

# **YESC EXPEDITIONS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

## ***REGISTRATION***

Please complete the online registration form.

Membership at the YMCA of the Upper Main Line is NOT required to register for a YESC Expedition. If your student is not a current member of the YESC program, a “get to know you” meeting and or phone call will be scheduled between the YESC staff and student after registration is made.

## ***WHEN TO APPLY***

Programs begin filling in early Spring.

## ***PAYMENTS & REFUNDS***

A \$250 deposit is due at time of registration. Full payment is due on June 15. For registrations received after June 15, full payment is due at time of registration. **If this payment schedule will be difficult to meet, families are encouraged to set up a payment plan with Liz Freese in our Welcome Center office (liz.freese@umly.org).**

**Please note:** If after the “get to know you” meeting, our staff have reservations regarding a student’s enrollment in a particular Expedition, a **full refund** of all payments to UMLY will be made.

- If, at any point in the registration process we determine that you have provided incomplete, misleading, or false statements, we will withdrawal your registration and **no refund** of all payments to UMLY will be made.
- If you withdraw your student before June 15 (notice of withdrawal must be made in writing), the **half of the deposit is refundable**.
- If you withdrawal your student after June 15, there are **no refunds** for any reason whatsoever (including, but not limited to: voluntary withdrawal, illness or injury, summer school, security concerns or any other reason).
- If your student leaves the program after it starts, there are **no refunds** for any reason whatsoever (including, but not limited to: voluntary withdrawal, illness or injury, dismissal by YESC, security concerns or any other reason). Any costs incurred by YESC related to an early departure are the sole responsibility of the parents. **Parents are encouraged to purchase trip insurance to protect their investment.**

## ***WAITING LISTS***

We will notify all waitlisted applicants of their status in early April.

## ***REFERENCES***

Please call or email us for a list of references.

## ***PREPARING & PACKING***

Comprehensive pre-program information and packing lists are made available to each registered student and is also available at [umly.org/yesc](http://umly.org/yesc).

## ***EXPECTATION & RULES***

Our YESC programs are YMCA values driven: caring, honesty, respect, responsibility. We provide structured experiences and have high expectations of students’ behavior. YESC students are expected to be

enthusiastic, positive, helpful and supportive of each other. YESC students understand that smoking (or using any tobacco product), drinking alcohol or using any drugs (other than prescribed medications) is strictly prohibited.

### ***COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE SUMMER***

The Upper Main Line YMCA (UMLY) Welcome Center is open seven days a week throughout the summer. Our leaders in field are in touch with UMLY regularly; they each carry cell phones for emergencies. YESC Expeditions can involve travel to remote places; communication can be delayed, limited, or not available. Parents can be assured that in cases where it is important that a student talk with his or her parents, we will make sure that they are in touch as soon as possible.

### ***NO PHONE CALLS***

A YESC Expedition offers the opportunity to strengthen independence and self-reliance. To maximize these benefits, we do not permit phone calls to or from our students (except in emergency).

### ***NO PERSONAL ELECTRONICS***

An important goal of every YESC Expedition is to engage our students in that their YESC Expedition offers. To this end, we do not permit personal electronics on our programs (for example, cell phones and iPods). We do, however, allow students to use such electronics while in transit to and from the YESC Expedition (air or ground travel). On arrival, YESC leaders will collect all electronics for the duration of the program and them for the trips home.

### ***TRAVELING TO & FROM YOUR EXPEDITION***

Each Expedition description provides a start and end location; families are responsible for making travel arrangements to and from these locations. YESC's program leaders will be on hand at the arrival and departure airports to provide supervision and assistance.

### ***MEALS***

Each group buys, prepares, and eats all of its meals together. The students, with their leaders' permission, prepare all meals. While food is always plentiful and nutritious, meals reflect the limitations of group cooking and the students' preparation skills. Please note: preparing meals for a group makes it impossible for us to provide separate meals for vegetarians, students with food allergies, vegans or students with any other eating restrictions. Vegetarians can expect to eat the same meals as the rest of the group, but they can have the meat portion (if any) withheld. Students with food allergies need to assess how their allergies might limit their meals. It is impossible for us to accommodate vegan or kosher diets.

### ***ADDITIONAL COSTS***

Transportation to and from the start locations, spending money and personal gear are not included in the Expedition fee. YESC provides group gear; students provide all personal equipment such as backpacks and sleeping bags. To preview our clothing and equipment lists, please go to [umly.org/yesc](http://umly.org/yesc).

### ***WE'RE HERE TO HELP***

Please don't hesitate to contact us: 610-647-9622 or [YESC@umly.org](mailto:YESC@umly.org)