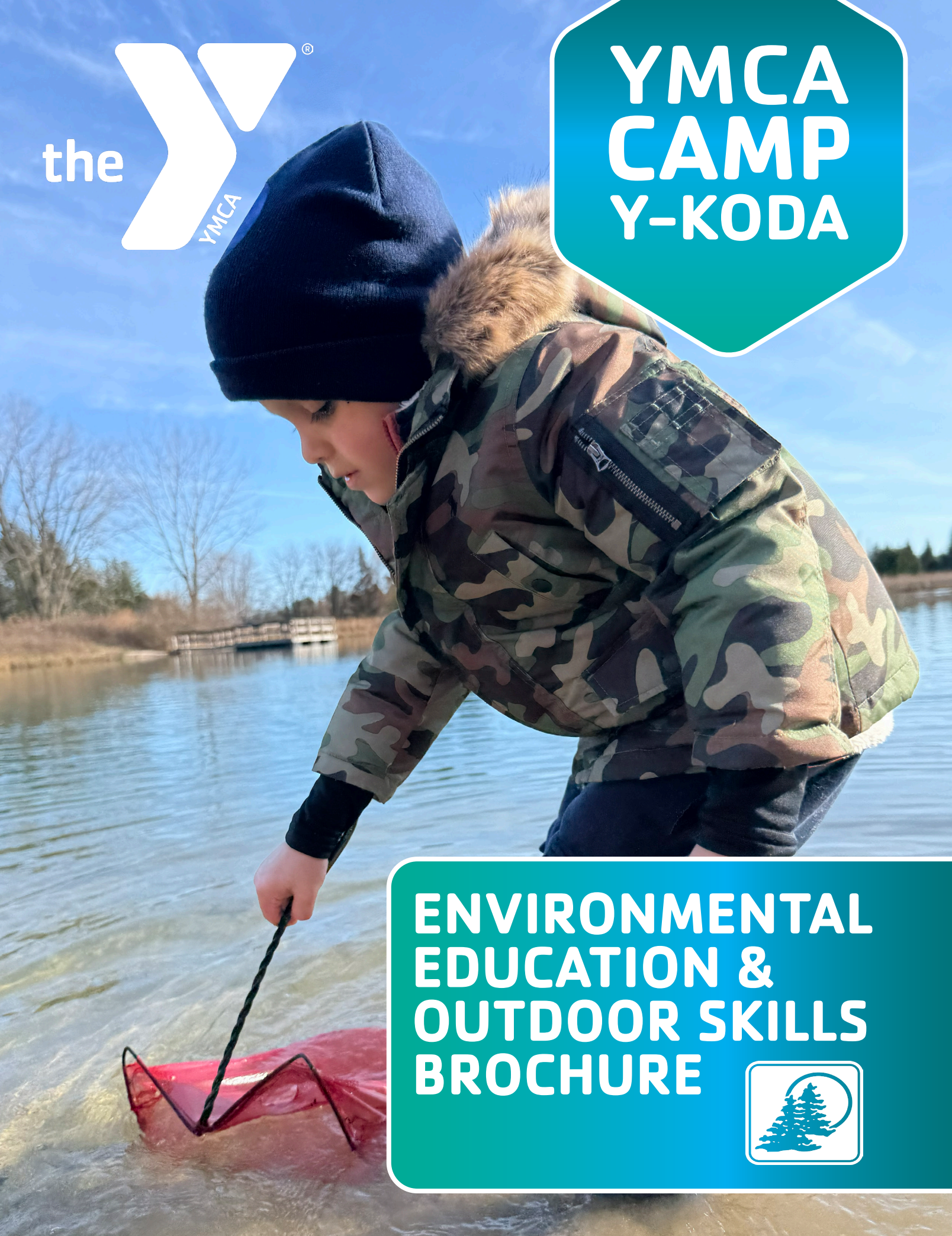




**YMCA
CAMP
Y-KODA**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION &
OUTDOOR SKILLS
BROCHURE**



OUTDOOR

LETTER TO TEACHERS

Thank you for considering an environmental education program with YMCA Camp Y-Koda. We offer a wide variety of high quality environmental education programs for students of all ages at a variety of locations throughout Sheboygan County. If you can't make it to us, we can bring nature to your classroom.

We believe the best learning experiences are those designed to reinforce concepts being learned in the classroom. Therefore we will work with you to select and modify programs as needed to meet all of your student's needs. We also believe that environmental education is at its best when it is integrated and infused across curriculum, rather than being treated as a separate discipline or subject area. Our programs are designed around state and national standards and reflect best practices created by the North American Association of Environmental Education.

Our field experiences are designed around our local environment because we believe that the importance of where one lives is relevant to learning. Close to home - place based education encourages learners to form connections with, explore and understand their immediate surroundings. The knowledge and skills needed for this local connection provides a foundation for further examination of larger systems, bigger issues and an expanding understanding of the natural world and its complexities.

Our experiences are designed to be rooted in the real world so that learners have opportunities to be curious about careers in science and to allow development of knowledge and skills through direct experience with the environment and its issues.

Contact us to discuss what we can do for you and your students. We are your partner in education.

- Sarah Dezwarte, Director of Education

CAMP CONTACTS

General Office: (920) 467-6882

Sarah Dezwarte, Director of Education
sdezwarde@sheboygancountyyymca.org

Seth Cutright, Billing & Administrative Assistant
scutright@sheboygancountyyymca.org

WELCOMING & INCLUSION STATEMENT

At the Y, we welcome everyone whose behavior adheres to our core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

We advance our cause by building a stronger and more equitable community where everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, thrive, and reach their full potential with dignity.

The Y is a force for building bridges among all people - regardless of ability, age, birthplace, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender identity, ideology, income, race, or sexual orientation.

The Y is for all.

YMCA CAMP Y-KODA MISSION

To promote responsible stewardship of our environment and enhances participant quality of life by offering hands-on education opportunities.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In the operation of the summer camp program, no child, as defined by program regulations, will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, age, national origin or handicap. Any person who believes that a child has been discriminated against in any USDA related activity should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Camp
Website



OUR VALUES

Caring

Honesty

Respect

Responsibility

EDUCATION



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY in a Changing World

When you donate to the Y, you're giving kids the opportunity to experience camp & the outdoors.

DONATE FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
Be why your community thrives.
Contact Us or Give Online Today:
www.sheboygancountyyymca.org



OUTDOOR

GENERAL INFORMATION

OUR EE GOALS

- Promote responsible stewardship of our environment.
- Provide high quality hands-on education.
- Provide meaningful, developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for all participants.
- Foster a climate and culture of wonder and exploration that leads to asking questions and seeking evidence to answer questions.
- Provide learning experiences that support and reinforce classroom curricula.
- Design programs that are place based, local and aligned to standards and best practices in education.

CURRICULUM

- All curriculum is aligned to the following standards:
- Wisconsin Model Academic Standards
- Common Core State Standards
- Next Generation Science Standards
- Wisconsin State Standards for Environmental Literacy and Sustainability.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

- Field experiences at select locations around Sheboygan County.
- Outreach programs at your school.
- After-school & Summer School programs at your school.
- Professional development opportunities for adults and teachers.
- District Partnerships - we work with administrators to develop custom year-round programming.
- Service projects (invasive species removal, water quality testing, clean-up projects, citizen science).
- Special events for scouts, 4H and other community clubs and groups.



WHY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT

Tomorrow's leaders need to be equipped for tomorrow's challenges, and we must adequately prepare our children for the future they will inherit. That requires a commitment to providing children with **environmental education** that helps them become the educated thought leaders of tomorrow. It also means supporting teachers and caregivers as they engage their children in outdoor studies and environmental issues.

Raising an environmentally literate generation of problem solvers will help ensure that tomorrow's decision-makers are prepared for the challenges they will likely face. Studies have shown environmental education engages students in learning, raising test scores and encouraging youth to pursue careers in environmental and natural resources.

Benefits of Environmental Education (EE)

Research suggests that EE brings a slew of benefits to students. A few key findings include:

Studying EE creates enthusiastic students, innovative teacher-leaders: EE offers opportunities for rich, hands on, real world and relevant learning across the curriculum (Archie, 2003).

EE Helps build critical thinking and relationship skills: Environment-based education emphasizes specific critical thinking skills central to "good science" - questioning, investigating, forming hypotheses, interpreting data, analyzing, developing conclusions and solving problems (Archie, 2003).

EE Instructional strategies help foster leadership qualities: Environment Education emphasizes cooperative learning (i.e., working in teams or with partners), critical thinking and discussion, hands-on activities and a focus on action strategies with real-world applications (NAAEE & NEETF, 2001).

Self-Control/Self Discipline Benefits for Children with ADD: Taylor and her colleagues found that children with attention-deficit disorder (ADD) benefited from more exposure to nature; the greener a child's everyday environment, the more manageable are the symptoms of ADD (Taylor, 2001).

Increased Focus/Improved Cognition: Wells observed that proximity to nature, access to views of nature and daily exposure to natural settings increases the ability of children to focus and improves cognitive abilities (Wells, 2000).

Health Benefits: At the school environment level, Bell and Dymont observed that children who experience school grounds or play areas with diverse natural settings are more physically active, more aware of good nutrition, more creative and more civil to one another (Bell, 2006).

EDUCATION

BOOKING YOUR FIELD TRIP

RESERVATIONS

Please contact us at sdezwarde@sheboygancountymmca.org to make a program reservation. All reservations must be made via email or in writing.

To make a reservation, the following is required:

1. Number of students/participants
2. Grade level of students/participants
3. Modifications needed for special education students
4. Two or three potential dates for the desired program
5. Field Experience name, location and activity selections (if applicable)

Payment and Refund Policy

Thank you for registering for an environmental education field trip at Camp Y-Koda. Please review the legally binding policy below regarding registration fees, cancellations, and our payment terms prior to completing your registration:

1. Registration Fees & Program Cancellations

- **Non-Refundable Registration Fee of \$25:** All core booking and administrative registration fees are strictly non-refundable upon commitment, except in the exclusive event that Camp Y-Koda initiates the cancellation of the scheduled program.
- **Camp-Initiated Cancellations:** If Camp Y-Koda must cancel a field trip due to severe weather, unsafe conditions, or operational constraints, all program and registration fees will be fully refunded or credited.



2. Flexible Payment Options & Terms

Schools may choose between two payment structures at the time of booking:

Option A: Post-Event Billing (Attendance-Based)

- **Actual Headcount Billing:** To ensure schools are only financially responsible for participating individuals, invoices can be generated after the field trip takes place. The final balance will be based strictly on the actual headcount of students who physically attend.
- **Absentee Protection:** Under this option, schools will not be charged program fees for absent students.
- **Payment Due Date:** Issued post-event invoices must be paid in full within fourteen (14) calendar days of the completed field trip date.

Option B: Pre-Payment (Fixed Booking)

- **Advance Remittance:** Schools choosing to settle accounts ahead of time may pay their estimated program fees prior to the field trip date.
- **Prepaid Absentee Policy:** For prepaid accounts, no refunds, credits, or prorated adjustments will be issued for day-of student absences, illness, or no-shows. Prepaid fees for absent individuals are fully non-refundable.

If you have questions regarding your booking, please contact our administrative office.



OUTDOOR

LOCATIONS

YMCA CAMP Y-KODA

W3340 Sunset Road, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Camp Y-Koda is located on a beautiful 80-acre parcel just west of Sheboygan Falls. The property is bordered by the Sheboygan River to the north and east, has a three acre lake, wetlands, forests and more than 5-acres of prairie. Camp Y-Koda was founded in 1969 by the Sheboygan County YMCA and has offered summer camp experiences ever since. In 2001, Camp Y-Koda merged with the Plymouth Outdoor Skills Center. The merger combined two organizations that shared the same passion of providing valuable outdoor experiences to youth, families and community members. Today, Camp Y-Koda is one of the premier summer day camps in the state, serving campers each summer through more than 80 different camp choices. Camp doubles as a year-round, award-winning environmental education center serving more than 50 schools and tens of thousands of students annually.



EDUCATION

LOCATIONS

MAYWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PARK

3615 Mueller Road, Sheboygan, WI 53083

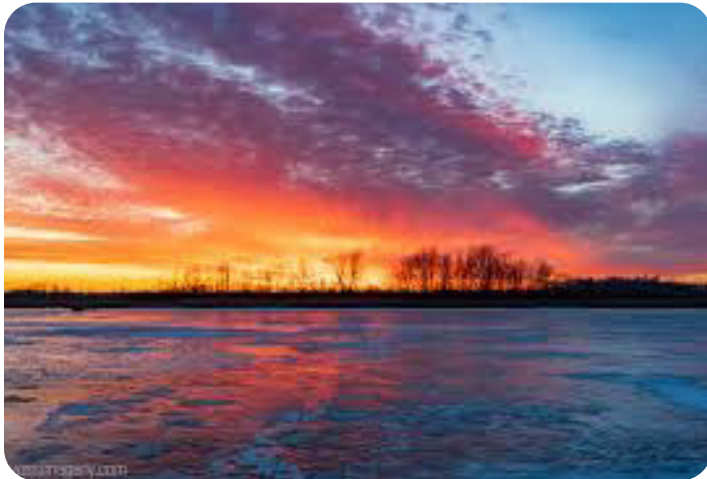
Maywood offers six diverse ecosystems including ponds, the Pigeon River, a maple forest and a prairie. In addition, there is an arboretum and a butterfly/hummingbird garden on its 135-acres, making it the perfect site for education field trips. The Y-Koda Nature School 4K at Maywood is located at this site.



KIEL MARSH

N9426 State Road 67, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

Kiel Marsh Wildlife Area is an 843-acre property located just south of the city of Kiel in east-central Wisconsin. The property lies at the junction of Sheboygan, Calumet and Manitowoc counties. The Sheboygan River meanders lazily for three miles through the entire length of the property. An extensive shallow water marsh of cattail and other emergent aquatic plants parallels the main river channel on both sides. Programs done at the Kiel Marsh are held directly on the Hermitage Conservation Club property.



SHEBOYGAN COUNTY MARSH

KOHLER CENTER FOR MARSH EDUCATION

W7039 County Road S R, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020

Sheboygan Marsh Wildlife Area lies in northwestern Sheboygan County just a mile west and north of Elkhart Lake. The area historically known as Sheboygan Marsh includes over 14,000-acres of land and surface water. It contains the largest restored wetland in the Wisconsin watersheds of Lake Michigan and Superior. The marsh lies in Wisconsin's ecological tension zone. It is also located within the inter-lobate moraine that was deposited by glaciers 12,000 to 14,000 years ago during the Wisconsin Ice Age. Large areas of deep and shallow marshes, shrub swamps, lowland forests, wet meadows and upland grassland prairies are the dominant ecosystems of the wildlife area. The Sheboygan River flows through the marsh and its waters are held back by a dam at the northeast corner of the marsh. The Sheboygan Marsh lies in a 133-square-mile watershed.



HOW TO PREPARE

WHAT TO BRING

Please have your students attend in clothing that is OK to get dirty, as they will be outside rain, shine or snow!

Dress in layers for ALL kinds of weather.

Wear comfortable shoes or boots (closed toe).

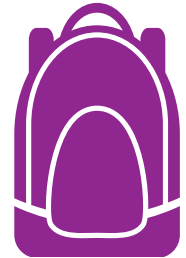
Backpack

Lunch

Rain Poncho

Water bottle

A Smile!



WEATHER

We are a rain, shine or snow field experience because we feel that children need to understand the importance of dressing for all kinds of weather. However, we believe in the power of the positive experience. We understand that not all students have equal opportunity to outdoor gear. Therefore, if the weather is severe the Director of Education will contact you to discuss cancellation, rescheduling or program modifications for your group.

ARRIVAL

Please plan to arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to the start of your scheduled field experience. Our staff will greet you at the planned start time of your scheduled field trip. Staff will not be available until your program starting time. If you arrive early, we kindly ask you to wait patiently with your students outside so that you are not disturbing other field experiences or programs that may be in progress.

EXPECT

HOW TO PREPARE



CHAPERONES

All groups must be accompanied by a classroom teacher as well as responsible chaperones. Our recommendation is 4 chaperones per 15-20 students. Chaperones are an important part of our field experience so please select chaperones who will be an asset to the program. Before leaving your school, please review the guidelines with students and parent chaperones. Parents and staff attending field trips as designated chaperones should expect to actively support the learning process. The first 16 chaperones are free. After 16, fees apply at the student rate.

We ask that chaperones:

- Dress for the weather.
- Leave cell phones and other electronics in the car.
- Assist with Lunch
- Help with supervision of participants
- Be enthusiastic learners



"Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, and snow is exhilarating; there is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather."

- John Ruskin

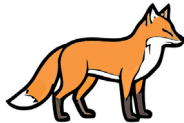


AT YOUR

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Grades 4K – 5



Frog



Fox



Owl

AMPHIBIANS

Grades 4K – 3

1 Hour • Year-Round

\$4.00 per student

Students will learn what it means to be an amphibian through an interactive PowerPoint presentation in the first part of this program. They will observe amphibian life cycles, and look at some of the amphibians living in Wisconsin and listen to their calls. One student will be dressed to look like a frog to demonstrate structure and function.

BATS

Grades 2 – 5

1 Hour • Year Round

\$4.00 per student

Don't bat your eyes at this one! This program begins with an interactive PowerPoint presentation. During the presentation, students compare their skeletons to a bat's skeleton, view and discuss bat structure and function and learn about a few common bat myths. After the presentation, the students will take an up-close look at real bat skulls from the vampire bat, little brown bat, big brown bat and the fruit bat. The program will wrap up with a quick echolocation activity and finally an activity demonstrating how female bats find and care for their young in the pup-filled colony after a night out hunting for prey.

LAST VOYAGEUR

Grades 3 – 6

1 Hour • Year Round

\$4.00 per student

Travel back in time to learn more about the fur trade and Native Americans during this time period. Students will look at commonly traded furs. One student will be dressed to look like a traditional fur trader from the 1600's.

LUMBERJACKS OF WISCONSIN

Grade 4

1.5 Hours • Year Round, except May

\$4.75 per student

How did Wisconsin become the state we see today? Lumberjacks largely influenced our history. Meet one of our lumberjacks as they share life stories and shows some of the tools they used to make their living. Students will spend the first part of the time in the classroom, then go outside to learn about lumberjack tools and activities. This portion is hands-on.

MAMMALS

Grades 1 – 3

1 Hour • Year Round, except May

\$3.75 per student

Students will have the opportunity to take a close look at what mammals live here in Wisconsin. Some will be familiar while others are little known about. Students use the words herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, predator and prey during the "fur guessing game." A skull investigation will be posed to the students as they try to gather evidence to determine if various mammal skulls belong to an herbivore, carnivore or omnivore.

OWLS

Grades 5K – 2

1 Hour • Year Round

\$4.50 per student

Students will explore owl wings, skulls and talons hands-on. They will also learn about their structure and function. They will take a look at which owls live here in Wisconsin and compare sizes and their calls. During the last portion of the program, students become owl scientists as they ask the question "What do barn owls eat?" They will gather evidence as they dissect an owl pellet and match bones to a bone sorting chart.



SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Grades 6 – 8

SNAKE ECOLOGY

Grades 6 – 8

1 Hour • Year Round
\$4.00 per student

The snake program is a student favorite! It is no secret that people have long feared snakes. For centuries, snakes have been misunderstood, underappreciated, even heavily persecuted. However, most of us are enthralled with them and our natural curiosity seeks to better understand them. Students will learn general snake biology and behavior to help them better understand the importance of snakes and their structure and function. We will discuss life cycle, adaptations and look at the snakes native to Wisconsin. The best part is that we bring a live snake for students to hold!



WOLF ECOLOGY BASICS

Grades 6 – 8

1 Hour • Year Round
\$4.00 per student

What is biodiversity? Do wolves have an impact on biodiversity? This is a current issues program as wolves have become a very controversial topic in Wisconsin. During a PowerPoint presentation, students will learn about basic wolf ecology and how populations are studied by scientists and what scientists have learned about wolves by studying them. Students will also do a herbivore, omnivore and carnivore skull investigation, pass around real wolf pelts and use telemetry to track a wolf.



FIELD EXP

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

YMCA CAMP Y-KODA

OUTDOOR EDUCATION FIELD TRIPS GRADES 4K - 3

September - November, April - June

9:30am - 2:00pm

Each activity runs 45-60 minutes, choose 4 activities

\$10.25 per student

AQUATIC BUG LAB

Explore with world of aquatic macro-invertebrates! Some aquatic macro-invertebrates spend their entire lives living in water, although many just live in the water when they are immature. As they reach maturity, larvae metamorphose and leave the water, spending their adult life on land. In many cases, the insects are adults for a very short time. Macro-invertebrates are very important because they provide food to many animals like fish, frogs, turtles, and each other.

We will spend our first 15 minutes playing a game called fish and bug. Here students will get an idea of how the predator prey relationship works between macro-invertebrates and their predators, but more importantly students will become experts in the hiding strategies macro-invertebrates use for survival from predators. Each student will be given a net and will search those hiding places in our lake to find as many macro-invertebrates as they can.

ARCHERY

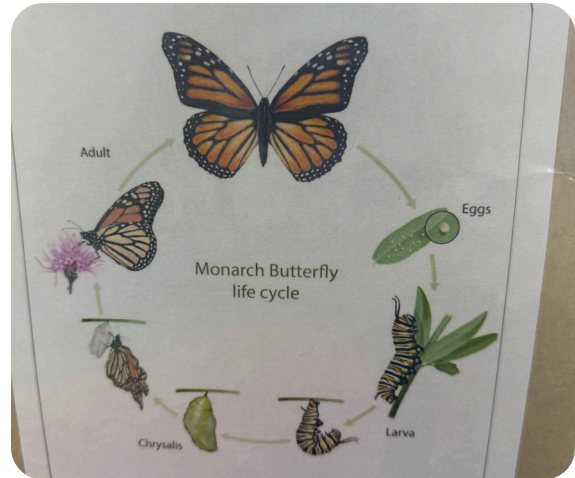
Students will learn the parts of the bow and arrow. They will learn about safety and then proper shooting technique on a compound bow. The program will end with a short competition, time permitting.

BIRDS

Together we will explore bird skulls. We will look at the structure and function and categorize each skull by its characteristics and physical adaptations. We will also look at various bird eggs, and learn a few birding basics using Wild Republic Plush birds. The activity will end with a brief silent sit to try to identify by sight and sound what kinds of birds inhabit our camp property.

BOATING ON THE LAKE

Take a journey around our lake in one of our camp row boats! View painted turtles, Red-Winged Black Birds, fish and listen to frog calls. After exploring the lake by boat, build a sand castle on our beach, or carve an imaginary river in the sand. Our instructor will be your lifeguard so please plan to have 4-5 chaperones willing to row boats with students. Life jackets are provided.



FOSSILS

Fossils are evidence of remains of once-living plants or animals. They provide evidence of the past existence of a wide variety of life-forms, most of which have become extinct. The fossil record also provides evidence that populations have undergone change through response to changes in their environment. Students will spend a morning or afternoon as a paleontologist exploring molds and casts and sorting fossils, and then participate in a mini-fossil dig.

FROGS

Frogs are one of the gateways to loving the outdoors! Catching a frog is sometimes a child's first interaction with nature. During this program students will explore structure and function of the frog including both physical and behavioral adaptations through a dress up activity. We will take a quick look at the frogs that live in Wisconsin and listen to a few of their calls. The program ends with a frog hunt! Students will learn how to catch frogs with nets without injuring the frog. Keep all hands free of bug spray for this activity!

FREE PLAY GARDEN

This is a natural play area with a mud kitchen, slide, tree house, and rocks and logs to jump from and climb on. A student favorite! No YMCA staff provided.

LET'S GO CAMPING

This is an introduction to camping! This program includes how to dress in layers, common campsite games, tent play and roasted apple slices with cinnamon and sugar over a camp fire.

MAMMALS

This one is ALL hands-on! Play Who Am I? and learn about 10 Wisconsin Mammals. Then look at and feel real mammal furs. The past part of the activity is spent using telemetry to find a collared mammal. Students will take turns role playing scientists and the mammal during this fun, interactive hide and seek like activity.

EXPERIENCES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OUTDOOR EDUCATION FIELD TRIPS GRADES 4K - 3

September - November, April - June

9:30am - 2:00pm

Each activity runs 45-60 minutes, choose 4 activities

\$10.25 per student

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Students will learn about Monarchs and their treacherous journey to Mexico and the many challenges they encounter along the way. Students will examine the life cycle of the Monarch and learn about the issues Monarchs are facing and how they can help.

PHENOLOGY DETECTIVES HIKE

Phenology is nature's calendar - when Trilliums bloom, when a robin builds its nest and when leaves turn color in the fall. Together we will hike and observe the plants and animals living among us! Making these observations encourages us to have an inquisitive eye, develop our own science questions, and make connections to our natural environment!

PLAYGROUND

Do your students need some unstructured playground time? Students will spend an hour playing, swinging, climbing and running. We do offer a few minutes of playground time during lunch, but according to some students it just isn't enough time!

No YMCA staff provided.

SALAMANDERS

Explore the world of amphibians by learning about salamanders! Salamanders, with their bright colors, potential toxicity, teeth, and ability to remain unseen makes these small quirky critters fun to investigate. They're also quite elusive. To have any luck finding one, learning about their habitat, and behavior is a must. This session will include a salamander hunt using leave no trace ethics, a craft and a visit with one of our ambassador salamanders. This activity may have limited availability.



SNAKES

Are snakes really scary? We don't think so! Learn about how snakes move, what they eat, how they shed and what makes them reptiles. The second half of the program will feature a snake craft and a chance to meet and hold one of our snake ambassadors!

SURVIVAL SKILLS

Grades 2 - 3

This activity is a basic introduction to survival skills. Students will discover the rules of 3s and learn how to prioritize which rules are most urgent in a survival situation. Every student will attempt to use a magnesium strip and striker to ignite tinder (cotton ball) for fire building skills. Students will then use team work to create an overnight debris hut in one of our two primitive areas at camp.



FIELD EXP

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MAYWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PARK

HABITAT HIKES

Grades 3K - 3

1.5 or 2.5 Hours • Year-Round

\$4.75 or \$5.75 per student (limit to 60 students)

Habitat hikes are led by an environmental educator. Students will learn about at least two different habitats and some of the animals that live there. Habitat hikes are customizable based on your classroom curriculum. Hike themes change with the seasons.

PLANTS AND BEES

Grades 2 - 5

2.5 Hour • September, October, May & June

\$5.00 per student (limit to 30 students)

Students will view plant parts through microscopes, learn how seeds travel and learn the buzz on bees. Students will also be able to view the educational bee hive with real bees.

*Prairie is best viewed in fall.



SAPPIN' AND SAWIN'

Grade 4

3 Hours • March

\$8.25 per student (limit to 60 students)

This program combines Maywood's Maple Sugar Program with Camp Y-Koda's Lumberjacks of WI Program. Students will rotate through both part 1 and 2 of the program over the course of the field trip.

Part 1: Maywood Maple Sugar Program

This program introduces students to Wisconsin's annual spring tradition of "sugaring." Ever since the Native Americans discovered the flow of sweet maple sap in early spring, people have made maple syrup. Students will learn the science behind the sap, and see an old time sugaring operation in use. In addition, students will learn firsthand how to tap a tree while building an understanding for proper care of our forests. However, tasting real syrup on pancakes during their Maywood visit has always been a favorite of students and teachers alike. Please note this portion can be done as a stand-alone program at \$4.25 per students for 2 - 2.5 hours depending on group size.

Part 2: Lumberjacks of Wisconsin

How did Wisconsin become the state we see today? Lumberjacks largely influenced our history. Meet one of our lumberjacks as they share their life stories and shows some of the tools they used to make their living. Students will spend the first part of the time in the classroom, then go outside to learn about lumberjack tools and activities. This portion is hands-on and students are encouraged to dress like lumberjacks for this field experience.

EXPERIENCES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



YMCA CAMP Y-KODA

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE FIELD TRIPS GRADES 4-8

Year-Round, except where noted

9:30am - 2:00pm

Each activity runs 45-60 minutes, choose 4 activities

\$10.25 per student

\$13.00 per student w/wall

ARACHNOLOGY: THE TICK

Have you ever thought about becoming an Arachnologist? Discover how the tick population depends on the Oak Tree and White Footed Mouse to complete its life cycle. Students will sample camp grounds for ticks using a tick drag. They will count the ticks and then estimate the population of ticks living at Camp Y-Koda. Answer questions like, Where are ticks most likely to be - in the trees? The dangers of ticks will also be discussed and how to keep yourself safe while using the outdoors.

ARCHERY

Students will learn the parts of the bow and arrow. They will learn about safety and then proper shooting technique on a compound bow. The program will end with a short competition, time permitting.

BB GUN

Gain an appreciation for this sport, while learning safety and technique from our qualified staff.

CANOEING & KAYAKING

September, October, May, June

Students will briefly learn canoe and kayak techniques. The majority of the time will be spent paddling around the pond.

CLIMBING WALL

This is a student favorite! Participants will get a chance to climb our 40-foot rock wall. This is a great activity for encouragement from classmates. We will also stress choosing a goal on the wall and trying to get to it. **Note: Students must be 42 inches tall to participate.**

COMPASS COURSE

Students will learn how to use a compass and then test their skills on our course.

GAGA BALL

Introduce your students to Gaga Ball—a fast-paced, high-energy sport played in an octagonal pit that is wildly popular and highly inclusive. The game is a variant of dodgeball, where players use their hands to strike a lightweight ball, aiming to hit opponents below the knee. If the ball touches you from the knee down, you step out of the pit until the next round.

Beyond the pure physical fun, Gaga Ball serves as a powerful tool for social-emotional learning and community development:

- **Self-Refereeing & Integrity:** Gaga Ball is traditionally a self-refereed game. Students must hold themselves accountable, honestly calling themselves “out” when hit. This builds deep personal integrity, trust among peers, and honest communication.
- **Community & Inclusion:** Rounds are incredibly fast, lasting only a few minutes. This rapid reset loop ensures that knocked-out students are never sidelined for long, keeping engagement high and building a supportive, cheering community around the pit.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Because the game relies on player consensus, students actively practice quick, respectful peer-to-peer conflict resolution on the fly without relying on an adult to intervene.
- **Agility & Strategy:** The game levels the playing field for all athletic abilities. Success relies less on raw strength and more on quick reflexes, strategic positioning, and collaborative teamwork.

Logistics Note: Like all active camp events, students must wear closed-toe shoes to safely participate in the Gaga pit.

GEOCACHING 101

Find caches hidden around camp using hand held GPS units. Instruction focuses on GPS basics and geocaching etiquette.

INSECT BEAT

Where do insects spend most of their time? The answer is in the trees! Students will learn how to use a beat sheet to survey insects living in trees. Students will pose questions like - which kind of tree hosts the most different species of insects? Or which family of insects are most often found in trees? Students will select the question they want to explore within their group, formulate a hypothesis and then set out on camp property with their beat sheet to observe, and record data. Students will come together at the end of the session to share their results with the group.

MONARCH ECOLOGY

3 Hours • September, October

\$6.00 per student (limit to 60 students)

Explore Monarchs and the challenges they face as they try to survive in Wisconsin. Students will ask questions, define problems and analyze data as they learn about these magnificent creatures.

EXPERIENCES

MIDDLE SCHOOL

YMCA CAMP Y-KODA

OUTDOOR SURVIVAL **Grades 4 – 8**

We will put your students to the test with a survival scenario. Students will also learn fire building techniques and build shelters at our primitive site.

TEAM BUILDING I ROPE SWING & ISLANDS

This is a great fall activity for the beginning of the school year. After each team building activity, students will be asked to reflect on their use of communication with their classmates.

- **Rope Swing:** The group must figure out how to get from one side of an imaginary river to the other by use of a rope that is hanging in the middle. They will not have any resources to get the rope and once they do, they must all get across to the other side.
- **Islands:** The group must cross from a mainland to another mainland by the way of an island in the middle. They will have one board that they can use to get across, but the board does not reach from island to island. The board is not allowed to touch the ground.

TEAM BUILDING II BLIND HUNTER, HOT CHOCOLATE & ROPE MAZE

This is a great fall activity for the beginning of the school year. These team building events stress leadership, communication, cooperation and leading under pressure. After each team building activity, students will be asked to reflect on their use of communication with their classmates.

- **Blind Hunter:** The group will attempt to help a blindfolded "hunter" find three objects. The tasks focus on the aspects of communication and giving and following directions.
- **Hot Chocolate:** Students will work as a team as they try to float on moving marshmallows to conquer the hot chocolate river.
- **Rope Maze:** Students will be blind folded and attached to a web of ropes. The student who finds the cone instantly becomes the leader as they are the only one able to verbally communicate with the rest of the group to reach a common goal.

TEAM CHALLENGE SERIES Grades 6 – 8

3 Hours • September, October, November

\$9.00 per student

\$13.00 per student w/wall

This can be a half day or full day field trip.

Grade 6 Activities:

- Team Shelter Building
- Birthday Line-Up/Human Knot
- Balloon Relay, Balloon Race
- Blind Hunter and Ski Race

Grade 7 Activities: @ Maywood

- Traffic Jam
- Wall
- Islands
- Rope Swing

Grade 8 Activities:

- Blind Line, Tennis Ball Toss
- Fire Challenge
- Log Birthday Line-Up, Rope Swing
- Gaga Ball and Rock, Paper, Scissors



FIELD EXP

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DELAND PARK

LAKE MICHIGAN ECOLOGY & SHIPWRECK MAPPING

Grades 6 - 8

3 Hours • September, October

\$6.00 per student (limit to 60 students)

Students spend the day on the beach of Lake Michigan as a scientist. They will map the Lottie Cooper shipwreck for artifacts like an underwater archeologist and carry out an investigation during a beach quadrat study along a transect and more. This is a 1/2 day field trip.

MAYWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PARK

MAYWOOD SURVIVAL AND TEAM CHALLENGE

Grades 6 - 8

1 Hour • November, April

\$10.00 per student (limit to 60 students)

Students will rotate through stations that include survival and team building options. 1. Bowl Burning, 2. Using your own compass, 3. Team Building, and 4. Shelter Building and Fire Starting. We recommend this program be done in November so students can experience survival in cooler temperatures.

SHEBOYGAN OR KIEL MARSH

WETLAND ECOLOGY

Grades 5 - 12

7 Hours • September, October, May, June

\$30.00 per student (limit to 60 students)

This two-day field experience is held at the beautiful Sheboygan or Kiel Marshes. The wetland ecology daily activities are outlined below.

Day One: The students will partake in a canoe tour of the wetland learning about the natural history, and observing biodiversity and ecological interactions within the area. Discussions will be generated around key concepts including: succession, ecosystems, community, food chains, wetland functions and more. Students will participate in an activity showing how wetlands have been diminished over time.

Day Two: Students will use the scientific method to determine if the marsh is a healthy ecosystem based on macro invertebrate sampling and identification. Students will also participate in activities that demonstrate the relationship of predator and prey, and competition.



EXPERIENCES

HIGH SCHOOL

YMCA CAMP Y-KODA



HIGH ROPES & TEAM BUILDING **Grades 9 – 12** **9:00am–2:00pm • Year-Round** **\$19.00 per student**

Elevate your students' potential with a dynamic, student-led adventure at Camp Y-Koda! This immersive program challenges participants to step outside their comfort zones through a structured rotation of active stations, including our climbing wall and high ropes elements/zip line.

To foster true ownership and responsibility, students don't just climb—they also serve as the leadership and safety crew, making the course a collaborative, peer-supported experience. Grounded in the philosophy of Challenge by Choice, this field trip focuses on:

- **Leadership Development:** Taking responsibility for peer safety and encouragement.
- **Effective Communication:** Practicing clear, critical verbal exchanges during active challenges.
- **Confidence Building:** Overcoming personal obstacles and celebrating shared milestones.
- **Trust & Teamwork:** Working together to manage ground operations and team morale.

Important Requirements & Logistics:

- **Required Attire:** All participants must wear closed-toe shoes (sneakers or hiking boots) to climb. Loose, athletic clothing is highly recommended.
- **Lunch:** The program schedule includes a scheduled 30-minute sack lunch break. Students and staff must bring their own non-refrigerated lunches and drinks.
- **Waivers:** All participating students must have a completed liability waiver signed by a parent or guardian in advance of the field trip date.

MAYWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PARK

ECOSYSTEM TOUR **Grades 9 – 12** **3 Hours Hour • September, October, November** **\$5.00 per student (25 students per group)**

Students will tour three of Maywood's ecosystems: river, prairie and forest with an environmental educator. They will learn about food webs, flora and fauna function and structure. Students will also participate in sampling techniques to determine the health of a stream after collecting macro-invertebrates and survey a prairie for biodiversity of species.

CUSTOM SERVICE PROJECTS / CITIZEN BASED MONITORING OPPORTUNITIES

These opportunities include Phenology Surveys, Mussels Surveys and Invasive Species Removal.

Call or email for seasonal options.





SHEBOYGAN COUNTY YMCA

Camp Y-Koda
812 Broughton Drive
Sheboygan WI 53081

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 117
SHEBOYGAN WI

Camp Y-Koda strives to develop the personal character and integrity of each camper by putting Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

**YMCA CAMP Y-KODA
W3340 Sunset Road
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085**

**(920) 467-6882
www.sheboygancountyyymca.org/camp-y-koda**