

# Chaperone Guide

Dear Chaperone,

Thank you for volunteering as a cabin chaperone! Your commitment to the students at your school will help make their stay at camp a safe and memorable experience. This letter will help you understand the expectations of the school and camp. In other words...what you are volunteering to do!

## Who We Are

YMCA Camp Surf is a year-round facility located in Imperial Beach on 40 acres of beachfront property. Our programs include retreats, summer camp, outdoor education, leadership development, day camp, and family programs. Our four core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility, are emphasized throughout all programs.

## Cabin Assignments

Chaperones will be required to sleep in cabins with campers, provided they are the same gender as the children in that cabin. Each cabin should have at least one adult chaperone.

## What to Bring

Please refer to the list on this page get an idea of what you might want to bring (and not bring!) to camp. Keep in mind that coastal weather can change a great deal throughout the day and there is not a lot of shade at camp. We encourage you to bring both clothing that will protect you from the sun, as well as colder weather clothing that will keep you warm in the evenings or in inclement weather. Remember that this is "outdoor education", so dressing in layers and bringing some kind of raingear will insure that you are comfortable during your stay.

It is OK for you to bring a cell phones, but please use them privately when you are not involved in direct supervision of children. Outlets for chargers are limited, and plugging cell phone chargers into bathroom outlets is unsafe and not allowed. Campers are allowed to use a phone only with permission from school staff and under the supervision of an adult chaperone. If you need to bring **medication** please make sure that it is locked and not accessible to the campers. Also, food in the cabin area must be sealed and ant-proof. We do not allow open food to be eaten or stored in the cabins (you will appreciate this rule being followed)!

**YMCA Camp Surf is a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free facility.**



## EQUIPMENT LIST

### Recommended for adults:

- \_\_\_ Sleeping bag and pillow
- \_\_\_ Short sleeve/t-shirts
- \_\_\_ Long pants and shorts
- \_\_\_ Toiletries & towels
- \_\_\_ Warm shirts
- \_\_\_ Underclothing
- \_\_\_ Socks
- \_\_\_ Sweatshirts or sweaters
- \_\_\_ Swim wear (if water time)
- \_\_\_ 1 pair of sneakers
- \_\_\_ 1 pair of sandals
- \_\_\_ Rain gear
- \_\_\_ Sunscreen & a hat
- \_\_\_ Warm jacket or coat
- \_\_\_ Reusable water bottle

### Optional:

- \_\_\_ Inexpensive camera
- \_\_\_ Travel coffee mug
- \_\_\_ Stationary & stamps
- \_\_\_ Sunglasses
- \_\_\_ Beach bag or backpack
- \_\_\_ Appropriate reading material
- \_\_\_ Notebook and pen
- \_\_\_ Cell phone
- \_\_\_ Guitar
- \_\_\_ Quiet bedtime stories
- \_\_\_ Money for camp store
- \_\_\_ Gloves, mittens, scarves



# YOUR ROLE AS A CHAPERONE . . .

You will be providing supervision for a cabin group of boys or girls and also for co-ed activity groups during the day. Upon arrival at camp, staff will meet with you to answer any questions you may have.

Students must always be with an adult and a buddy — at meals, during activities, free time, while sleeping — in other words, **NO CAMPERS SHOULD EVER BE UNSUPERVISED.**

**Your school and the YMCA Camp Surf staff depend on chaperones to help in the following areas.**

**Waterfront** - *No one is allowed in the water unless it is during a time when the YMCA Camp Surf Lifeguard Service is On-Duty. Please make sure your students stay **COMPLETELY** out of the water unless they have scheduled water time.* During beach time we need help from all adults to keep campers inside the flag zones (swim areas), follow life guard signals, and manage equipment.

**Meals** - We ask that there be at least one adult at each table. Please sit at one of the tables assigned to your school and take responsibility for running the same table at each meal.

**Classes** - We need at least one adult in each activity group. Participation in classes and activities is encouraged, let the instructor know so they may include you. If there are "extra" adults you may work it out among yourselves to take breaks. This is a good time to relax, read, or take a shower as long as there is enough coverage for each activity group.

**Evening Programs** - We will have activities planned such as a campfire or skit night in the evening. Please sit among the students and ensure skits and songs are appropriate for all ages. (We sometimes have younger children at campfire with older students...campfire is always "G" rated!) If your group cannot come up with a skit, YMCA Camp Surf staff would be happy to help.

**Shower Time** - Please make your presence known in the bathrooms, but always respect student privacy. Unsupervised shower times can cause problems...please be present to make sure the students are respectful of others and safe! In order for everyone to wash up, showers should take less than 5 minutes per person.

**Free Time** - Students need to remain in the center of camp. Plan with the other adults to make sure there is someone at the camp store, the bouldering wall and gaming areas, volleyball, or wherever children are playing. *No students are allowed in the cabins or on the beach unless there is an adult with them.*

**All Other Times** - to ensure their safety, as well as your own...please make sure campers are always properly supervised and use the buddy system to make sure you are **NEVER** alone with a student.

Thank you again for your time, energy and willingness to provide a fun and educational experience for the students from your school. The YMCA Camp Surf staff looks forward to working with you!



## FAST FACTS

**Size:** 45 acres

**Location:** Where Coronado, CA meets Imperial Beach, CA meets the Pacific Ocean

**Address:** 560 Silver Strand Blvd.  
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

**Accommodations:**

Overall Camp Surf capacity is 300 campers.

**Total Bunks = 272**

11 Cabins w/ 16 Bunks each

4 Platform tents w/ 12 Bunks

4 Cabin tents w/ 12 Bunks

**Camping Capacity = 300**

10 Tent Campsites

30 People Per Campsite

**Local Attractions:**

(Approx. distance from camp)

Tijuana Estuary 1 mi

Sea World 20 mi

San Diego Zoo 15 mi

Wild Animal Park 43 mi

Tijuana 5 mi

Balboa Park 15 mi

Old Town San Diego 17 mi

Disneyland 108 mi