

the  **YMCA CAMP
CHA-LA-KEE**
on Lake Guntersville



**2019 Camp
Catalog**

Creating memories and lifelong friendships

Welcome to YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee!



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Our Staff

Laura Weeks is Director of Camping Services at YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee. She brings a wealth of leadership experience to camp having managed the Challenge Course at Auburn University prior to coming to Heart of the Valley YMCA. Laura has 15 years of camping experience at a number of outstanding camps in Georgia, Virginia, Florida, Arkansas and Texas. She holds two Masters Degrees in Education, and a B.S. degree in Hospitality Administration. Laura is motivated by her belief in the YMCA Mission and desire to lead a traditional residential camp where kids feel a strong sense of achievement, belonging and community.



Antonio Skidmore is Program Director at YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee.

Antonio has 10 years of experience in children's camp programming and is focused on delivering safe

and impactful programs for youth through the adventure of life at camp. He is an Ohio native and has one dog, Kali. Antonio says, "I have a personal devotion to the mission of making the camp experience come to life for kids at camp. I look forward to seeing you around the campfire this summer!"

"Welcome to YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee! Being a Cha-La-Kee Camper is all about making friends, trying fun activities and creating memories that will last a lifetime. In every activity, our staff helps campers learn new skills in a safe and enjoyable environment. We are committed to teaching the Y Core Values of Responsibility, Respect, Honesty and Caring that support your child's independence, education and growth. We are excited to share our 2019 Summer of Adventure with your child! For the first time, every overnight Camper will enjoy an age-appropriate day trip excursion that is sure to enrich their week and stimulate curiosity about the natural world. I can't wait to see you all at camp this summer!"

~ Laura Weeks,
Camp Director

Email: laura.weeks@ymcahuntsville.org
Phone: 256.571.2494







Gaga ball is a favorite with campers.

A Place Where Young People Thrive

Kids and Teens Learn, Explore and Grow at Camp

Founded in 1957, YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee is an overnight and day camp for both boys and girls with a rich tradition that is welcoming to all. Every child has the opportunity to make great friends, learn new skills and progress to a higher level of confidence, maturity and understanding of our YMCA core values: Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility. Camper and Leader-in-Training sessions offer children a safe, traditional style camp that focuses on leadership, character development and social responsibility in a fun, outdoor environment. YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee is located on 61 wooded, waterfront acres in Marshall County along the Tennessee River.

Children progress from day campers to camp leaders through four programs:

-  **Traditional 5-day Day Camp for Ages 6-12**
-  **Traditional 2-night Mini Camp for Ages 6-12**
-  **Traditional 5-night Overnight Camp for Ages 8-14**
-  **Leader-in-Training Program for 15-17 year olds**





Kids love exploring the natural environment of Lake Guntersville.

The Camp Cha-La-Kee Experience

We create intentional moments where campers grow in confidence, connectedness, and sense of purpose.

There is nothing more central to the camp experience than cabin life! Overnight Campers are placed with their age group in a social setting of small groups housed in air-conditioned cabins under the supervision of adult counselors. In this small group setting, Campers learn communication, trust, patience, empathy and teamwork.

At Cha-La-Kee, Campers discover not just the wonders of the outdoors but the joy of exploring their unique skills and strengths to benefit their cabin groups and the entire camp community. Year after year, friendships are strengthened and skills for life are built.

The Cha-La-Kee Way

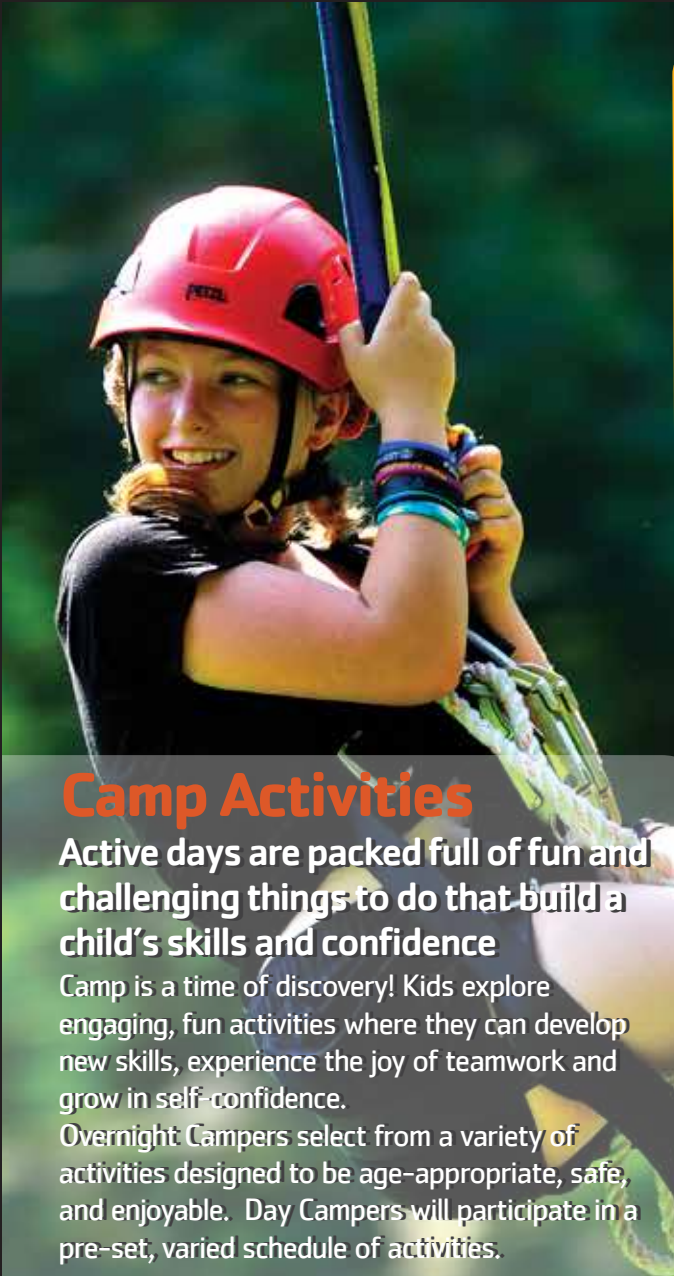
We focus on these guiding principles in every area of camp life to help campers become the best they can be, while they are at camp and when they come back home.

- CARING
- HONESTY
- RESPECT
- POSITIVE ATTITUDE
- RESPONSIBILITY
- RESILIENCY



Cabin Chat

At the end of each day, campers and staff take time to talk about their experiences and lessons learned.



Camp Activities

Active days are packed full of fun and challenging things to do that build a child's skills and confidence

Camp is a time of discovery! Kids explore engaging, fun activities where they can develop new skills, experience the joy of teamwork and grow in self-confidence.

Overnight Campers select from a variety of activities designed to be age-appropriate, safe, and enjoyable. Day Campers will participate in a pre-set, varied schedule of activities.

Register for camp
online at
chalakee.org

www



NEW! Day Trips
Overnight Campers Only

Paddle Boarding

Aqua Bounce

Canoeing/Kayaking

High & Low Ropes

Hiking

Archery

Zip Line

Water Saturn

The Blob

Riflery

Gaga Ball

Fishing

Tubing

Arts & Crafts

Field Games/Sports

Horseback Riding

Outdoor Living Skills

Nature

Drama & Skits

Cookouts

Swimming Pool



NEW! Day Trips

Overnight Campers Only



Vertical Adventure • Ages 13-14

Rock climbing day trip to Cherokee Village

Teens 13-14 will learn the basics of top rope climbing and bouldering with certified instructors on some of the South's most scenic crags. Day trip includes transportation, tour, climbing adventure and picnic, included with Overnight Camp sessions only (not included with Mini-camps).

Natural Encounter • Ages 11-12

Paddling day trip to Hays Nature Preserve

Ages 11-12 will canoe/kayak the Flint River as it winds through the 600-acre Hays Nature Preserve examining the unique plants and animals along the riparian landscape. Day trip includes transportation, canoe rental and picnic and is included with Overnight Camp sessions only (not included with Mini-camps).



Cathedral Caverns

Ages 8-10

Hiking in the magical underground world of Cathedral Caverns is a perfect way to cool down on a hot summer day where the temp is a constant 60°F year 'round. Kids will learn about rock formations and geology on the subterranean eco-tour. Day trip includes transportation, guided cave tour and picnic and is included with Overnight Camp sessions only (not included with Mini-camps).





Day Campers can experience awesome activities like horseback riding.

Day Camp with Shuttle Service

Active fun weekdays in the great outdoors with shuttle-to-camp service available from Huntsville & Madison

YMCA Camp Cha-La-Ke offers traditional outdoor camp activities thoughtfully designed to foster age-appropriate skills in Campers that will serve them for life! Day Campers will swim, play games, learn

about the natural world, develop new skills, and make new friends. Campers are supervised in a group size of one staff member to 10 campers. Day Camp is Monday through Friday.

Shuttle Day Camp • Register online at chalakee.org

Ages 6 to 12

\$215 Y Members • \$250 Community

* \$129 Mini-Camp (M-W) Y Members

\$150 Mini-Camp (M-W) Community

Rates include bus fees and souvenir T-shirt, different every week!

Session 1: June 3-June 7

Session 2: June 10-June 14

Session 3: June 17-June 21

Session 4: June 24-June 28

* Session 5: July 1-3 (no camp July 4-5)

Session 6: July 8-July 12

Session 7: July 15-July 19

Session 8: July 22-July 26

What is the shuttle schedule?

Shuttle Service is provided to Cha-La-Ke from the YMCA in Huntsville & Madison.

Hogan Y (Madison)

- Drop-off Campers from 7am-7:30m
- Pick-up Campers from 5:45pm-6pm

Southeast Y (Huntsville)

- Drop-off Campers from 7am -8am
- Pick-up Campers from 5pm-6 pm

What is included?

Campers will be served two snacks and lunch each day of camp. Activities on page 6.

What should my Camper bring?

Campers should wear closed-toe shoes, pack a water bottle, swim gear, sunscreen, bug spray and towel in their backpack each day.





Kids build skills learning to kayak and paddleboard on the lake.

Drop Off Day Camp @ Cha-La-Kee

Live close to camp? Drop off Day Campers directly at YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee as early as 7:30 a.m.!

Day Campers can be dropped off directly at YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee to enjoy a full regular day of our great camp activities. YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee Campers are supervised in a group size of 1 staff

member per 10 Campers ages 6 to 12 years old. Campers will have fun all summer while building relationships, learning new games and skills, and developing self-confidence.

Drop Off Day Camp

Ages 6 to 12

\$165 Y Members and Community

*** \$99 (MiniCamp) Y Members/Community**

Session 1: June 3–June 7

Session 2: June 10–June 14

Session 3: June 17–June 21

Session 4: June 24–June 28

*** Session 5: July 1–3 (Mini-camp)**

Session 6: July 8–July 12

Session 7: July 15–July 19

Session 8: July 22–July 26

Drop-off is from 7:30am–8:30am

Pick-up is from 4 pm–5:30pm


What is included?

Each Day Camper will receive a T-shirt – a different one for every week of camp!

Campers will be served two snacks and lunch each day. Activities include archery, arts & crafts, canoes & kayaks, field games, Ga-Ga Ball, giant swing, home in the woods, horseback riding (add'l charge), low ropes/team building, pool, and waterfront. Campers are assigned by age to a co-ed team with a pre-set schedule allowing campers to rotate through all activities.

What should my Camper bring?

Campers should wear closed-toe shoes and pack a water bottle, swim gear, sunscreen and towel in their backpack each day. Detailed camp info will be sent out prior to the camp season.



Arts are an integral part of camp allowing a child's creative expression.

Overnight Camp @ Cha-La-Kee

Five nights of campfires, dances & skits plus fun daytime activities with friends on the shores of Lake Gunterville

Overnight Camp is a place where boys and girls ages 8 to 14 build self-confidence, independence and lifelong friendships in a traditional camp experience. Campers are divided by gender into small groups of 10

campers and housed in air- conditioned cabins with adult counselors. Campers enjoy a variety of activities and exciting Day Trips from rock climbing to spelunking! Overnight camp is Sunday through Friday.

Overnight Camp

Ages 8 to 14

\$475 Y Members • \$650 Community

*** \$180 Y Members • \$215 Community**

Session 1: June 2-June 7

Session 2: June 9-June 14

Session 3: June 16-June 21

Session 4: June 23-June 28

*** Session 5: June 30-July 2 (Mini-Camp)**

Session 6: July 7-July 12

Session 7: July 14-July 19

Session 8: July 21-July 26

What is included?

Campers receive a souvenir Camp T-shirt! Campers are fed 3 hot meals and 1 night-time snack each full day of camp. Campers cook one meal outdoors with their cabin family! For a complete list of activities, see pages 6 and 7.

What should my Camper bring?

Campers should pack bed and bath linens, clothing and personal items such as medications. Detailed packing info and forms, including required healthcare provider form, will be sent prior to camp.

Check-in is Sunday @ 3 p.m.

Pick-up is Friday from 6-7 p.m.

Questions? Email laura.weeks@ymcahuntsville.org





Our sparkling swimming pool is the spot to cool off on a hot day.

First Time Campers Love Mini-Camp!

A great “starter” camp experience for younger children & new campers

Mini Session Campers will have a special shorter version of the same fantastic camp experience in the great outdoors at YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee as full-week campers. Mini-Overnight Camp sessions are two nights and three days.



Mini Overnight Camp June 30 – July 2

Ages 6 to 12 years old

\$180 Y Members

\$215 Community

Check-in: June 30 from 1-2 pm

Pick-up: July 2 from 5-6:30 pm

What is included?

Campers receive a souvenir Camp T-shirt! Campers are fed 3 hot meals and 1 night-time snack each full day of camp. Campers cook one meal outdoors with their cabin family! For a complete list of activities, see page 6.

What should my Camper bring?

Campers should pack bed and bath linens, clothing and personal items such as medications. Detailed packing info and forms, including required healthcare provider form, will be sent prior to camp.

See pages 8 & 9 for
Mini-Day Camp
Pricing and Dates.





High rope challenges build self-confidence in young leaders.

BOLD and GOLD Teen Leadership Development Program at Cha-La-Kee

An opportunity for young people ready to accept the challenge of leadership and service to others June 16-30, 2019

The primary goal of the BOLD & GOLD Leaders in Training program is to provide opportunities for teens ages 15 to 17 years old to develop leadership skills and values while they participate in overnight camp as well as a wilderness experience. BOLD & GOLD Leaders in Training is two weeks in duration.

From June 16-22, YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee Leaders in Training will live at camp under the supervision of senior staff

while learning to lead others.

From June 23-30, Leaders in Training will travel to Black Mountain, N.C., to experience a week of backpacking in the spectacular Nantahala and Pisgah
(continued on page 13)



Participation Fee for two-week session:

\$1,175 Y Members \$1,350 Community

Scholarships are available, email laura.weeks@ymcahuntsville.org

BOLD & GOLD (cont.)

National Forests. Teens will camp and rock climb in the Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina under the supervision of BOLD & GOLD YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly Staff.

While teens are working on their leadership skills, they can also work toward certifications in CPR and First Aid. Of course, there's plenty of time to have fun at camp and in the great outdoors with their peers as they grow into young leaders.

Prior experience is not required, and all equipment will be provided. Scholarships are available to off-set the participation fees of \$1,175 for Y Members and \$1,350 for all others.

To apply for the YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee BOLD & GOLD Teen Leadership Program, email laura.weeks@ymcahuntsville.org.





Meet other Cha-La-Kee families at an Open House or Family Jam.

Nice to meet you!

Meet the Staff, Campers and their families at an Open House or Family Jam Information Session this Winter and Spring

Family Jam Info Sessions

Events are free & open to the public!

Monday, December 10

4-6 pm Hogan Family YMCA (Madison)

Monday, December 17

4-6 pm Southeast Family YMCA (Huntsville)

Thursday, January 10

4-6 pm Hogan Family YMCA (Madison)

Thursday, January 24

4-6 pm Southeast Family YMCA (Huntsville)

Tuesday, February 12

4-6 pm Southeast Family YMCA (Huntsville)

Tuesday, February 19

4-6 pm Hogan Family YMCA (Madison)

Open House at YMCA Camp Cha-La-kee

Events are free & open to the public!

Sunday, April 7

2-4 pm YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee

Sunday, April 14

2-4 pm YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee

Sunday, May 5

2-4 pm YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee

YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee is located at 4380 Chalakee Road, Guntersville, Alabama 35796



Questions? Email laura.weeks@ymcahuntsville.org

YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee has served the Tennessee Valley for 62 years

Situated on 61 lush, forested acres alongside a mountain lake, YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee offers campers the opportunity to reconnect with the natural world.

Features include private lakefront property with dock, swimming pool, ropes challenge course, playing fields, covered airnasium for sheltered outdoor play, and separate archery and riflery ranges.

Healthy, hot meals are served three times a day including breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Dietary restrictions can be accommodated.

Campers are housed by gender in air-conditioned cabins with full bathrooms in-house.



Children become friends enjoying the simple pleasure of play outdoors.

REGISTER ONLINE CHALAKEE.ORG

YMCA Camp Cha-La-Kee

4380 Cha-La-Kee Road
Guntersville, AL 35796

chalakee.org

256.571.2494

campdirector@ymcahuntsville.org

