



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

MAKING KIDS BETTER, FOREVER



Summer Camp
CAMP FITCH YMCA
campfitchymca.org

SUMMER CAMP MAKES KIDS BETTER

THE FITCH EXPERIENCE

A child's social development requires the practice of independently establishing a community of friends who respect and admire his or her unique attributes. A good overnight summer camp is a safe, supervised environment designed to allow your child take this crucial step.

Each summer, we see campers who come to Fitch not knowing a soul end their week with friendships built on trust and respect—values that our seasoned staff are taught to nurture in kids. Most of our staff grew up at Fitch too, and they consider it one of those few, precious places on earth where they truly belong. We yearn to share that feeling with new kids every summer—a mission and a feeling that has been passed to new generations for over a century at Camp Fitch.

On our beautiful Lake Erie shoreline setting we spend the week learning that through grit and determination, new skills such as swimming, sailing, creating art, making music, horseback riding, target shooting, and paddling give a sense of self-worth. Little successes lead to big successes, and summer camp provides a progressive path of accomplishment for your child to grow throughout their childhood and adolescence.

4 | Flagship

5 | Outcomes

6 | Daily Schedule

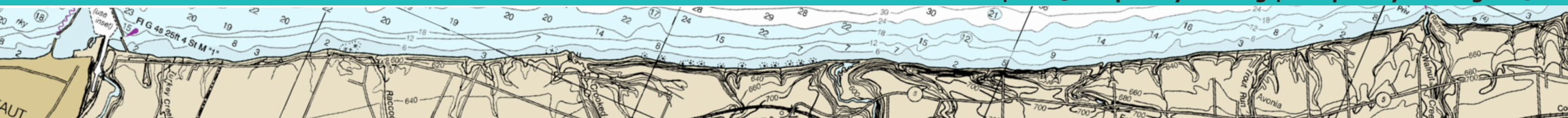
8 | Trusting Fitch

10 | FAQs and Camp Life

12 | Teen Leadership

13 | Equestrian Focus

14 | Other Focuses



OUR FLAGSHIP EXPERIENCE

Our Flagship Experience is a **traditional, week-long summer camp experience** for boys and girls aged 6–16 years old. Kids are grouped in “Ships” of up to 14 other same-gender and similar aged kids supervised by two **carefully vetted** Skippers who are at least 18 years old. Each Ship takes a different Skipper-led voyage each day, eats together in our modern dining hall, and sleeps in one of Fitch’s unique cabin/tent hybrids.

Camp has a lasting impact:

“David feels **great about himself** when he **returns from camp**. I think **he realizes** that he doesn’t have to conform to what his peers want him to be [at home] because he has experienced **peers** at Camp **that accept and value him** for who he is. He is his **true self** at camp.”

—Summer parent survey response

Our goals for kids in the Flagship Experience are to **make friends** and **work toward accomplishment** in two of the many classes and activities campers choose from at the beginning of the week. Our Skippers model and actively encourage campers to exhibit crucial character traits such as **integrity, faithfulness, responsibility, service, purity, and joy** while playing together, trying to win a game, and striving toward mastery of their chosen activities.

Our balanced approach **engages kids** who have a **wide spectrum of interests** and **personality types**. With the special attention given to each child to **be their best self**, a week at Camp Fitch can **catalyze significant gains in maturity** and **solidify character development** not possible in more ordinary summer experiences.

Camp makes kids better:

“With so much drama and bullying in many social situations, Camp and Camp friends are Meghan’s **safe, happy place**. Everyone seems to drop all of the pretenses there and just **be themselves** and **accept others** as they are. Also, it helps with her **confidence** and ability to deal with the everyday stresses in a better way. She also has learned to be more **helpful at home** and **kind to all** of those around her including her Mom and Dad.”

—Summer parent survey response

FITCH LIFE

Morning Schedule

7:30AM Polar Bear & Breakfast

Wake up with an optional swim in the pool, then plan the day with your Skipper over a hearty meal.

9:00AM Fleet Chapel

With your age group, listen to an inspiring message and contribute to thoughtful discussions led by our Chaplains. These non-denominational conversations are focused on assuring kids that God has a plan for their lives, and highlighting opportunities for them to show character traits such as integrity, responsibility, goodwill, and a service mentality.

10:00AM Exploratory Activity

Do what you love! Choose a new activity each day to explore and hang out with your friends.

11:00AM Rope Activity

Focus on achievement at this instructional lesson period. Shipmates (campers) choose two subjects each week so they can "learn the ropes."

12:30PM Lunch

Join your Skipper and shipmates for lunch and plan your afternoon.

Afternoon Schedule

1:15PM Rest and Cleanup

Take a mid-day break at the cabent and get cleaned up.

2:30PM Ship Voyage

Led by your Skippers, the daily Voyage can include sports, hikes, swimming, crafts and more! Skippers work with their shipmates to design voyages to fit the interests and character of their shipmates, helping kids practice democratic interpersonal skills.

4:00PM Rope Activity

Keep learning the ropes—this hour is for the second activity chosen at the beginning of the week.

5:30PM Dinner

Join your Skipper and shipmates for a great dinner with singing and a Fleet competition.

6:15PM Exploratory Activity

A second daily opportunity to choose something fun.

7:35PM Fleet Activity

Campfires, games, overnights are examples of things that campers get to do with their whole age group.

9:15PM Taps

Lights out for youngest age group, older age groups stay up somewhat later as desired around a campfire.

EARNING TRUST

Seasoned Staff

Our counselors are **carefully selected**, and over 60% of them grew up through our summer camp's leadership development sequence. We require an extensive **Orientation and Skill Building** week before the summer starts so that everyone knows the best practices to help your child have a **safe, successful experience**. All staff undergo three separate background checks against state and federal fingerprint databases.

Our senior leadership are **camping professionals** employed **full time** to administrate Camp Fitch's **year-round programs**. Our top seasonal leadership are educators who have years of classroom and administrative experience.

We have very little turnover in the full-time and seasonal leadership, which is a testament to the **healthy environment** at Camp Fitch. Three key members of our water safety team have collectively spent **130 seasons** at Camp!

Mission and History

Camp Fitch YMCA is a **non-profit, cause-driven** organization dedicated to putting **Christian principles into practice** through overnight camping programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. We are driven by **noble goals**.

Financial Assistance

Camp Fitch has been carrying out this mission for **over 100 years** and has bettered the lives of **thousands of kids**. We are committed to making this transformative experience **affordable for everyone**: volunteers **raise money each year** to make this possible. Please **ask us** about financial assistance if you need it, and **consider a donation** if you are fortunate enough to be able to do so.

FAQs

Activity List: Although a summer camp experience is more than a schedule of recreational activities, we know it's an important part of the week. Camp Fitch is proud to offer 15 different **Exploratory Activities** and over 35 **Rope Activities** (instructional lessons) that fit into six categories: **Artisan, Naturalist, Athlete, Marksman, Philosopher, and Voyager**. Highlights include water sports on **Lake Erie**, equestrian experiences, a 40' climbing wall, and diverse visual arts offerings. A representative list can be found on our website.

Housing: Campers live in **cabents** (cabin+tent) with eight beds and mattresses. Sporting a shingled roof and a cement floor, these structures provide **protection from the elements** but the canvas sides roll up in the daytime to allow a **closeness with nature** that our campers love. Bathrooms and shower houses are located in each camp near the cabents. Mackinaw Fleet lives together in an indoor Lodge with bathrooms.

Meals: Our kitchen staff provide three **hot meals** a day served **family-style** that include an entrée, vegetable or fruit, and starch portions with seconds available for big eaters. We also offer a **salad bar** at lunch and dinner and **homemade soups** at lunch. **Vegetarians** have tasty options at each of our meals and our kitchen can accommodate most food allergies. **Fruit** is available throughout the day and a snack is served in the evening.

Age Groups: Campers are grouped into four age groups: **Mackinaw Fleet** (6-7), **Sloop Fleet** (8-10), **Schooner Fleet** (11-12), and **Clipper Fleet** (13-16). Girls live in Camp **Chickagami**, and Boys live in Camp **Ot-Yo-Kwa**.

Health and Safety: We employ three certified healthcare staff who are on-site all summer to safely dispense medications and advise treatment of the infrequent sickness or injury. We work with a prominent Erie physician to develop the protocol that these staff follow.

Camp Fitch is accredited by the **American Camping Association**, which requires an annual review of a wide spectrum of our operations. We also operate under the oversight of the Erie County Board of Health. Our lifeguards are all certified by YMCA or Red Cross trainers and participate in **weekly assessments** and **skill-building workshops** throughout the summer.



FOCUS: Leadership



Teen Leadership Development

Camp Fitch is proud of a leadership development sequence for teens that begins with our one week LIT (Leader-in-Training) program for 15 year olds. The LIT Experience focuses on problem-solving, communication, and personal development.

The second step is our two-week CIT (Counselor-in-Training) program that prepares 16-year-old campers to be Fitch staff. The first week of CIT is spent learning how to direct kids and lead activities, and the second week is an apprenticeship spent shadowing Fitch's strongest staff.

The final stage is Galley Crew: a paid position for 17 year-olds who serve campers as junior skippers, assist at activity areas and work in the kitchen. Supervised and coached by our senior staff, Galley Crew members have plenty of opportunity to practice leadership skills through structured activities serving others.



FOCUS: Equestrian



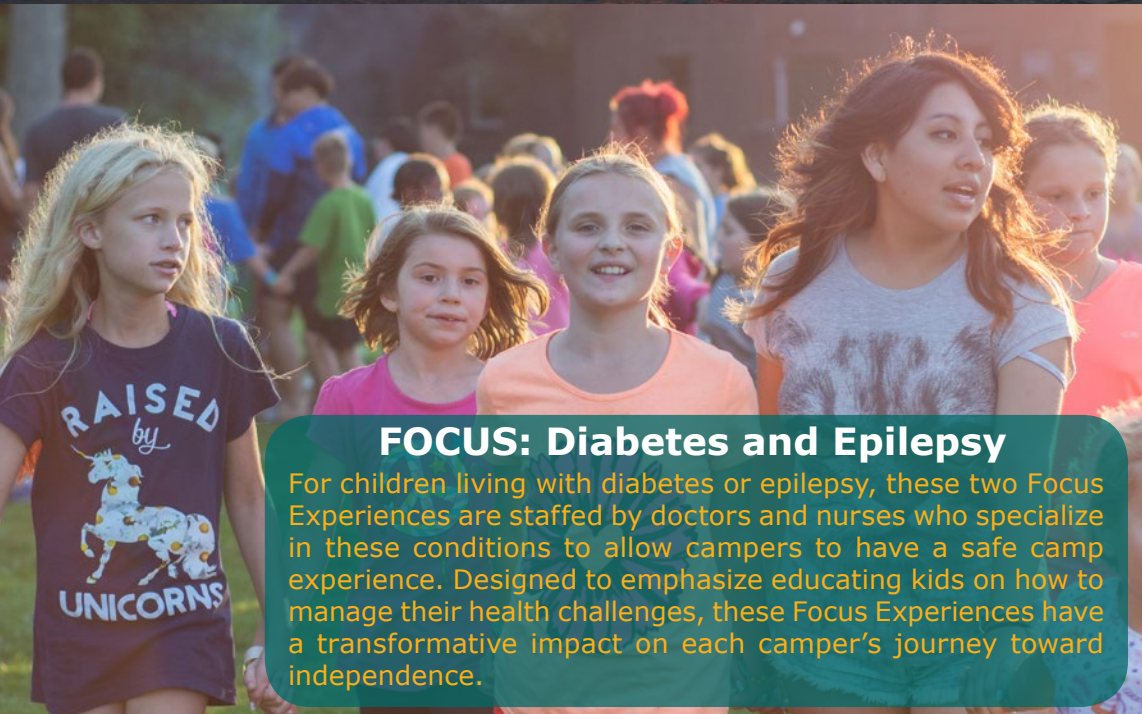
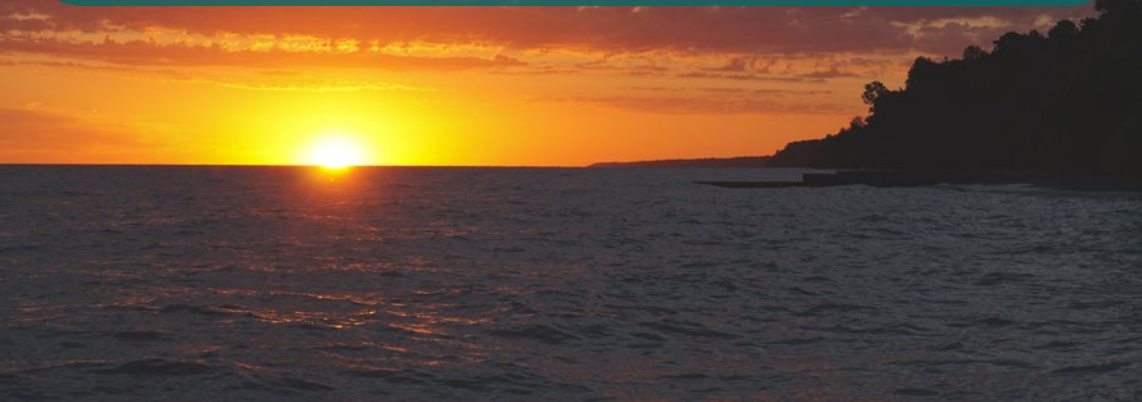
The **Outriders** are kids who want to spend half of each day at Camp being with horses. **Outriders** learn to ride, groom, and tack our herd of about 12 trained horses. The boys and girls in this Focus Experience form a strong bond not only with the horses, but also with each other as they work together in the barn and on the trail. The program helps kids ages 11-15 build **empathy** and **trust**—crucial skills when working with animals and people.

The **Centofanti Equestrian Center** is a state-of-the-art facility that includes stables, a riding arena for rainy days and controlled lessons, and a great hangout spot for the **Outriders**. Staffed by our **CHA-certified** Equestrian Coordinator and a qualified staff of riding instructors, the **Outrider Focus Experience** is perfect for beginning to intermediate riders. Sessions are limited to 8 campers.



FOCUS EXPERIENCES

Our **five Focus Experiences** are led by teams of specialists **passionate** about sharing their **knowledge** and **experience**. Focus activities are pursued for about half of each day, leaving the rest of the day for traditional camp activities. Flagship and Focus Experience campers share mealtimes and live together grouped by age and gender.

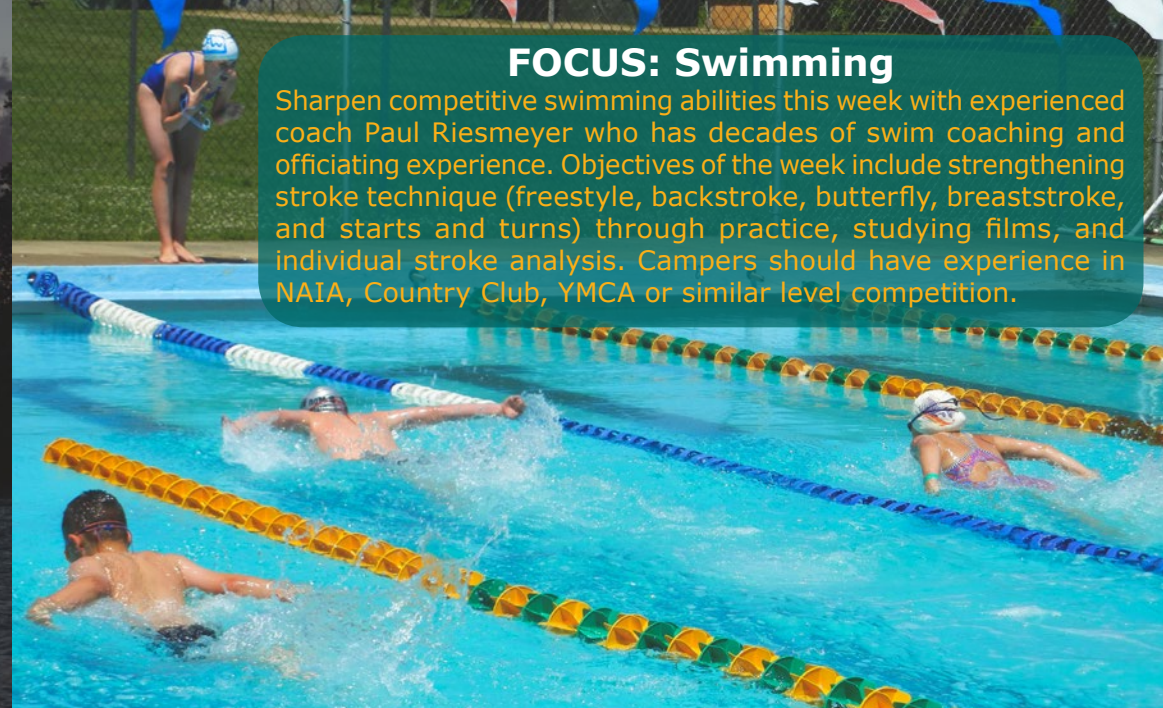


FOCUS: Diabetes and Epilepsy

For children living with diabetes or epilepsy, these two Focus Experiences are staffed by doctors and nurses who specialize in these conditions to allow campers to have a safe camp experience. Designed to emphasize educating kids on how to manage their health challenges, these Focus Experiences have a transformative impact on each camper's journey toward independence.

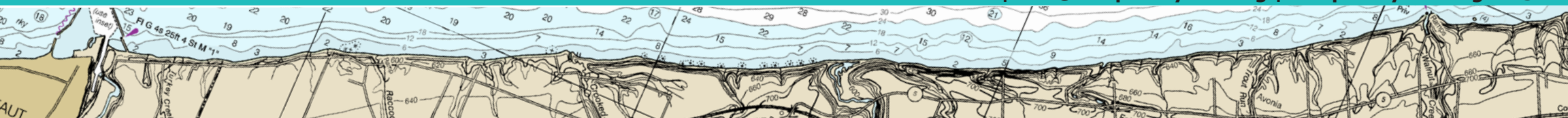
FOCUS: Swimming

Sharpen competitive swimming abilities this week with experienced coach Paul Riesmeyer who has decades of swim coaching and officiating experience. Objectives of the week include strengthening stroke technique (freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, breaststroke, and starts and turns) through practice, studying films, and individual stroke analysis. Campers should have experience in NAIA, Country Club, YMCA or similar level competition.



FOCUS: Tech

Spend the week challenged by intriguing computer-science projects that involve programming computers and micro-controllers. Campers are coached by veteran staff with vast experience in the IT field at companies like Google. This experience is perfect for any camper who loves exploring a wide spectrum of computing technology, but who would also benefit from a social, outdoor summer experience.



Camp Fitch YMCA
Branch of the YMCA of Youngstown, Ohio
12600 Abels Road
North Springfield, PA 16430
campfitchymca.org
877-863-4824

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
YOUNGSTOWN OH
PERMIT NO. 301

**JOIN US FOR A GREAT SUMMER
ON A GREAT LAKE!**



**Visit Camp Fitch at our Spring Open
Houses — see website for details!**

**Proud Partner in
Community Service**



**United Way of Youngstown
and the Mahoning Valley**