



Camp Kelley

Commonly Asked Questions

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Section I: Camp History

Cobern Kelley was a beloved teacher, mentor and spiritual leader to thousands of youth in the Athens community. His legacy lives on in our after-school programs and summer day camp. Campers spend time in the chapel Kelley built, work through devotionals created by Kelley's teachings, experience nature, sing, dance, play competitive sports, and simply live the life of a child every day at Camp Kelley.

Kelley was the Physical Director of the Athens YMCA starting in 1942. He began working at the Y while attending the University of Georgia in 1930. He served the community in this capacity until his death in 1968. Kelley founded the Athens YMCA day camp, fondly known as Camp Kelley.

Kelley truly believed in being a positive role model for the children in his care. Below is a direct quote from Kelley.

"One hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money was in my bank account, nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a better place because I was important in the life of a child."

-Cobern Kelley

Section II: Camp Groups & Weeks

Camp Age Groups

Cubs	Ages 5-6 (Details on 5-year-old campers on next page)
Indians	Ages 7-8
Braves	Ages 9-10
Warriors	Ages 11-13
Leaders in Training	Ages 14-15 (Volunteer program that requires an interview process)

Camp Weeks

Week 1	May 26- May 29 (No camp on May 25)
Week 2	June 1- June 5
Week 3	June 8- June 12
Week 4	June 15- June 19
Week 5	June 22- June 26
NO CAMP JUNE 29- JULY 3	
Week 6	July 6- July 10
Week 7	July 13- July 17
Week 8	July 20- July 24
Week 9	July 27- 31

Camp Group Sizes & Ratios

Cubs	TBD	1 counselor to 10 campers
Indians	TBD	1 counselor to 10 campers
Braves	TBD	1 counselor to 12 campers
Warriors	TBD	1 counselor to 12 campers

5-year-old campers

The Athens YMCA proudly serves 5-year-olds in our communities. We have additional guidelines and information for our 5-year-old campers.

- **A copy of the child's birth certificate must be submitted for all 5-year-old campers by May 26th.** You can either email a copy of your child's birth certificate to Gina Jackson, gina@athensymca.org or you can bring a physical copy to the front desk.
- **All 5-year-old campers must be picked up by 5:30 pm.** No exceptions will be made. The late fee will be applied at 5:30 pm. Any child picked up late more than three times will be dismissed from camp.
- Camp Kelley operates 10 hours per day. Groups move every 50 minutes with little downtime. Our youngest campers are often overwhelmed by the camp schedule. We recommend that 5-year-old campers only be at camp for up to 7 hours.
- Camp staff cannot help children change into swimsuits or any other clothing. Campers must be able to do this on their own.
- Campers will get extremely dirty and have accidents. Please send your camper in play clothes, as well as packing additional play clothes in their bag. This is camp, we play in the dirt.

It is important for us to define ourselves as a day camp and not daycare. While we do promise to care for your child as if they were our own, we must stay inside the boundaries of operating a day camp. We are moving large groups to different events and activities throughout the day. Campers must be able to handle a large, fast-paced, loud environment with several transitions for the whole day.

We encourage you to watch the virtual camp tour. [Please click here to watch.](#) The password for camp tours is campkelley – all lowercase, no spaces.

If your child turns 5 after registration begins, you may experience difficulty registering them for Camp Kelley. If this happens, please email office@athensymca.org.

Organizational Chart

- **Directors:** leaders assigned supervisory responsibilities over all staff members, campers, and LIT's.
- **Unit Heads:** leaders assigned supervisory responsibilities of one age group.
- **Counselor (Coach):** leaders working in one age group. Coaches must have experience working with children, be at least 16 years old, be able to execute the daily plan, create activities to meet the needs of the age group, coordinate options and league games, conduct daily devotions, and have a desire to learn leadership skills.
- **Leader in Training (LITs):** leaders working in one age group. LITs must be 14 years old (or going into the 9th grade), have a desire to learn leadership skills necessary for any job, assist with the creation of

activities for their group, coordinate options and league games, conduct daily devotions, and pass an aquatic safety skills course.

- **Additional Employee Information:** All camp employees participate in comprehensive staff trainings, including child abuse prevention, are CPR / First Aid Certified, and undergo a criminal background check. All camp employees are high school and college students / adults with camping or recreational experience.

Section III: Social Media & Camp Pictures

We love being able to share our camp days with parents and friends. Follow and connect with us through our social media pages, camp videos, and SmugMug.

- **Social Media Pages:** The Athens YMCA actively updates our Facebook and Instagram pages. You can find us at facebook.com/athensymca and [@athensymca](https://instagram.com/athensymca) on Instagram.
- **Camp Videos:** Each week we have a camp video to recap all our fun activities. When possible, we love to share this with families as well.
- **SmugMug:** We take hundreds of pictures each week to share with parents and families. To see all camp pictures, visit our SmugMug page at athensymca.smugmug.com. All camp pictures of children are password protected. The password for Camp Kelley 2026 will be *summer2026* - all lowercase with no spaces.

Please contact Jacqueline Shirley, (jacqueline@athensymca.org) if you have any questions about our social media use or would like your child to NOT be in any pictures or video.

Section IV: Camp Payments / Refund Policy

Camp Payment Options

- **Weekly Rate= \$150 per child + 1 time \$25 registration fee per child**
 - Participants can pay in full at the time of registration or pay a \$50 deposit to hold a spot in the week they plan to attend. Participants must pay a \$50 deposit for each week they wish to secure a spot. The deposits are deducted from the weekly fee. Weekly fees are drafted from a debit / credit card or bank account on file the Friday before a child attends camp.
 - **Example 1: Child wants to attend weeks 3 and 4: \$325**

1 Time Registration fee	\$25
Deposit to hold spots per week	\$100 (\$50 for week 3 + \$50 for week 4)
Amount drafted the Friday before week 3	\$100 (\$150 - \$50 deposit)
Amount drafted the Friday before week 4	\$100 (\$150 - \$50 deposit)
 - **Example 2: 2 children want to attend weeks 3 and 4: \$650**

1 Time Registration fee per child	\$50
Deposit to hold spots per week	\$200 (\$50 deposit for 2 children week 3 and 2 children week 4)
Amount drafted the Friday before week 3	\$200 (\$150 - \$50 deposit per child)

Amount drafted the Friday before week 4 \$200 (\$150 - \$50 deposit per child)

Refund & Change Policy

Camp Kelley operates for 9 weeks during the summer. We recommend signing your child up in advance for the weeks they will attend. Space will be limited. Parents are welcome to make changes to weeks registered or request a refund. Change and refund request must be made by [submitting this form online](#) by **9 am the Thursday before the week you want to cancel.**

Payment History & Tax Information

At the end of the year, our system will automatically generate a report of how much you have paid in programming fees at the YMCA. Log into your online YMCA account to access your payment history. The business office can generate the report for you as well. Please allow two business days to process your request.

Section V: Drop Off & Pick Up

How early can I drop off my kids?

Drop off begins at 7:50 am. No child can be dropped off at the YMCA before this time.

How late can I drop off my kids?

Check-in ends at 9:20 am. No child can be dropped off after this time.

What time does pickup begin?

Pick up begins at 4:50 pm.

How late can I pick up my kid?

5-year-olds must be picked up by 5:30 pm. A late fee will occur if your child is picked up past this time. The late fee structure is \$15 per child at 5:30 pm, and an additional \$5 per child for every 5 minutes past 5:30 pm.

All other campers must be picked up by 5:45 pm. A late fee will occur if your child is picked up past this time. The late fee structure is \$15 per child at 5:46 pm, and an additional \$5 per child for every 5 minutes past 5:46 pm.

You will be notified of this charge via mail or email. The fee is automatically applied to your account and must be paid before future program registration. **If you are late more than 3 times, your child may be removed from camp.** Please call the Y if you are ever running late.

How does the pickup system work?

Starting at 4:50 pm, coaches will be stationed in the front pick-up loop to assist with check out. Parents will drive through the pick-up loop and show their pick up pass. Coaches will walk your kid(s) to the car.

Parents will be required to show their pickup pass before checking their child out of camp. Those who do not have a pickup pass must park in the parking lot and come to the front desk to show their ID.

You are welcome to park in the parking lot and walk into the building to check out. Before 4:50 pm, this will be the only method for checking out your child. We do not allow anyone to call ahead. Please expect a 20 minute wait before 4:50 pm.

What if I want to pick up my kids early?

Parents need to park and come into the building to check their child out of camp early. We do not allow call aheads. Please plan for a 20-minute wait for your child to make it to the front of the building if you check them out before 4:50pm.

When do I need to have my pickup pass?

Pickup passes must be shown anytime you or someone picks your child up from the YMCA. Anyone without a pickup pass must be prepared to show an ID. The name on the ID must be included on the child's registration. If the name is not on their account, YMCA staff will contact the parents or legal guardians of the child.

For additional information please view our [Drop Off and Pick Up Guide](#).

Section VI: Discipline Policy

Camp Directors reserve the right to dismiss a child from camp at any time if the child's behavior is disruptive to the camp program. Our goal is to provide a safe, fun place for all campers. In the event of a discipline problem, parents will be notified, and consequences will occur immediately. If you have any recommendations or suggestions for camp staff to better work with your child, please email Camp Directors; Gina Jackson (gina@athensymca.org), Jordan Osborne (jordan@athensymca.org), and Mathew Fuller (mathew@athensymca.org).

Section VII: Swim

Will my child receive swim instruction during camp?

Yes. We do include basic water safety instruction in our summer day camp program. All campers will be required to participate in water safety lessons on Tuesdays & Thursdays during their assigned swim time. Campers will have free swim on Mondays & Wednesdays during their assigned swim time.

Water safety skills will be taught by a trained swim lessons instructor. The purpose of these lessons is to ensure that all campers can pass a swim test. Once campers have passed the swim test, they will no longer be required to participate in the instruction. They will have free swim instead.

Is there an additional cost for swim instruction?

No. Swim instruction during camp is included in the weekly fee. Swim instruction during camp swim times is different from Summer Swim Lessons offered in 2-week sessions. Please visit our [website](#) for details about Summer Swim Lessons.

How many lifeguards are at the pool?

The pool staff will consist of 3 to 4 lifeguards per swim time.

In the event of inclement weather, campers may not be able to swim for the day. This decision will be made at the discretion of the Aquatics Department.

How does the swim test work?

Cubs (5 & 6 year olds) will swim in the indoor 2-foot pool. They will not take a swim test. Indians, Braves, and Warriors must swim in the outdoor pool at all times.

Campers are required to complete the following in this order without breaks to pass the swim test.

- Jump into the outdoor pool.
- Swim the length of the pool with face in the water and over arm recovery (swim with arms out of the water).
- Stop at the other end of the pool and float on their back for 10 seconds.
- Stop and tread water for 10 seconds.
- Climb out of the water unassisted.
- Listen for directions from the lifeguards and coaches.

When can campers take the swim test?

We will provide an opportunity for Indian, Brave, and Warrior campers to take the swim test on their first day of each week.

Section VIII: Lunch & Snack

Does my child need a lunch?

Yes, each child must bring a lunch each day they attend camp. **Nothing that needs to be refrigerated or heated. Kids are unable to stay at camp if they don't have a lunch.** Campers cannot purchase items from the vending machines for lunch. Please Note: campers are highly active for at least 7 hours per day. It is extremely important that they bring a sustainable lunch. **We encourage parents to pack extra food.**

Will my camper need snack money?

No. Snacks are included in the weekly fee.

How many times a day do they get snacks?

Two times per day. All campers will receive a morning and afternoon snack. The morning snack will consist of some type of cracker, cheese, or yogurt item. The afternoon snack will be a variety of chips. You are welcome to pack extra snacks for your child. If your child has food allergies, please fill out a [medical release form](#) online or at the front desk.

FRIDAY—We do offer candy as an option during snack time on Friday.

Will they eat outside or inside?

All groups eat lunch inside. Snack time is outside.

Section XI: Daily Schedules

What will my child do all day?

Daily schedules are posted on the Athens YMCA website, athensymca.org/day-camp. Please see the descriptions of each time block on the back of the daily schedule for detailed information.

Do the campers go on daily field trips?

No. Due to the size of Camp Kelley we are unable to take field trips. Camp Kelley staff and supporters are committed to making sure all campers enjoy their days at the YMCA facility. We are blessed with a tremendous amount of space and equipment to make day camp feel adventurous, safe and fun.

What are options?

Campers will pick an option to participate in during options time on the daily schedule. Options are designed to teach a specific skill set over the course of the week. The option list includes mountain biking, football drills, soccer drills, basketball drills, arts & crafts projects, dance, cheerleading, music, volleyball, archery, riflery, handball, and more. Options will vary daily depending weather, coaches' expertise, and on what campers enjoy.

Section X: Lost & Found

Due to the size of Camp Kelley the staff cannot guarantee to keep up with all belongings. One of the core values of Camp Kelley is responsibility. We teach responsibility through keeping track of personal belongings. However, we do commit to doing our best to help campers return home with all things they arrived with.

Please expect items to be lost or swapped. Parents are encouraged to check their camper's locker after hours and our lost and found bin located in the front lobby. Parents are also encouraged to write their child's name in all belongings.

All lost and found will be taken to the Salvation Army or other service organization every Friday.

Section XI: Camp Items

What should my camper bring to camp?

1. Backpack with towel, swimsuit, swim cap (if needed), and change of clothes
2. Lunch box or bag with extra food and drinks

3. Sunscreen on each Monday of camp (spray sunscreen strongly preferred – sunscreen is put into a bin and used for all campers)
4. An extra pair of clothes (all ages) in the event they get dirty, wet, or have an accident (underwear and socks included).

What should my camper wear to camp?

1. Sunscreen – all campers must come to camp with sunscreen on. Sunscreen will not be applied until after 10:30 am.
2. Comfortable play clothes. Campers will get dirty at camp, depending on the activity campers could be extremely dirty.
3. Crocs, tennis shoes or other comfortable shoes. No boots, uncomfortable sandals, or flip flops that break easily.

What should my camper NOT bring to camp?

1. Toys, play weapons, real weapons, or any personal items from home
2. Electronics, all electronics will be taken up and parents will have to come in to retrieve them. **We do not allow any cell phones or smart watches**, tablets, video games, cameras, etc. in camp.
3. Personal water bottle. We have water fountains located all around the Y. Campers move every 50 minutes making it hard for them to keep track of personal items.
4. Large bags. All campers need to bring a bag that will fit inside a locker.

Section XII: Assemblies & Devotions

What can my camper expect for Morning Jubilee and Tee Time?

Morning Jubilee is Monday-Friday. It is the time for all groups to come together to sing songs, compete in friendly competitions and perform anything their group has worked on together.

Tee Time (Fridays) is designed to celebrate all the accomplishments of the week. We recognize excellent displays of the Y's core values and outstanding demonstrations of servant leadership during this time.

Does my camper have to participate in camp devotions?

Yes. Camp Devotions will promote the core values of the YMCA: Caring, Responsibility, Honesty, Respect, and Faith. Campers will discuss a bible verse related to these areas of focus and do age-appropriate activities.

Section XIII: Other

Do campers get rest or nap time?

The Cubs and Indians will have a rest time where they do centers or a lowkey activity.

What if my child has medical needs?

Please fill out this [medical release form](#) and provide the medication to the Athens YMCA. Medications are only given by the camp directors or senior leaders.

Will my child have a locker?

Yes, each child will be assigned a locker on their first day of camp. Campers are allowed to bring locks from home. We do ask that parents supply an extra key or the combination to the lock. The Athens YMCA does have separate youth locker rooms that are only used by after-school and day camp participants.

Can my child bring their smart device to camp?

Children are **NOT** allowed to bring cell phones, iWatch or smart devices to camp.

Will my child “dress up” during camp?

Parents will receive a weekly email that will include the theme for the week. Coaches go above and beyond to incorporate dress up for their groups. Specific dress up ideas will be explained in weekly emails. This is not mandatory but encouraged. We prefer homemade costumes.

Camp Tours

We have virtual camp tours that give an overview of our spaces. The password for camp tours is campkelley – all lowercase, no spaces.

- [Cubs \(5 & 6 year olds\)](#)
- [Indians \(7 & 8 year olds\)](#)
- [Braves \(9 & 10 year olds\)](#)
- [Warriors \(11-13 year olds\)](#)

In-person camp tours can be scheduled on certain Fridays starting in April. Email Gina Jackson, Gina@athensymca.org, to schedule a tour.

Enrichment

Enrichment includes both literacy and STEAM activities. All groups will participate in Enrichment weekly. We are committed to helping ensure our campers do not experience extreme summer learning loss. Campers will engage in Enrichment activities 2 times per week.