

Welcome to YMCA Camp Shaver

The Experience of a Lifetime

Thank you, parents and campers, for choosing to join us this summer at Camp Shaver! Every season we strive to make it the best one yet, and I know that I am thrilled to show you what we have in store for you this year.

We focus on using the core values of the YMCA: Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility to provide an environment where campers can feel a sense of accomplishment and belonging. We support opportunities for developing character and making friendships that last a lifetime.

Our belief is that the camp experience is for all people, no matter what life has brought them. Everyone should have the same opportunity to grow and challenge themselves to be their best self. Camp is the ideal place to provide that adventure.

Every week we start fresh with a new group of campers and a new opportunity to express ourselves in our own unique ways. We want every single person to feel that they have a place to belong here at Shaver. So, please join us for an opportunity to see the world from a different perspective and have a blast while doing it.

While at camp you will be challenged to try new things that might be tough at first. Please know that we train our staff to be supportive and caring to help you through anything that you encounter. We select our staff for maturity, character, and leadership so that they will be positive and caring role models.

No matter your background when you arrive, camp will have an impact. We hope that impact and the experiences from your time here will propel your camper to their next adventure in life!

We look forward to partnering with you for another great season. Thank you again for choosing to spend your time with us this summer, let's make it one to remember!

Sincerely,

Travis Merrill *12/12/25*

Camp Director
tmerrill@ymcacnm.org
(505) 595-1515 Ext 5100

YMCA Camp Shaver
22900 New Mexico - 4
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Camp Registration and Payments:

Registration: A \$100.00 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit is required for each session to reserve your child's spot. The deposit will be applied towards the total camp fee.

Payment of Balance: The final payment for camp is due two weeks before your child's start date. The payment will be automatically deducted from the billing method used to pay the deposit. If you wish to pay your balance before the due date, or set up a payment plan, please contact our business office at businessoffice@ymcacnm.org

If you plan to have your child remain at camp between two consecutive sessions, there will be an additional \$75.00 stay-over fee (per each interim period.) Since the LIT session is a three-week session, they do not need to pay the stay-over fee for the weekends during the LIT session, though they will be asked to pay the fee if they stay-over the weekend between separate LIT sessions.

Paperwork

All paperwork for Camp is online, shortly after you register for your session/s in CORE you will receive an email with a link with instructions on how to set up an account on CampDoc. After hearing lots of feedback, we have shifted from our old paperwork system to CampDoc, which has much higher reviews on usability and their ability to assist with the process. We strive to make this process as painless as possible but know that there is a lot to do every year around paperwork. Just know that the information we collect helps us to make your camper's experience the best it can be. Included in the mail will be links to help you deal with any problems in the paperwork process.

Where is Camp Shaver?

From I-25 take Exit 242 at Bernalillo and head West on RT 550 for 24 miles. At San Ysidro, head North on Hwy 4. Camp Shaver is located 4 miles north of the town of Jemez Springs on Hwy 4. The camp is at the same turn off as the USFS Battleship Rock Picnic Area (just before mile-marker 23). Take a right into Battleship Rock Picnic Area, another right onto Camp Shaver Lane (over the bridge) and you will drive right into Camp. Please note that the gate will be closed and no cars will be admitted to the grounds until 12:00 P.M. on Sunday and 6:00 P.M. Friday.

Arrival Times:

All camp sessions begin on Sunday. Campers should arrive on Sunday between 12:00 – 3:00pm. Camp Shaver does not open the gate prior to 12:00 p.m. as counselors are busy preparing for the new session. When you drive into camp you will be directed where to

park. Campers must be at camp by 3:00 PM so they can attend the orientation and camp tour, please call if you will be arriving later than 3:00. The first camp meal will be on Sunday evening at 5:30 p.m.

Registration check-in

After you have parked, inside the Dining Hall is where you'll check in, visit the health care manager, and discuss medications or other accommodations we can make for your camper. Counselors will be available to assist you with moving into the cabins and getting settled in your bunks. The Health Care Manager will also be there to receive any prescription medications. Please note, **these medications must be in their original container**. Please only send enough medication for the camper's stay with a small amount extra if needed. It is very important that you bring food allergies to the attention of the nurse so we can ensure that our cook staff are well prepared.

Departure Times:

Check Out is on Friday evening 6-8pm. During Checkout medications will be returned, store accounts will be closed out and if there is extra money on the account the store will be open to purchase any desired items. Please note **we will not be accepting cash this season.**

Campers will be packed and ready to leave by 6:00 PM (we will serve them dinner). During checkout there will be a slideshow of various pictures from the week playing. Please be aware that the camp gate will remain locked until 6:00 p.m. If there are extenuating circumstances requiring an early pick-up, it must be approved by and arranged with the Camp Director no later than the day of check-in. Campers must be picked up no later than 8:30 pm. Late pick-ups will be charged an additional \$30.00

Cabin Assignments:

All Cabin assignments are based on age. Campers are assigned to a cabin of up to twelve campers with two staff members. Requests for friends (ideally within 1 year of age) to be placed in the same cabin will be strongly considered, though there is no guarantees. All cabin assignments are made in advance, so be sure to fill out the cabin-mate request line in CampDoc if your child would like to request a bunkmate. Cabins are typically separated by ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-13 years but this is dependent on the campers signed up for each week. Some weeks have larger ranges in cabin groups.

Visitors to Camp:

There are no scheduled visiting days during the entire camping period. As a childcare facility we manage access to the property for safety reasons, as well as minimizing homesickness, which can affect campers of all ages. The time will go by rapidly for the busy camper so minimizing contact from home helps. It is suggested that parents or guardians spend time with their campers on opening day, walk around camp, meet the staff and then leave the camper cheerfully, not tearfully. We know leaving can be challenging sometimes but leaving the camper with confidence can help them get over any struggles. There is the added benefit of allowing parents to disconnect for a short time, allowing campers to gain some independence.

If a visit to camp is necessary due to an emergency, please make arrangements with the camp director in advance by calling camp shaver at (505) 595-1515 ext 5100. Parents, guardians and relatives should not call the camp directly for any reason other than an emergency. Campers may only use the telephone with the permission of the director. If parents or guardians require any assistance or information while their child is at camp please call Camp Shaver at (575)595-1515 ext 5100 or the YMCA at (505)595-1515 Horne branch.

Homesickness:

On occasion, some campers may experience homesickness. We explain to our campers that everyone at camp experiences some level of homesickness, even our staff. During the week, campers and staff quickly become a family for the week and most homesickness is resolved within a day or two. If your camper experiences a higher level of homesickness and is having unusual difficulty working through it, we will give you a call to inform you of your camper's progress and seek your advice moving forward. Historically, out of the 500+ campers we serve, less than 1 camper per summer is unable to work through this very normal emotion of homesickness. **We would ask that you please not tell your child you will come and pick them up if they "don't like it".**

If your child is experiencing homesickness on Sunday night, they most often will take you up on your offer. At that point we will ask you to keep your promise. This comes at the expense of giving your child the opportunity to work through his/her homesickness and experience the sense of accomplishment in overcoming it. If you have any concerns about your child's ability to stay the whole week please talk to the director when you drop your child off so we can discuss strategies for success.

Camper Communication

Here at Camp Shaver we want our campers to have time to engage with the program and make new friends. This means that we do not allow campers to directly call home, if they have a need they can communicate with their counselor or another staff member and we will have a staff member contact the family with whatever needs the camper states. If we have campers experiencing homesickness staff are trained to keep them engaged first and we typically give them 1 day to get acclimated. If after that time they are having difficulties with something at camp a staff member will call home to keep parents informed, and see if there are methods we can try to help them enjoy their time.

If a parent wants to speak to a camper we will always get them to the phone for you. We simply ask that if you wish to speak with your child, it is something important since this takes campers out of the flow of camp and often makes homesickness worse instead of better. The best way to show your thinking about campers is:

Letters and Packages:

Throughout the week and during “rest periods,” campers are encouraged to write home. It would be helpful to provide your camper with writing paper, pens and pencils, **and self-addressed stamped envelopes.**

We recommend prepacking letters/packages and dropping them off at the office during check-in. You can do so after you drop off your camper at their cabin so they won’t know they are getting mail. Please do NOT send food/candy we will not allow them to have this in their cabins for animal and health issues.

If you choose to send candy, please ensure that there is enough for the entire cabin to share in and there are no nuts. Your camper will have access to their packaged snacks during camp store time.

Any letters and packages sent to the campers must be sent to the actual camp address:

(CAMPER’S NAME) c/o YMCA CAMP SHAVER

22900 HIGHWAY 4

JEMEZ SPRINGS, NM 87025

Lost and Found

We encourage all parents to check the lost and found before they leave. Please label all your campers' belongings with camper initials or names in permanent markers. Lost and found items will be held for until the end of the summer, after that we will send out a message and donate remaining items. We are in the great outdoors, so please do not send your child to camp with valuable items. Camp Shaver is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Medications

All medications (including over the counter medications) must be turned in with the Camp Health Manager during check-in. Please have medications in hand at the time of check-in. If you send multiple campers placing each camper's meds into their own bags is helpful. Medications will be distributed during mealtimes and bedtime as prescribed. It is encouraged to only send the amount of medication for the campers stay.

PLEASE:

Keep medication in its **original container** labeled with the child's name and address as well as the phone number of the pharmacy with the practitioner's name. **We cannot distribute medication that is not in the original container and we can only give medication in the dosage and manner prescribed.

Current and correct dosage is listed

Medication is listed on the child's "Physical Exam Form"

Medication is from a licensed pharmacy

Medication is not expired

Character Counts, and Behaving Appropriately:

YMCA Camp Shaver believes Character Counts! A community of character is the foundation to a safe, healthy and caring environment. Character Counts defines a person of character as one who is trustworthy, treats people with respect, responsible, fair, caring, and a good citizen. We feel strongly about character development at Camp Shaver. All campers are expected to behave and model all the Pillars of Character Counts!

If a camper's behavior is harmful to themselves, to others at camp, or is disruptive to the camp program, the Camp Director RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DISMISS THAT CAMPER. Parents or guardians will be responsible for immediately picking the child up from camp.

No refunds will be given for dismissal from camp due to behavioral problems or neglect of camp rules and regulations!!!

Financial Aid:

Financial Aid is available to those families that qualify. Families may receive up to a 50% reduction in the camp fee. Financial aid will be given for up to two regular sessions or one LIT session for a single child family. Families with more than one child interested in attending camp may receive one session of financial aid per child. To be considered for financial aid, all applications must be received no later than two weeks before the camp session requested. All applicants receiving financial aid must pay the \$100 deposit in full to reserve their session at Camp Shaver. All applications will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Director. Please be sure to provide all of the requested information to expedite your application. For more information on financial aid please contact the Corporate YMCA or Camp Shaver.

Refunds/Cancellations:

You can cancel a program any time 2 weeks prior to the start of the program. You will receive a full refund as account credit to be used on another program of your choice or a refund of payment back to the original payment method (refunds are subject to a \$20 service fee and deposits are nonrefundable).

After the class/program has begun,

For full pay programs: Program refunds for full pay programs are not permitted unless there are extenuating circumstances and are accompanied with proper documentation (i.e. medical). Refunds requested after the completion of a program session will not be honored.

For Automatic Payment Programs: Our drafting programs are flexible to meet your changing needs and schedule. You may cancel your program enrollment at any time by submitting written notification at least 2 weeks prior to your next scheduled payment date. For refunds due to medical reasons, proper documentation will be required.

If the YMCA cancels a class/program, whenever possible we will offer members the opportunity to make up that class/program: If a makeup cannot be accommodated, a member may request a credit for that class/program in writing, by submitting a program credit refund web form.

Program deposits are non-refundable.

Camp Shaver reserves the right to cancel a camp session(s) as it sees fit. We will make every effort to give parents as much notice as possible. Reasons for cancellation include, but are not limited to, environmental concerns, climate concerns, low enrollment, health concerns, etc.

Camp Store:

The Camp Store offers a wide variety of camp incidentals and is a great place for snacks and socializing. We feel that camp store is a very important unstructured period where kids may socialize outside their own cabin mates. We play lots of games, have dance parties and extensive chit chat during this period. It is suggested that campers and parents open a Camp Store account when registering for camp. We recommend \$30.00 - \$50.00 per week for the Camp Store. Accounts are opened and can be added to in CORE (place you registered) like any other program. **Please make sure that you open a store account in the same session as your camper's program**

We do not accept cash for anything at Camp. Campers may not keep their own money while at camp. If campers are found with money, they will be asked to leave it with the Camp Director for safekeeping and returned to parents at checkout. The camp store will also be open on closing day.

What to BRING to camp and what NOT TO BRING

The list on the last page is a suggested list of items to bring to camp for a week's stay. Adjustments may be made depending on the individual camper and length of stay. Please use your own best judgment. Your camper may want to bring a list of the items they packed to camp and use it to double check items when packing again to return home.

We strongly suggest that parents or guardians **send old clothes** to camp with your camper. **Valuables should be left at home** (money, expensive watches, jewelry, radios, phones etc.). Although every effort is made to ensure the safety of all belongings, Camp Shaver is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items. Please mark each item with the camper's name or other recognizable mark/tag.

We recommend that you pack with your camper present, if you send them with things they are not familiar with they will likely leave items behind assuming that they belong to another camper.

Camp is supposed to be a fun and exciting new environment so we like it when campers bring something fun to show or share. For example if your camper juggles bring something

to juggle. Play music? Bring an instrument to play (if it isn't overly valuable). Bring a favorite hat or something that your camper feels helps them represent themselves. Campers being able to share what makes them unique is great, but we want to caution you that camp is hard on items so again don't bring things with great sentimental or monetary value that cannot be replaced.

Please do not allow your camper to bring the following items: *Food, candy, or flavored beverages (these will all be provided through meals and the camp store), knives, matches, fireworks, valuables of any kind, video games, radio/iPod, cell phones, or any other electrical appliances.* These items will be confiscated if found and will be returned to the camper at the end of the session. No personal firearms including bows, bb/pellet guns, rifles, handguns, etc. any child found in possession of such items will be removed from camp programs and sent home. All items brought to camp will go home dirty, tie dyed, ripped or all of the above. **Please send older clothes.**

There are many reasons for the long list of DON'T brings, but they are all related to licensing, program needs, or health needs. If there is a particular question you have about an item/s please feel free to contact us at tmerrill@ymcacnm.org

Fishing: All campers twelve years of age and older who are planning to fish must have a valid state fishing license. We offer fishing as a morning activity for those who are interested. The section of river under our bridge is stocked with Rainbow trout when the weather permits.

Packing List – For 1 week programs.

If your camper is staying longer please adjust accordingly. Laundry is available on weekends, however machines are limited so please plan on having enough for multiple weeks.

NO ELECTRONICS they will be confiscated (digital cameras with no other features are allowed)

- Toiletries

- ☐ 2 to 3 old towels
- ☐ Wash Cloth
- ☐ Soap/Shampoo
- ☐ Toothbrush/Paste
- ☐ Comb/Brush
- ☐ Sunscreen/Lip Balm
- ☐ Deodorant (scent free recommended)

- Clothing

- ☐ Hiking Shoes
- ☐ Tennis Shoes
- ☐ Old Shoes for water
- ☐ 2 Pants
- ☐ Three Shorts
- ☐ 2 Long sleeves
- ☐ 6 T-shirts
- ☐ 1 Sweatshirt
- ☐ 1 Light Jacket
- ☐ 7 Underwear
- ☐ 7 Socks
- ☐ 2 Pajamas

- ☐ 1 Swim Suit

- Sleeping

- ☐ Compactable Sleeping bag
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Sheets/blankets for twin bed (sleeping bag is adequate)

- ☐ Laundry Bag

- Misc

- ☐ **Flashlight/headlamp**
- ☐ **2 canteen/water bottles**
- ☐ pen/writing paper stamped envelopes
- ☐ insect repellent
- ☐ backpack (for hiking and day use, string bag not adequate)
 - Campers go on an overnight trip so a bag large enough to hold their sleeping bag is preferred.
- ☐ fishing gear (optional)
 - Anyone over 11 who wants to fish requires a state fishing license.
- ☐ reading material
- ☐ facial tissue
- ☐ **rain gear (jacket or other reusable type** we have weeks where rain is common.

