



Middle School Initiative 2022–2023 Parent Handbook

YMCA Mission

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

YMCA Core Values

Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility

Middle School Initiative Program Goal:

The goal of the Middle School Initiative is to inspire youth to discover their passions, develop a healthy lifestyle, and gain the skills needed to avoid risky behaviors in order to succeed in school and life.

Before & After School Program Days/Times

Monday through Friday:

Fountain YMCA: 6:30–8:15 a.m. & 4:00–6:00 p.m.

Middle School Initiative will be closed on all district or school specific school out days, breaks, and snow days. MSI will be canceled on days that the district releases early or determines there will be no after school programming due to weather.

Delayed Start: 8:15–10:15 a.m.

Partner Schools

Fountain YMCA: Fountain Middle School



Participants will have opportunities to choose from a variety of activities while at MSI. Snack and homework help will be provided daily.

Examples of MSI Activity Rotations

Sports: A variety of sports will be offered throughout each week. These will be run by a volunteer, or a Healthy Living staff, and supervised by a MSI staff.

Character Development: Opportunities to strengthen important skills (Emotion Management, Responsibility, Personal Development, Relationship Building and Empathy) through activities and discussions.

STEM & Art Programs: Participants will be able to try various STEM and art enrichment programs under the mentorship of staff members, volunteers and community members who have that particular training/ skill set.

Healthy Habits: Participants will be provided with educational opportunities to learn how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Programs included: cooking classes, workouts that can be done at home, self-esteem building exercises, etc.

Leadership Summit at YMCA Camp Shady Brook: Participants will have the opportunity to apply to experience an overnight camp by attending Camp Shady Brook in Deckers, Colorado. Students will participate in various fun and skill driven activities, while having the opportunity to meet participants from other centers and build new relationships while challenging themselves to try new things.

Personal Belongings

The YMCA is not responsible for lost, misplaced, or stolen items. Please do not bring electronics, expensive/sentimental items or money to the program. Lost and found items will be donated to charity at the end of each month.

Cell Phones

We encourage our participants to fully engage and participate while at the program, they will be asked to put their phone away during the duration of the program. Participants may use their cell phone to communicate with parents.

Field Trips/Transportation

All participants will be able to attend field trips when scheduled. Parent permission is gained in the online registration packet. Transportation is provided by school districts and/or bus companies with qualified drivers.

Registration

Parents must complete online registration prior to the student attending. Parents will also need to fill out any forms required by the school for participation.



MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All participants will receive a YMCA membership as part of the MSI program which will be activated upon completion of the online registration paperwork. This membership can be used at any of our YMCA locations. Usage of the membership can only be outside of program hours. This membership will terminate at the end of the current school year.

Attendance will be taken daily and a membership audit will take place 4 times throughout the school year. Participants must attend a minimum of 15 days in between each audit in order to keep their membership active.

Membership Audit Dates

October 7, 2022

December 21, 2022

March 17, 2023

May 26, 2023

**An "extracurricular activities" form is available for those who participate in other activities that limit their program attendance. This form must be completed in order to be exempt from the audit. This will allow the YMCA membership to remain active.

Membership Deactivation will occur after each audit for those participants who do not meet the minimum requirements. Participants can re-activate their membership by attending the required number of days before the next audit date. The membership will be re-activated on the next audit date.



BEHAVIOR POLICY

The YMCA core values of honesty, respect, responsibility, and caring are values that our participants and staff are held accountable to daily. As in any activity, inappropriate behavior of a few participants can have a dramatic impact on the experience of the entire group. Participants are to follow the code of conduct and the YMCA facility rules in order to continue participation in the program.

3 Strikes System

Before a strike will be issued, our staff will take the following steps to correct behaviors.

1. Verbal Warning
 - The first minor offense, a verbal warning from staff will be issued.
 - Depending on the severity/situation, we may find it necessary to issue a second verbal warning.
2. Time away from activities
 - If the verbal warning is ignored, participants will lose privileges from various activities.

Strikes (up to 3)

If a participant continues to make poor choices after the above steps are taken, a strike will be issued. Once we issue a strike, a YMCA staff member will notify parent/guardian to pick up the participant from the program.

3 strikes will result in suspension from the program.

Suspension

We reserve the right to suspend participants from the program at any time. The length of the suspension from the program and the YMCA membership will be for a minimum of 1 week.

Parents will need to meet with our program coordinator/director before the participant can return to the program to ensure a plan for success is in place.

After 2 suspensions the participant will have 1 strike before being expelled from the program.

Any school suspension will carry over to the Middle School Initiative program and membership. These privileges will be revoked throughout school suspension. Additionally, any suspension from the program will result in suspension of the provided membership to the YMCA.

Expulsion

Once a participant has exhausted the opportunities to improve their behavior, the YMCA membership will be deactivated and expulsion from the program will be enforced.

The Middle School Initiative program has ZERO tolerance for physical violence. If ANY physical violence occurs, an immediate two week suspension from the program and the YMCA facilities will be enforced.