inside. You will still be able to do drive thru drop off.

**Pick-up Procedures:**

If you are picking up earlier than 3:45 PM, you must send a note earlier in the morning or call the Camp Secretary alerting us so we can have your camper(s) ready when you arrive. Those picking up early will need to park in a space as to not stop traffic from the pick-up lane.

Curbside pick-up begins at 3:45 PM. Staff will greet you and check your ID accordingly. You will need to verify which camp your child is participating in so we can expedite the pick-up process. Please be patient with our staff because our main concern is the safety of the children. Please follow all traffic signs and staff directing traffic.

Please drive slowly through the lot as there are multiple entry ways and exits where pedestrians may be crossing.

**For the safety of your child, participants will only be released to the legal guardian or responsible adult(s) listed on the camper’s registration form. Every adult must present a photo ID at rides out. Help us speed up the pick-up process by having your ID ready.**