

why the Y

Dear Friend of the Athens YMCA,

At the Athens YMCA, we often say, **“Once a Y kid, always a Y kid.”** That spirit is alive and well every summer, especially when we see former staff members—now in full-time careers—choosing to spend their days off back at Camp Kelley.

There’s something about this place that pulls people in. Maybe it’s the **energy**. Maybe it’s the **community**. Maybe it’s the **sense of purpose**. But for many of our staff, **it’s all three**.

One former coordinator, Coach Kaylin, shared:

*“The reason why I love coming back to the Y is the overwhelming sense of love and support I feel every time I walk through the doors. We never miss a beat, and it’s truly the best ‘come as you are’ environment. Though I’m not an Athens native, I always say I grew up at the Athens Y. Whether we first came at five years old or joined in college, **we’re all Athens Y kids.**”*



Our programs build more than strong bodies—they build lifelong bonds. That’s the magic of the Y.

Shae Wilson
CEO