



IMPACT NEWS

AUGUST 2023 | YMCA OF GREATER SPRINGFIELD

#StrongerTogether



DONNA SITTARD, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Be silly, be honest, be kind. **-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

SUMMER AT THE YMCA

The summer has been busy for sure with our five camp/summer programs. Each one offers a variety of activities for the children to enjoy throughout their time with us whether it is for one week or all nine weeks. The Y incorporates our core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility throughout their day. Families have a variety of options of locations and amenities to serve their family. Here are our camps with a very small highlight of some of the activities at each. Call 413-739-6955 or visit www.springfieldy.org for more camp information for next summer.

Camp Small Fry is open for children who will be entering Kindergarten in the fall. Here are some of our campers and their counselor while they take a break and enjoy their lunch.



Camp Fun City is open to school-age children. This has a more indoor focus, yet they do go on field trips and swim at Camp Weber. This group is part of the PC and Gaming Room. They all agreed that gaming is fun.



Camp Weber is open to school-age children and teens. Here the campers are at an over 70-acre campground participating in swimming, walking the trails, arts & crafts, archery, high ropes, mountain biking, theater, dance, and more.

Xzayvier made his way up the tree for the zip line and had a great time. That high up we were not going to ask him to pose for the picture and smile.



Camp Stony Brook Acres is open for school-age children and teens and who participate in summer activities in the open field, wooded area and structures of the camp. Not only do they get to swim and play basketball, they can also participate in field activities, arts & crafts, nature, archery and games.

Meet Alice and Valerie who are with their Specialists at Archery. They both said they try hard to reach the target and like coming to Stony Brook because they have fun with their friends and the Specialists help them with Archery.



Meet Naiyah, Alayanh, Ben, and McKinley. They shared that they like making new friends and swimming in the pool at camp. They were all in agreement that the pool is “refreshing” on a hot day, and it lets them cool off.



Teen Camp is open for youth between the ages of 13 and 15 and held at Camp Weber and Camp Stony Brook Acres. Here the teens can participate in pretty much all the activities at camp. Field trips are also planned during their week.

Meet camper Jaiden and Teen Camp Director Angel. Jaiden grew up as a Y kid and has been coming to camp for years. Some of his favorite activities at camp include the Nature Program, Court Games, walking the trail and high ropes. Jaiden said, "I would much rather be at summer camp than getting stuck at home for the summer".



CAMP WEBER SUPPORT

For the 2023 Summer Camp Season, we would like to thank the following who have made a significant difference for the campers at Camp Weber. From manual labor, in-kind gifts and services, donations, and believing in the Y, we would like to thank:



"SUMMER ALL STARS"
"MCDONALD FUND"

We would also like to thank Mayor William Reichelt and the town of West Springfield for their continued support of Camp Weber.



NATIONAL NONPROFIT DAY

National Nonprofit Day (8/17) commemorates the passion that nonprofit organizations, including the Y, have for making a difference in their communities and across the globe.

The mission of the YMCA of Greater Springfield is to serve the human needs in greater Springfield by providing programs that promote lifelong personal growth and the balanced development of spirit, mind, and body for all. The YMCA places a focus on Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility.

Youth Development: Nurturing the potential of every child and teen. The YMCA believes all children deserve the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. At the YMCA, youth are cultivating the values, skills and relationships that lead to positive behaviors, better health, and educational achievement.



Social Responsibility: Giving back and providing support to our neighbors. At the YMCA, no one is turned away due to the inability to pay in full for programs and services.



Healthy Living: Improving the health and well-being of the community. The YMCA is a leading voice on health and well-being. The Y brings families closer together, encourages good health and fosters connections through fitness, sports and shared interests. Thousands of youths, teens, adults and families are receiving the support, guidance and resources needed to achieve greater health and well-being for their spirit, mind and body.



Whether we are providing early learning opportunities to our youngest members, keeping children safe and nurtured after school, providing adventurous summer camp experiences, mentoring and tutoring teens, putting families on the track towards healthy living, providing a social outlet for members of our community or providing support for the community's need during difficult times, the YMCA of Greater Springfield provides programs and activities that teach our core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

We would like to thank all those who join in with us, the YMCA, to do what we do for the community to make a positive impact.

WELCOMING WEEK

Welcoming Week is an opportunity to celebrate immigrants' contributions to communities and bring residents together in a spirit of unity. This year once again, the Downtown Springfield YMCA and the Scantic Valley YMCA will be sharing different cultures' foods, traditions, stories and more.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Scantic Valley YMCA:

[Debbie Kelder at dkelder@springfieldy.org](mailto:dkelder@springfieldy.org)

Downtown Springfield YMCA:

[Kim Lavallee at klavallee@springfieldy.org](mailto:klavallee@springfieldy.org)



Events will take place at various times during the week of September 11-15. Please save the dates in your calendar.

.....

LOOKING FORWARD INTO FALL

Now that the summer is off and running, you may not help but begin to think about how you will care for your children once they go back to school. So, if you are looking for an after-school program, the YMCA of Greater Springfield may have an answer for you. The YMCA also offers support during the Holiday Vacation, and February & April vacations, snow days, and general days off from school.

We have several schools site-based programs and one at our Downtown Springfield YMCA. Our website can provide you with more information as well. Call 413-739-6955 to find out more about how we may help you.



But what if your school does not offer an after-school program but would like one. Have your principal call us. We try to help fill the gaps in the communities we serve so maybe there is something we can do to help with after-school care in your school.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

The month of September is Hunger Action Month and challenges everyone in the U.S. to take action to fight hunger in their community. The YMCA of Greater Springfield would like to help in this effort by hosting a Food Drive, **September 17-30, 2023.**

COLLECTION LOCATIONS:

Parents during drop off and pick up at our Early Learning Centers

General Public:

Downtown Springfield YMCA Hours:

M-F 5:30am-8:00pm; Sat 7:00am-2:00pm

1500 Main Street, Springfield, Ma

Scantic Valley YMCA Hours:

M-F 5:30am-8:00pm; Sat 7:00am-2:00pm; Sun 8:00am-2:00pm

45 Post Office Park, Wilbraham, Ma

North End Youth Center Hours:

19th, 20th, 21st, 2pm-6pm & 26th, 27th, 28th, 2pm-6pm

1772 Dwight Street, Springfield, Ma

Items collected at the Wilbraham Learning Center and Scantic Valley YMCA will be donated to the Community Survival Center, Indian Orchard. Items collected at the Downtown Springfield Learning Center, North End Youth Center and the Downtown Springfield YMCA will be donated to the Open Pantry, Springfield, MA.

Here are a just few items that are always in need:

Canned tuna & meat, prepared canned meals, tuna fish, peanut butter; baby food, canned fruits & vegetables, pasta and sauce, meal helpers, rice, kid snacks, hearty soups, prepared pasta meals.



CHILDCARE AND PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

The YMCA of Greater Springfield offers childcare beginning at 4 weeks to 5 years old as well as preschool at our Early Learning Centers licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care and are nationally accredited with NAEYC.

We have openings at both our Downtown Springfield and Wilbraham Learning Centers. Contact Juanita Booker (Springfield) at 206-5686 or Sonia Pereira (Wilbraham) at 596-9521 for information and availability



SAVE THE DATE:

Monday, September 25, 2023 | 12:00pm Shotgun Start
Twin Hills Country Club, 700 Wolf Swamp Road, Longmeadow, MA

PRESENTED BY:

MERRILL 
A BANK OF AMERICA COMPANY

The Foundation Management Group

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, please contact
Donna Sittard at
423-739-6951 x3110 or
dsittard@springfieldy.org

ONE WAY TO MAKE YOUR OWN IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

Please visit our website www.springfieldy.org for more information on the YMCA of Greater Springfield and see what we do and how you can make a difference. **Please consider a donation and click on the "DONATE" button to show your support today.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

ASSOCIATION OFFICES

Tower Square | 1500 Main Street, Suite 256
Springfield, MA 01115

DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD YMCA

Tower Square | 1500 Main Street, Suite 200
Springfield, MA 01115
P: 413.739.6951

SCANTIC VALLEY YMCA

45 Post Office Park, Wilbraham, MA 01095
P: 413.596.2749

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/YMCAofGreaterSpringfield

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/ymcaspringfield/

TWITTER: twitter.com/YMCASpringfield

Donna Sittard, Development Director

dsittard@springfieldy.org | 413-739-6951 (x3110)