

Pioneer CAMP

WESTFIELD AREA Y



Summer 2026 Camp Newsletter



WELCOME TO PIONEER CAMP!

Meet the Director!

Hey everyone! My name is Jackie Fernandes. This is my 12th year working at the YMCA and 5th summer directing Pioneer Camp. During the School Year, I work as a Preschool Teacher. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Education and am a certified Teacher for Preschool Through Third Grade. In my spare time I love reading, watching movies, going to the gym, and spending time with my family.

THE STAFF ARE EXCITED!

My staff and I cannot wait to lead your child through a journey of fun and safe camp adventures! I hope you're ready to make unforgettable camp memories with new friends, fun games, awesome activities, and camp spirit.

WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR CAMP?

- A heavy-duty tote bag or old backpack to carry belongings
- A labeled refillable water bottle
- A labeled **peanut/tree nut free** lunch/snacks
- A lotion sunscreen, please apply sunscreen prior to coming to camp and then the child can reapply during the day
- Wear sneakers to run and have a great time!
- A bathing suit, towel, and goggles and a cover up each day. We suggest your child come dressed in their bathing suit

Please label ALL belongings, and remember WE ARE A PEANUT & TREE NUT FREE CAMP.

Sample Schedule:

- 8:30-9: Drop Off
- 9-9:30: Morning Meeting
- 9:30-10: Snack
- 10-10:30: Playground
- 10:30-11:15: Swimming
- 11:15-12: Field Games
- 12-1: Lunch
- 1-2: Swim/changing
- 2-3: Room Games/ Centers/ Art Project
- 3-3:30: Snack
- 3:30-4: Playground
- 4-4:30: Dismissal

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedure:

Daily Drop-off and Pick-Up:

- **Drop-off:** Enter Centennial Ave Pool and pull into the First parking lot. Park and walk your child to the playground gate across the street for sign-in. Drop off runs from 8:30-9:00am.
- **Pick-up:** Pick-up runs from 4:00-4:30 pm. Park in the First parking lot, walk to the playground gate and have a photo I.D. ready. Sign out your child and a staff member will bring them to you.

Rainy Drop-off and Pick-Up:

- **Drop-off:** Park in the second parking lot and walk to the pool center. A staff member will be waiting for you at the door for sign in.
- **Pick-up:** Park in the second parking lot and call the camp phone when you arrive. Walk to the Pool Center and have a photo I.D ready.

Camp Themes:

Blast Off!

Week 1- Red, White and Blue

Week 2- We Got Spirit

Week 3- Safari Excursion

Week 4- Mystery Madness

Week 5- Route 66

Week 6- Supercalifragilistic Summer

Week 7- Farmer Fun

Week 8- Adventure Time

Week 9- Aloha Summer

How to Contact Us:

Camp Cell: 908-623-9280

Email: jfernandes@westfieldynj.org

Need a camp form or additional info? Visit www.westfieldynj.org/camp

Location: Centennial Ave Pool

401 Centennial Ave, Cranford, NJ 07016

About our Camp!

Pioneer Camp is an outdoor camp with double swim times. Campers spend their day outside, playing on the playground and various field games. During these activities, campers have water and snack breaks spread throughout the day. Each camp group swim twice a day in the indoor pool. Campers eat lunch and snack outside at the picnic tables, under the shade. The camp room is available to each group to create art projects and play games.

Extreme Weather

In the case of extreme weather, the campers will utilize our two indoor spaces.

Rain: During rainy days, campers will remain indoors and utilize the two indoor spaces.

Campers will participate in room games, center games and art projects. The pool closes for Thunder and Lightning.

Heat: During high heat days, campers will spend more time indoors. Outdoor activities will be limited and the campers will have scheduled water breaks to remain hydrated.

Field Trips

On Thursdays, Pioneer campers will participate in a Field Trip. On Field trip days, campers should arrive to camp wearing the 2026 YMCA camp shirt, sneakers, and have a packed lunch and snack. **We will not swim on Field Trip days?**

Medications

If your child has an Epi-pen or Inhaler, please bring the medication in a bag with their name labeled.

The medication must be in the original box with the prescription label and cannot be an expired medication. Please be sure to fill out the correct paperwork.

Paperwork needed:

-Medical Distribution Form

-Allergy Action Plan (for Epi-pens- MUST be signed by a doctor)

-Asthma Action Plan (for Inhalers- MUST be signed by a doctor)

*If you have the Action Plan paperwork from your child's school, you can provide a copy it.

Medication must be in its original packaging with the prescription label on it.

Pizza Friday

On Friday's we offer the chance for campers to eat pizza from a local pizzeria in Cranford. It is \$5 per camper for 2 slices of pizza. Please hand in your camper's pizza money, clearly labeled with your child's name, to me at drop off no later than Friday morning. -If your child would prefer to not have pizza, that is a-ok! Please pack lunch and snacks as usual.

Authorized Pick-Up

Please ensure that you have updated your child's Authorized Pick-up form. Please use the following link and fill in the Health History Form. If you have more than one child, please complete the form for all children. This ensures accurate information, if they were to be in different camps during the summer.

<https://www.westfielddynj.org/camp>