



Your local
community
charity

Adding Value To Young Lives

Our site



What you can expect from this guide:

- ✦ Introduction
- ✦ Residential kit list
- ✦ Frequently asked questions

Welcome

Welcome to YMCA Fairthorne Manor, part of the oldest youth charity in the world!

By the time you receive this pack, you will have committed to the trip and have an excited child ready to go. This pack provides more information on our centre, what your child can expect during their stay and how you can prepare them for their visit.

YMCA Fairthorne Manor is primarily an outdoor activity centre that has been providing children, young people and families with development opportunities and fantastic memories for over 70 years. A unique venue set in 111 acres of beautiful Hampshire countryside, we enjoy sweeping grounds, mature woodland, a lake and access to the upper reaches of the River Hamble, with all activities based onsite.

The centre also offers plenty of options for the whole community, including a children's day nursery, school holiday Daycamps, a campsite and plenty of activities for the whole family. We very much hope that this is just the start of your journey with us.

We pride ourselves in offering a wide range of activities suitable for all ages, providing opportunities to develop new skills, work as a team and overcome personal challenges. We recognise that a residential trip is about more than activities - it's often a child's first night away from home, being with friends, eating different food and looking after themselves. Rest assured we will be working very hard to make your child's stay a memorable one to ensure they have the best possible experience.



FAQs

What will my child get out of this visit?

The answer is simple, they will get out what they put in. Each visit provides children with opportunities - to stretch themselves out of their comfort zone, to try new things they didn't know they were capable of and to work with others for the first time. By taking these opportunities and trying their hardest, they will discover something new about themselves and learn some great new skills for the future.

My child has never been away from home before – will they be ok?

We know that pastoral care is just as important as delivering activities, so we work closely with group leaders to ensure each child gets the most out of their visit to us. We create a welcoming and supportive environment for children so they quickly feel at home. Our activities are progressive, allowing students to join in at whatever level they're comfortable with.

How can I prepare my child for this trip?

This varies depending on your child's age. For younger children, we suggest preparing them to do things for themselves – getting dressed, having good hygiene habits and for girls, doing their own hair! For others it might be encouraging them to try new things, to give things a go even if it is out of their comfort zone.

Will my child be able to phone home?

We discourage children from bringing mobile phones with them, however their use is at the discretion of visiting group leaders. Schools may choose to avoid students phoning home, as independence is a major part of the visit. In the case of an emergency, the group leader or a member of their team will be able to contact you via your emergency contact details.



FAQs

What's the food like?

Our meals are freshly prepared on-site and over the stay your child will enjoy some true favourites. We serve our food in a family dining approach, meaning everyone gets the opportunity to sit around a table and eat together. Sample menus are available on our website.

Can you cater for my child's special dietary requirements?

Yes, as long as we know about the requirement in advance. Please ensure you share this information with your group leader who will pass the information on to us.

My child has a medical condition – how will you support that?

We ask you to complete a medical questionnaire form to help us understand the needs of your child. We will then work closely with your group leaders to support them in providing the necessary arrangements for your child.

What is the accommodation like?

We have two indoor accommodation options with dormitory style bunk bedded rooms and shared bathroom facilities. Heald House sleeps 90 over 3 floors; Ben's House sleeps 84 in 3 wings. Campers stay in YMCA pre-erected 6 or 8 person tents with wooden floors and use separate shower facilities. For more information please visit our website.

Who will my child be sharing accommodation with?

Groups may share indoor accommodation with other groups, but will always be on separate floors or wings from other groups with coded doors in between. Your group leaders put together a plan of who will be sharing rooms. All accommodation is strictly single sex rooms or tents.



FAQs

What activities are offered?

This depends on which activity programme your group has selected. Programmes are organised in advance of the visit and may include kayaking, climbing, abseiling, archery, Jacob's Ladder, crate challenge, canoeing, aerial runway, jumping pillow, aqua slide, paddle boarding, vertical assault, blind trail, pioneering, team challenge, low ropes, raft building and orienteering.

How do I know my child will be safe on the activities?

All of our activities are risk assessed and activity staff receive ongoing training and assessment to ensure they are delivering safe and high quality sessions. The physical infrastructure of our activities is inspected annually by an accredited external assessor to ensure they are safe and fit for purpose. Activities are then inspected in-house on a regular basis. Our equipment (including harnesses and helmets) is regularly checked and held within permitted life spans.

My child cannot swim, can they take part in water activities?

Yes, we are willing to take non-swimmers as long as they are water confident. Non-swimmers must be identified to instructors prior to the start of a session. However, non-swimmers from Hampshire County Council schools can only take part in gig trips and rafted canoe sessions. Other groups must check their LEA restrictions prior to booking water activities. Please note we do not supply wetsuits.

Does my child have to take part in every activity? What if they're scared?

Our instructors encourage children to take part in each activity, even if it seems a bit daunting at first. This might feel a little worrying to begin with, but they will soon realise that most things are not as scary or as difficult as they seem. The most challenging things are often the most rewarding! Our instructors will not ask children to try something that they think is beyond their ability or that is unsafe.



FAQs

How many children per activity group?

Each activity group will have up to 12 students, an adult leader from your group and a suitable number of instructors depending on the activity. Most groups keep children in the same activity group for the duration of their visit.

What happens in the evenings?

Our evening activities vary, from a disco or campfire to games and a night walk. Options depend on time of year, age profile and your groups' requirements.

Is there any free time?

This varies depending on the type of visit your group has selected. Even with a busy programme, there's still some time for children to chill out, chat through their day with friends, visit our play park or kick a ball around.

What should my child bring?

We provide all activity equipment including harnesses, helmets and buoyancy aids. Our recommended kit list provides more details but please consider the time of year, weather forecast and size of your child's bag.

What should my child not bring?

Mobile phones, tablets, expensive cameras, electronic games, iPods, much-cherished jewellery, favourite clothing or shoes – these items are brought at your own risk.

Is there a shop?

Our Manor Shop sells a selection of souvenirs, emergency items like tooth brushes and soap, as well as confectionary delights. Visits to our shop are at the discretion of your group leader.

Do I need to take out an insurance policy to cover my child on the visit?

Most education authorities and independent schools have insurance arrangements, otherwise we recommend taking insurance to cover risk of accident, illness, loss of personal possessions and cancellation. Please check your cover with your school or group.





Satnav: SO30 2GH

YMCA Fairthorne Group is a charity and its mission is to champion and add value to young lives by providing experiences that challenge, enable and develop the individual. YMCA Fairthorne Group is a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales, Company Number 4336719, Registered Charity Number 1090981. Registered Office: Fairthorne Manor, Curdridge, Southampton, SO30 2GH.

For full details visit our website

www.ymca-fg.org

Telephone: 01489 785228

Keep up to date with all our latest news and events.



YMCA Fairthorne Manor



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For further information, contact us at;
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Welcoming Active Listening Inspiring Caring Exciting