It’s important to be on time at Camp

Start of Day	Be ready to start work on time, not just arriving. Plan to come a bit earlier so you’re settled in first.
Staff Breaks	Leave and return on time. Check in/out with your Site Director so breaks flow smoothly. Refer to the Staff/YL Schedule.
Special Guests	Plan activities around guest timing. Wrap up games a few minutes early and gather your group to start engaging with the Guest.
Oops, timing off…	Things may run a few minutes off at times— That’s okay. Stay aware and adjust as needed.
End of Day	Complete your closing tasks thru the end of your shift. Then connect with others or head out as needed.



Working as a Team: Communication & Problem Solving



- **Communication matters**—it supports everyone's experience at camp.
- Expect a mix of **fun and challenging moments** as part of working on a team.
- **Share roles and stretch a bit**
  Try different roles (games, art, etc.) to support the team and keep things fresh.
- **Address questions/issues early**
  Talk things through the day they come up, rather than letting them build.
- **Assume good intentions**
  We're all working toward a positive camp experience and are doing our best. Open communication helps us get there.

Daily Schedule

Our goal is to have..

A Mix of :

- active and mellow activities
- time in shade and sun
- activities for different intelligences

Times when:

- kids can choose from lots of choices – **free play**
- choices are more limited – **snack, lunch, circle**



More info in the YL Handbook that you already read.
Go check it out if you have questions.

We love a mix of emergent and planned activities.

We plan a schedule with time to do what comes up in your group.











The Basic Daily Schedule

Honor the structure of camp AND
Bring your own inspiration to activities.

- There is a basic structure to our day, and it really supports us all when staff follow it.
- Pay attention to your group and notice where you can shift in the moment.
- Just because kids say *"I'm bored",* doesn't mean you should change the plan.
- We note endings. We do appreciations at closing circle daily. At the end of sessions we share camper bracelets to hold memories, give youth leader appreciations & gifts, and appreciate our amazing staff!
- See the youth leader handbook for more details about the schedule



Activity Times







Supplies & equipment support with a mix of new & familiar options.

- Some are out each day, while others come out during the week based on staff ideas and kids' interests.
- Staff share ideas at team meetings, morning set-up, or in the moment so the Site Director can weave them into the day.

Board games, card games, Legos & Blocks

Nature Bin – bandanas (Meet a Tree), animal guessing games, fairy house, nature journals, magnifying glasses

Sports Equipment – soccer balls, footballs, rec balls, ball catchers with tennis & whiffle balls, Beamos, field game ropes/cones, soft balls for Monkeyball/Medic. Break Camps – stilts, climbing structure, swings.

Movement/circus – hula-hoops, double jump ropes, luna stix and diabolo (older kids only), parachutes. Break Camps – dancing ribbons, wings, scarves for inside play.

Art Activities – beading, watercolor, kumihimo, lanyards, friendship string, cootie catchers, paper airplanes, mini clay, drawing, face/wrist painting

Book of the Day & Journals - Chill Time

Mid-day calm time - Site Director –> Admin time during Book of the Day

Books

- Staff/YL read aloud to kids

Options:

- Listen to books being read
- Look at their own book or one from camp book bin
- Relax, close eyes, look around

Jokes of the Day- Campers take turns to tell a joke or riddle.



Older Groups do Chill Time - a more open time with journals, books, & then table games. Still Chill.

Journals

- Everyone sitting with a clipboard and paper or puzzle/coloring sheets
- Fun to work and talk together at the tables
- Table games & blocks can start after 10 mins or so.
- Even if there's resistance at first, kids end up getting busy and connecting in new ways.

3 Anchor Points for Meal Times

These 3 roles help the transitions run smoothly and safely.



Handwashing- Your team works together so all Staff/YLs are anchoring different areas for a smooth transition.

1. **Handwashing at Bathrooms** – 1-2 YLs per bathroom

2. **Backpacks Area**- 1 Staff/YL helps kids get food and water, then directs them to where the group is eating

3. **Field/Yard**- 1 Staff/YL stays in the eating area; YLs sit to model and welcome kids
Keep kids close enough that conversations can be heard and food sharing is prevented

- **At Lunch (12:30):** some staff may be heading out for their scheduled break
- **At PM snack (3:30**): some staff may be beginning end-of-day cleanup





Wacky Wednesday

- New themes each week—see Daily Schedule, clipboard, or Google Drive
- No need to stay on theme—having fun is the goal! Costume bins at each site
  (To avoid lice they are rotated weekly; no shared hats or headbands)
- Staff/YLs offered a tutus, wings, socks, etc. to support participation
- SD announce themes Tuesday at closing circle & pick-up; parents receive a text reminder.

Friday Fun



We do something festive each Friday and on the last day of camp to build community, celebrate the week, and create memories.

Special Activities include –

Summer: scavenger hunt, edible campfire, carnival, large field game, messy skit, or a variety show with acts kids prepare & share, and more

Break Camps: bubble dance parties, monkey shark tank, food projects, and more



In Summer, the office will text group phones with logistics & timing info (e.g., to end activities a bit early, to remind Big Leaf 3:30 pick ups about where you'll be, etc.)

Special Guests







MBC staff and other guests will come to camp regularly to lead activities with your group. (Nature, art, movement, food, games, and music!)

- Please support them—show interest & appreciation to create a positive experience.
- Ask what they might need– introduction, space, materials, timing
- Your group may have other activities happening at the same time so kids can rotate in with the guest.

Connecting to Nature at Camp



- In summer we are outside all day at Tilden Park.
- At break camps we are outside as much as possible.

You don't need to be an "expert" to inspire people to think about nature and want to learn more.

Start a conversation with campers-

- ***I notice……*** (Say what you see & ask what they see.)
- ***I wonder….*** (Ask questions & imagine.)
- ***It reminds me of ….*** (Connect to what you know.)

No need to correct anyone, just keep the interest and conversation going.
We will all want to know more and keep learning.

We use tools we've learned from Naturalists who've worked at MBC. (Link to Nature Connection Handbook)

Music on Site



We love music at camp.

- Spotify is loaded on each phone. Brad and staff have made different, fun playlists for all kinds of moods.
- Text any playlist links to the group cell phone, so we can add them
- Please turn speaker power & phone Bluetooth off when not using to save battery.
- Personal cell phones are okay for music. Keep out of personal phone business until your break.





Cell Phone and Speaker Storage-
Put in your 1st Aid pack's net side pocket at the end of the day.



Per park rules, please keep the music audible at the site, not out into the surrounding areas.

Help Take Care of Equipment

- Notice equipment (marker tops, board game pieces, screws, etc.) left on the ground and **save them.**
- If something is damaged or lost, let Brad or Samantha know ASAP
- Use equipment as intended.
  No fighting with Lunastix or bending hula-hoops.
- **Try:** *"That looks fun—AND we want our equipment to last, so let's try something else."*
  "What can we throw here, let's look."
- If it's hard for a camper to stop, have them take a break from that equipment



Sustainability & Daily Leave No Trace





- Staff set the example to keep a clean site. The park rangers notice and appreciate us.
- After meals everything gets put back in the lunchbox or garbage/recycling/compost.
- Beads, yarn, paper, and nametags must be picked up off the ground daily.
- ***"It's time for Leave No Trace! Pick up 3 (or 5) pieces of trash or recycling off the ground and meet Dylan at the bins to get your stamp before you wash hands for snack! We can do it quickly together."***
- We use Ridwell for recycling plastic bags, so you might see notes to save them for Brad.