



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA Camp Gorham

YMCA of Greater Rochester

VISITORS Handbook



YMCA Camp Gorham
265 Darts Lake Rd.
Eagle Bay, NY 13331
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**WELCOME TO CAMP GORHAM –
YOUR DESTINATION FOR ADIRONDACK
ADVENTURE!**

During your stay with us, you will find that your Adirondack home away from home is a refreshing break. We welcome you to our community and camp!

The entire staff at Camp Gorham is here to facilitate your experience; we look forward to welcoming you.

*Warm regards, Anne Thornton
Executive Director*

Who to contact on staff

Prior to your visit:

For questions on registrations, booking a group, rental cabin assignments or billing please call: 315-357-6401

Jackie Rudolph, Director of Administration

During your stay:

Our camp maintenance staff, will be on site to attend to any maintenance needs. Cabin rentals will be checked in on by maintenance staff the first morning of their visit at around 9:00 AM. If you should be unavailable at this time please wave at the black maintenance trucks in camp for assistance they are happy to assist you. Our camp office is opened Monday – Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, please feel free to stop by with any questions or concerns.

YMCA of Greater Rochester, owner and operator of Camp Gorham

Anchored throughout the community for nearly 160 years, the YMCA of Greater Rochester is the area's leading non-profit strengthening the community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Rochester YMCA currently serves over 128,000 men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – with the goals to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve health and well being, and provide opportunities to give back and support our neighbors.

Gorham Staff

Camp Gorham is staffed with a full-time Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, Director of Administration, Ranger, and Camp Mechanic. Our summer seasonal staff consists of graduating high-school students, college students, and graduates. All have been extensively trained in a variety of areas including emergency procedures, child abuse prevention, first aid and CPR.

How to get to Camp Gorham

From the West:

Take I-90 East to Exit #33 and Highway 365 (Verona/Rome). Take 365 East to highways 28 and 12 (just past Barneveld). Go North on 28/12. In Alder Creek, continue on 28 North through Old Forge to Eagle Bay. If you go to Inlet you have gone too far! In Eagle Bay, turn left on Big Moose Rd. (just past Dan's Big M grocery). Follow Big Moose Rd. for about 4 miles. Turn left at the Camp Gorham sign immediately after the concrete 18-ton bridge. Follow Darts Lake Road into Main Camp. Follow signs to Oak Hall.

From the East:

Take I-90 West to Utica Exit. Go North on route 12. Route 12 will merge with 28 in Trenton. Follow 28/12 North. See above.

From the North:

Take 28 South past Inlet and into Eagle Bay. Turn right onto Big Moose Rd. (just before Dan's Big M grocery). See above.

Getting Ready for Camp

What to Bring:

This list has been created with your comfort and preparedness in mind.

Remember, Adirondack temperatures can vary a great deal! Warm days often lead to chilly nights. Please pack accordingly. Clothes that can be layered are recommended. There is limited space in our cabins so please pack appropriately for length of stay.

Packing List: PLEASE CLEARLY LABEL EVERYTHING WITH YOUR NAME

- Pillow, blankets and sheets for a single bed (remember it can be cool at night)
- T-shirts or shirts
- Jeans, sweat pants or long pants
- Shorts
- Sweatshirts, heavy sweaters, jackets
- Socks/underwear
- Sneakers and/or hiking shoes
- Slippers and shower flip flops for in the cabin
- Baseball hat or bandana (for sun protection)
- Flashlight
- Toiletries (toothbrush/paste, soap, deodorant, Kleenex, shampoo, brush, etc.)
- Towels and wash clothes
- Sun screen
- Insect repellent
- Swimming suit (when included in program)
- Raingear
- Day pack (if you plan on going on a hike)
- Water bottle
- Warm pajamas (or plenty of layers for sleeping in cool weather)
- Camera and film
- Books, cards, board games
- Matches (if you wish to utilize the fireplace)
- Dish soap for washing dishes in cabin (dish washer soap for Lodge)
- Winter only – boots, gloves, hats, scarfs, heavy coats – temps can be in the negative numbers.

What not to Bring

- Tobacco (no smoking in Gorham cabins – any smoking butts left outside will result in a maintenance charge.)
- Alcohol - Possession, use, and/or sale of alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco are not allowed on camp grounds. We ask that you respect our camp programs and philosophies and enjoy a family experience in a totally natural way.
- Any items of high personal or monetary value (camp is not responsible for any items)
- Pets – no pets are permitted at camp. If necessary you may call the Kliffside Kennels located in Eagle Bay approximately 5 miles from camp, but please book well in advance. Any pets brought to camp will be asked to leave.

Camp Policies

Lost and Found:

Camp Gorham is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Please make sure to label all of your belongings with your full name and call camp immediately after your visit should you have left anything behind. Cabins are cleaned immediately after departure and any found items will be brought to the main office.

Payment Policy:

Payment due dates and your guaranteed minimums are indicated on your registration receipt; the camp reserves the right to cancel any registration if monies are not received by your due date. **Your cancelled checks are your receipts.**

Refund Policy:

All fees/deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable. A \$20.00 service charge is assessed for checks returned to the YMCA and/or Camp Gorham.

Arriving at Camp

Check In for cabin rentals:

Check-in is after 3 PM; the office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am – 5 pm; if you are checking in after 5 please contact the office at 315-357-6401 to confirm your cabin assignment prior to arrival. A complete list of all guests must be turned into the main office upon arrival. Should the office be closed a clip board is located on the outside porch for sign in. It is critical camp have this information in case of emergency such as fire.

Program participants:

Most programs begin at 5 pm however check in time may vary; please consult your program schedule for arrival times.

Early check in:

\$100.00 per cabin; must be arranged in advance of your arrival date.

Living at Camp Gorham

Cabin assignments and cabin rentals:

All cabin assignments will be given at check-in. We do our best to honor all cabin requests; we reserve the right to change your cabin assignment to a comparable lodging facility in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Please do not tour any unoccupied cabins or the lodge during your stay without a staff member to escort you.

Parking:

- Winterized cabins in upper camp, Birch, Beechwood, Cedar, Dogwood, Cherry, Mt. Ash and Cant Dog parking is located next to each cabin.
- Wilderness Lakes Lodge has a parking lot directly behind it.
- Oak Hall Parking is located in front of the main camp office please do not pull up to cabin. All lower camp unheated cabins do not have parking (even for luggage drop off).
- Seasonal cabins in lower camp, Elm, Juniper, Hemlock, Laurel, Pine and Tamarack and High Peaks village cabins parking is by ranch barn. (do not block dumpster while parking) Please do not drive by these cabins at all, even for dropping off belongings as it can damage septic tanks.

Many cabins have underground septic tanks located near them. These tanks may be damaged if cars drive over them or park on them for an extended period of time. Any damage done to tanks due to parking/driving will be charged to the program participant.

Snow Plowing:

Should it snow during your visit please remove your car from your parking spot by 10:00 AM so that we may plow the area completely. Plowing will begin on main camp roads at approximately 8:00 AM and cars can then be moved to camp roads temporarily so that parking lots or parking spots can be plowed. It is very important we clear roads in case of emergency.

Parking on check out day:

Vehicles remaining on camp property after check-out must be relocated to the parking area in front of the office so staff may clean your cabin. There is no admittance to cabins after checkout as we are preparing for our next set of guests.

Health and Safety:

For weekends which include program staff members are certified in First Aid and CPR who are ready to help with minor First Aid needs or in an emergency. For cabin rentals please see our main office for emergency driving directions and help. The nearest emergency room is Utica, NY. Staff can assist you with directions.

Firewood:

If you wish to use the wood stove in your cabin, wood has been provided on the porch of your cabin. A \$15 fee will be charged after provided firewood is utilized. Please see camp staff to arrange for wood to be dropped off to your cabin. You will need to provide your own matches and fire starters. Adirondack Park policies do not allow for firewood to be brought in from outside the park. Please do not access wood from other cabins porches, you will be charged the additional wood fee should this happen. ***Please do not leave fires unattended!***

Garbage removal and dumpsters:

Trash containers are located in your cabin for use. Should these become full a replacement bag is usually in the bottom of each container. Guests may utilize camp dumpsters (in fall and spring they are located directly across from the Executive Director's house down a small road, in winter they are located behind the maintenance shop.) Should you need any assistance just wave down our maintenance staff or ask as when they stop by to check in. Please do not leave any trash outside as this attracts unwanted animals into camp.

Provided Meals (*PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ONLY*):

All meals are served in our dining hall. A well-balanced, varied menu is served. Campers will share in the responsibility for setting the table for their cabin and for post-meal clean up.

If you have any Dietary Restrictions or Food Allergies please contact the camp office 315-357-6401 two weeks in advance of your stay. Please note there may be an additional charge for special meal requests.

Rental Kitchen supplies:

Each of our rental cabins has the following items for self prepared meals:

- Plates
- Cups
- Coffee Mugs
- Bowls
- Forks/knives/spoons
- 2 Serving spoons
- 2 spatulas
- 1 frying pan
- 2 pots
- Toaster
- Microwave
- Stove/Oven
- Small refrigerator
- Dish washing sink
- Coffee Maker (bring your own coffee and filters)

Please do not remove any items from other cabins. All other supplies you may need please plan on bringing yourself including dish soap and towels for dish washing. All dishes must be washed and put away upon departure. A cleaning fee will be charged if the kitchen area is not left clean and with complete inventory as listed above.

Communication While At Camp:

Cell service is limited at camp. By driving to Eagle Bay, NY (3.9 miles) cell service is restored. We have limited phone lines into camp. We recognize that you may have business or personal needs that require the use of a phone. Please do not expect to use the camp phone to conduct your business. In an emergency our camp office is open on Monday – Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. On weekends the camp mechanic is on site from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. After hours go to the Camp Ranger or Executive Director houses (located on the property) for assistance, a map is located on the main office.

Should we receive a phone call for you, we will take a message and bring it to you as soon as possible. If there is an emergency, we will do our best to locate you.

Wildlife:

Located in the Adirondacks, there is great wildlife to see around camp. Please do not feed any wildlife during your stay. Feeding of deer or bears is illegal and can result in charges filed by local authorities.

Please do not leave any food open in your cabin, mice will quickly find opened items.

Camp Store (PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ONLY):

Camp Gorham has a camp store that sells sweatshirts and novelty items. The camp store accepts cash, personal checks, visa, master card, and discover.

Laundry:

No laundry facilities are available at camp. A laundry mat is available in Eagle Bay, NY - Bear in the Tub (315-357-2115) we apologize for any inconvenience.

Leaving Camp

Check out for Cabin Rentals:

Check out is by 12 Noon. Late departures will be charged \$100 per cabin fee; all belongings must be removed from the cabin and vehicles moved from cabin parking area to main office parking lot.

Check out for Program Participants:

Please consult your program schedule for departure time; **late departures** will be charged \$100 per cabin fee.

Each living unit is responsible for keeping their housing area clean; assuring it is in the same condition found. Any trash accumulated through the stay should be left inside the cabin for pick-up that afternoon. All cabins should be swept out prior to departure. All dishes must be cleaned. Brooms and dustpans will be in each cabin.

Program at Camp Gorham

Off Site Hikes:

There are many great local hikes in the Adirondack s. Area hiking maps can be obtained from the main office.

Camp Activities:

Program areas are closed unless you are attending camp during one of our programs. Please refer to your program schedule for times to enjoy our various program areas.

Safety rules for program areas

Climbing Tower, High Ropes, and Low Ropes courses:

These are popular activities for all ages at Camp Gorham. The first concern in these program areas is safety. All participants must wear a helmet and a harness as appropriate. The elements are not to be used unless under the supervision of Camp Gorham Staff.

Waterfront Area: (closed to all cabin rentals – please do not go on the dock without camp staff):

- Only YMCA-owned boats are permitted on the lake.
- Swimming is permitted only inside the H-dock and only at designated times. No one may be in the water or on the dock at any other time. Camp Staff must be present for all waterfront activities.
- Boating is available at times specified for each program. Everyone participating in boating (canoeing, kayaking) must wear a personal floatation device (PFD) at **all times**. Lifeguards will accompany you on the water.
- Participants may bring their own US approved life jackets if desired. They will be subject to approval by our Aquatics Staff. Our life jackets are best suited for people 8 years old and older.

Fishing:

Fishing is only permitted from shores away from our waterfront areas. No fishing is allowed on docks at any time. Please see our staff for good fishing spots.

**Thank you for choosing YMCA Camp
Gorham!**

**We hope you enjoy your stay and
that we see you again!**