# Homeschool Hub

## YMCA of the Triangle
## Northern Region




**Spring 2027 Course Catalog**

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# Homeschool Hub - Program Overview

Here at the Homeschool Hub, we partner with you to support your child's homeschool education. We provide engaging courses that enrich your homeschool student's development through opportunities to learn and grow in collaborative, hands-on classes. Our classes are capped at 15 students.

Official registration as a homeschooling student with the North Carolina Department of Education is required to participate in this program for all students 7 years old or older. We are unable to provide classes for students enrolled in public or private schools.

Our program aims to be an inclusive environment where all students can feel welcome and thrive. We train all of our teachers in meeting the needs of all types of learners, and we value parent partnerships to help meet the unique needs of each student.

Additionally, while the Y is a Christian organization, we utilize secular curriculum in our classes and serve families from a variety of faith traditions and cultural backgrounds.

## The Y Mission

**Our Mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.**

To fulfill our Mission and purpose, the YMCA of the Triangle is committed to being a multicultural, nondiscriminatory and inclusive organization fully leveraging our collective resources and impact to positively affect the health and well-being of our community.

In that, Christian principles are caring and inclusive, we respect various expressions of religion. We serve people from all faith traditions and perspectives. And we strive to create a welcoming environment for people to feel comfortable to explore spiritual matters and grow in Christian faith if they choose.

## About Our Classes

We offer enrichment classes designed to allow students the opportunity to explore topics of interest or new to them over a 7-week period. Each class operates for 7 weeks, meeting 1 day per week at YMCA Camp Kanata in Wake Forest, NC.

## Age Cohorts

Our classes are multi-age, but are divided among 3 different age cohorts. We do have some flexibility for students at the border between groups (ages 9 and 13). These students may take classes in either of the cohorts appropriate for their age, depending on what is in their best interest both socially and academically. If you have a question about what cohort is best for your student, feel free to reach out to our Homeschool Coordinator to discuss.

**Please pay close attention to the class descriptions for more information.**

- Pathfinders - Ages 5-8
- Trailblazers - Ages 8-12
- Navigators - Ages 12+

## 2027 Spring Calendar

| Fall Semester | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, February 2 | First Day of Spring Session 1 |
| Thursday, March 18 | Last Day of Spring Session 1 |
| Tuesday, March 23 - Thursday, March 25 | Spring Break |
| Tuesday, March 30 | First Day of Spring Session 2 |
| Thursday, May 13 | Last Day of Spring Session 2 |

## Daily Schedule

Class Schedule

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:40-8:50 | Rides-In |
| 8:50-9:00 | Transition to Classes |
| 9:00-10:55 | AM Classes |
| 10:55-11:00 | Half Day AM Dismissal |
| 11:00-11:55 | Lunch/Recess |
| 11:55-12:00 | Half Day PM Arrival |
| 12:00-1:55 | PM Classes |
| 1:55-2:15 | Rides-Out |

## Spring Session 1 Schedule

### Tuesday

| Period | Time | Ages 5-8 | Ages 8-12 |
|---|---|---|---|
| P1 | 9:00-10:55 | Passport to the World | Wilderness Survival |
| P2 | 12:00-1:55 | Animal Adventures | Creative Writing |

### Thursday

| Period | Time | Ages 5-8 | Ages 8-12 |
|---|---|---|---|
| P1 | 9:00- 10:55 | Prehistoric Pals | Science Sleuths |
| P2 | 12:00- 1:55 | Incredible Invertebrates | Creative Handcrafts |

# Spring Session 2 Schedule

## Tuesday

| Period | Time | Ages 5-8 | Ages 8-12 |
|---|---|---|---|
| P1 | 9:00-10:55 | Scales & Tails | Herpetology Heroes |
| P2 | 12:00-1:55 | Rock Hounds | The Tinker Lab |

## Thursday

| Period | Time | Ages 5-8 | Ages 8-12 |
|---|---|---|---|
| P1 | 9:00- 10:55 | Wonderful Water | Marine Marvels |
| P2 | 12:00- 1:55 | Flora Friends | Earth Explorers |

# Pathfinders (Ages 5-8) - Course Descriptions and Supply Lists

| Class Name | Semester | Pricing | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| Animal Adventures | Spring Session 1 | Regular | Discover the amazing world of animals through hands-on activities, fun experiments, games and stories. Kids will learn how animal adaptations help them move, eat, communicate, and survive in their habitats. |
| Incredible Invertebrates | Spring Session 1 | Regular | Get ready to explore the amazing world of animals without backbones! Kids will discover what makes an invertebrate, from squishy worms and slimy snails to fascinating insects, spiders, and other creepy-crawlies. We'll learn how these animals move, eat, protect themselves, and survive in their habitats.<br><br>Through hands-on activities, games, crafts, and insect hunts, young explorers will discover that these tiny creatures are anything but boring. |
| Passport to the World | Spring Session 1 | Regular | Kids will be immersed in world cultures through hands-on crafts, language fun, STEAM, and cooking. Feed their curiosity, confidence, and global awareness-one country at a time. |
| Prehistoric Pals | Spring Session 1 | Regular | Step back in time and discover the amazing world of prehistoric animals! Kids will learn how fossils are formed, become fossil detectives, and uncover clues about creatures that lived millions of years ago. We'll explore dinosaurs, ancient sea creatures, giant mammals, and other fascinating prehistoric animals while learning how scientists use fossils to piece together the past.<br><br>Get ready to dig, discover, and travel millions of years back in time! |
| Scales & Tails | Spring Session 2 | Regular | Hop into an adventure with some of nature's coolest critters! From bumpy turtles and slithery snakes to leaping frogs and wiggly salamanders, there's so much to discover. Meet some fascinating reptiles and amphibians, learn what makes them special, and uncover where they live, what they eat, and how they survive. Get ready for a hands-on, creature-filled adventure! |
| Flora Friends | Spring Session 2 | Regular | Get ready to explore the wonderful world of plants and flowers! Discover how plants grow, what they need to survive, and the important jobs they do in nature. Through hands-on activities and nature exploration, little gardeners will uncover the magic growing all around them! |

| Class Name | Semester | Pricing | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wonderful Water | Spring Session 2 | Regular | Dive into the amazing world of water! Follow a raindrop on its journey through the water cycle, discover how rivers and streams shape the land through erosion, and explore the ponds, lakes, and rivers that provide fresh water for plants, animals, and people. Through fun experiments and hands-on activities, discover just how important water is to our world. |
| Rock Hounds | Spring Session 2 | Regular | Get ready to dig into the amazing world beneath our feet! Discover how rocks and minerals form, explore their colors, shapes, and textures, and learn what makes each one unique. Find out how Earth's giant plates move and shift, creating mountains, earthquakes, and volcanoes. From sparkling crystals to the powerful forces that shape our planet, young geologists will become rock detectives through hands-on activities and exciting discoveries! |

# Trailblazers (Ages 8-12) - Course Descriptions and Supply Lists

| Class Name | Semester | Pricing | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| Creative Handcrafts | Spring Session 1 | Regular | Inspired by the Waldorf handwork curriculum, this class introduces kids to the joy of creating with their hands. Students will explore beginning embroidery, weaving, crochet, and felting while learning basic techniques and building confidence with each new skill. Along the way, they'll create simple projects they can be proud of and take home. A fun, hands-on class that encourages creativity, patience, and the satisfaction of making something from scratch! |
| Creative Writing | Spring Session 1 | Regular | Learn to write through a variety of creative writing styles—including poetry, plays, folk tales, and short stories—students will explore characters, settings, dialogue, plot, and descriptive language.<br><br>Whether they love telling silly stories, creating imaginary worlds, or bringing characters to life, students will have plenty of opportunities to write, create, and let their imaginations run wild! |
| Science Sleuths | Spring Session 1 | Regular | Get ready to experiment, investigate, and uncover some of science's coolest mysteries! In this hands-on class, young scientists will explore the scientific method, pH, density, states of matter, and probability through fun experiments, challenges, and scientific surprises. Perfect for curious kids who love to experiment, explore, and discover how the world works. |
| Wilderness Survival | Spring Session 1 | Regular | Ready for an outdoor adventure?  In this hands-on class, kids will learn practical wilderness survival skills and discover how to stay safe and resourceful in the great outdoors. Students will learn how to build survival shelters and campfires, knot tying, and wilderness first aid. |
| Herpetology Heroes | Spring Session 2 | Regular | Slither into the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians! Discover what makes snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs, and salamanders unique. Explore their amazing adaptations, habitats, life cycles, and survival strategies while learning how these often misunderstood creatures play an important |

| Class Name | Semester | Pricing | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | role in our ecosystems. Get up close with some fascinating cold-blooded creatures! |
| Marine Marvels | Spring Session 2 | Regular | Explore the fascinating world beneath the waves! Discover how ocean ecosystems work, uncover the secrets of underwater habitats, and meet the incredible creatures that call the ocean home. Get ready for an adventure into the wonders of marine life! |
| The Tinker Lab | Spring Session 2 | Regular | Calling all inventors! Get ready to explore the exciting world of physics and engineering through hands-on experiments, creative challenges, and problem-solving activities. Discover the science behind forces, motion, simple machines, and structures while putting your imagination to work. Design, build, test, and experiment as you uncover how things work. |
| Earth Explorers | Spring Session 2 | Regular | Explore the incredible forces that shape our planet! Discover how weather patterns form, why storms happen, and what makes our climate change from season to season. Investigate Earth's natural processes, from clouds and wind to earthquakes, volcanoes, and the water cycle. Through hands-on experiments and weather investigations, become a young scientist and uncover the secrets of our ever-changing planet! |

# Navigators (Ages 13+)-  Course Descriptions and Supply Lists

# Policies and Procedures

## Registration Policies

### Registration

All registration must take place through the YMCA of the Triangle Website. You will need to create an online account to register.

Please make sure you carefully read the descriptions for each of the classes you register for, paying special attention to course content, recommended age ranges, homework expectations, and supply requirements before choosing classes for your child. **All class transfers and withdrawals will result in the loss of the $25 deposit/administrative fee paid at registration.** Please be mindful of this when registering. Transfers that take place due to a waitlist spot opening or a canceled class will not be charged an additional administrative fee.

### Using ESA + Funding

If your child is an NCSEAA grant recipient, the YMCA of the Triangle is now an official vendor and can be paid through ClassWallet for some of our classes. Please contact Karmen if this applies to your family for details on how to utilize these funds to pay for Homeschool Hub classes!

### Class Changes

We hope your children will love their classes, but in case something isn't a good fit, our program will have a two week Drop/Add window, beginning on the first day of class. During this time, class changes can be made as long as there is an open spot.

To request a transfer or cancellation of a class please contact customer service at 919-719-9622 or Customer.Service@ymcatriangle.org

**All class transfers and withdrawals will result in the loss of the $25 deposit/administrative fee paid at registration, even if requested prior to the first day of program.**

After the drop/add window ends we will not be able to accommodate class transfers or cancellations. Families will be responsible for the total cost of the classes their students are enrolled in, and we will be unable to issue refunds after this time.

## What to Bring

All students ages 6+ should bring the following basic supplies. Please make sure items are labeled with your child's name. It is very important that students bring these materials every day so that they are able to participate fully in the activities their teachers have planned. Explorers will have a separate list to keep things easier for your youngest students.

- Backpack
- Water Bottle
- Pencil Box with the following: Sharpened Pencils, Colored Pencils or Crayons, Markers, Glue Stick, Scissors
- Clipboard
- 2 Pocket Folder

Full Day Students should also bring a lunch each day. We are unable to provide lunches for students.

Some classes will have additional required supplies. Please see our Class Descriptions and Supplies sections for more details.

Students should have all materials, including textbooks/workbooks by the first day of class. If this will not be possible for your family, please let us know as soon as possible.

## Family Involvement

### Communication

Our program will use Class Dojo to connect families directly to our teachers. You will receive a Class Dojo code for each of your child's classes at Open House. Teachers will use Class Dojo to share pictures and updates about what is happening in the classroom. They may also use this to message you directly.

If questions or concerns about an individual class arise during the course of the semester, please reach out to the teacher. This is often the fastest way to get to a resolution.
Additionally, you will receive a monthly newsletter with program related updates. These will be delivered to your email.

### Parent Involvement Opportunities

If you are interested in being more involved in our Homeschool Hub Community, please let us know! Opportunities include subbing for classes (paid position), volunteering in classrooms or at lunch/recess, planning field trips/outings, or joining our Parent Advisory Committee!

# Arrival/Dismissal

Rides In: 8:40-8:50
Rides Out: 2:00-2:15

Rides In will end promptly at 8:50 to ensure that all students are able to get to their classrooms before class begins at 9:00.

**Arrival and Dismissal at Camp Kanata** will take place in the Rides In/Out Circle at the Day Camp Shelter, the first shelter you come to on your right as you pull down the driveway. Parents should drive up to the sidewalk and drop their child off with a staff member.

Parents who drop off or pick up children outside of these scheduled Rides In/Out times should park and come into the Pine Knoll lodge across the field from the Pool

*Please do not park and send children unaccompanied from the parking lot.* Even our older students must be accompanied and checked in with a staff member before they join our program.

## Pickup Procedures

At pickup time, children will only be released to parents, legal guardians and those designated as emergency contacts with pickup on your child's account. Drivers must display YMCA pickup cards or photo identification. If you plan to have anyone else pick up your child, you must notify us in advance.

Severe weather may affect the pickup process. In cases of driving rain and/or lightning, staff will keep children sheltered until conditions improve. This may slow down the pickup process, requiring drivers to wait. The safety of YMCA children and staff is our first priority. The YMCA/our staff or volunteers do not buckle children of any age into their car seats or fasten seatbelts, even when requested by the parents. We make every effort to be efficient in the Rides Out line. We provide parking spaces or space for a parent to pull up so they can secure their own child.

## Pickup Cards

To ensure the safety of all participants, parents will receive pickup cards on the first day of program. Please clearly print your child's first and last name on the card and display it on the car windshield at pickup time (you may use one card for multiple children). YMCA staff will request a picture ID from anyone who attempts to pick up a child without displaying a card. If you need additional cards for sitters, grandparents, etc., please ask. If a questionable situation arises, staff will hold the child until a parent has been contacted. A driver's license may be requested for identification.

## Pickup Late Fee

A late fee is charged for children picked up after the last pickup time (2:15 pm). The late fee is $5 for the first 10 minutes past pickup time and $1 for each additional minute thereafter. Two staff members will remain with the child until a parent arrives.

# Health and Safety

## Safety at the Homeschool Hub

We want to remind you of YMCA policies and practices that help keep our YMCA youth programs secure for your child.

Parents, family members and any other authorized adult must show their photo I.D. or pick-up card in order to pick up children in our care. Please make sure your emergency contacts are up to date in your online portal and that you've checked the box for "allowed to pick up." Please also confirm that we have the most up-to-date phone numbers for you and your family.

All YMCA staff must complete a variety of trainings that include child abuse prevention, bullying prevention and a variety of other topics on how to keep children safe in a variety of situations.

## When to Stay Home

Please do not send your child to YMCA programs with any of the following symptoms:

- Sore throat
- Excessive coughing
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Fever
- Head lice
- Undiagnosed rash, sore, or other skin condition
- Any other contagious disease or symptom

A child must be diarrhea, vomiting and fever-free for a full 24 hours before returning to the program.

## Medication Procedures

Please do not pack medication with your child’s belongings. Parents (not the child) must bring necessary medications to the program office. Medications must be in their original containers with written instructions for dispensing. A Medication Distribution Form must be provided for staff to dispense all prescription or over-the-counter medications.

Generally, children are prohibited from having medication with them, unless the medication is dispensed on their person (such as an insulin pump) or a doctor has specifically indicated in writing that the child may self-administer and safety precautions are met for the safe handling of the medication. If a doctor has given this written permission, a copy must be provided to the YMCA. A parent or guardian must give the medication to the program staff. For safety reasons, all medications are stored and locked in the program office.

## ADA Policy

We’re committed to providing equal opportunity and access to all children.

YMCA of the Triangle does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of disability or on the basis of any individual’s association or relationship with an individual with a disability in the

full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations offered at any of its locations.

Everyone who attends YMCA programs has unique needs. We are better when we take time to find out what those needs are, build empathy and understanding, and respond to individuals appropriately. The YMCA offers inclusive, welcoming programs dedicated to serving those needs in the best way possible.

Because every person is unique, we address each request individually. Your child's success and safety in our programs are our top priorities; therefore, we respectfully ask parents and caregivers to inform the YMCA, prior to the start of the program, of any special needs which may require special accommodations, so we can work together to support your child in reaching their full potential.

If you have questions about ADA accommodations at the Homeschool Hub, please contact Karmen Paterson.

## Custody

Please alert the YMCA program office of child custody arrangements. It is imperative that official, current court documents are maintained in your child's file if custody or visitation is a concern. Without court orders, we cannot withhold a child from his/her parent. Based on the information that you share with us, we will tell you if additional documentation is required. If additional information is required, you may send it to risk@ymcatriangle.org.

The parent(s) who registers the child for the program is responsible for payments. We cannot sub-divide fees.

If parents are separated or divorced with joint custody, both parents must provide written consent for all names on the Emergency Contacts & Authorized Pick-ups list.

# Behavior Expectations

At the YMCA of the Triangle, our behavior expectations and discipline procedures are based on our core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and faith. We believe in creating a safe, secure and fun environment where all youth have the opportunity to learn the importance of demonstrating good character. We believe that in order to do this, all youth need to know and understand the rules and expectations for appropriate behavior. We also believe that when youth do not follow the rules or when they demonstrate inappropriate behavior, we have an opportunity to help youth learn from their mistakes.

The YMCA promotes behavior guidance and discipline through creating a positive environment, developing structure and clear limits, promoting social and emotional learning, reinforcing our core values and addressing challenging behaviors.

All youth are expected to follow the rules established by the YMCA for the safety of all youth in the program. Your cooperation and support ensure that all youth have a safe and fun experience.

## The YMCA does not allow the following behaviors:

- Any action that could threaten the physical or emotional safety of the youth, other youth or staff. Prohibited conduct may include, but is not limited to: abusive jokes, insults, slurs, threats, name-calling or intimidation
- Destructive behavior
- Behavior that is a violation of personal boundaries or is of a habitual nature and negatively impacts the program, and/or safety and enjoyment of others
- Behavior that is of a sexual nature

The YMCA uses positive discipline, which means staff members promote desired behaviors through teaching and reinforcement. Staff will redirect or problem-solve with youth when they are not displaying desired behaviors, rather than restrict behaviors by taking away opportunities or controlling youth with fear of punishment. We believe this approach focuses on the needs of the youth and contributes positively to the youth's overall development. Staff shall use positive discipline, which shall include the following:

- Communicate to youth using positive statements
- Encourage youth, with adult support, to use their own words and solutions in order to resolve interpersonal conflicts
- Communicate with youth by getting on their level and talking to them in a calm, quiet manner about the behavior that is expected
- There are times when restrictions may be necessary and will most likely be directly linked to the health, safety or well-being of the youth or others. The YMCA staff does not use corporal punishment under any circumstance. In the event of a youth harming themselves, another youth, or an adult, staff may physically restrain the youth to ensure safety.

## YMCA Discipline Procedures

The YMCA staff desire to partner with families of the youth in our care. If at any time you have concerns about your child's behavior or success in our program, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Youth Director to set up a conference.

If a youth is unable to meet established behavior expectations, YMCA staff will follow these disciplinary procedures below given that the nature of the behaviors does not require immediate suspension or dismissal.

- Conversation between staff and youth to discuss behavior and reset expectations.
- Staff will first use positive reinforcement and redirection to redirect a youth's behavior. If this is ineffective, staff may use a timeout as an opportunity for the youth to take a break from the behavior before rejoining the group.
- Staff will communicate with parents/guardians if/when youth is not following established YMCA rules. This communication may be at Rides Out, over the phone or via a parent conference.
- If positive discipline and redirection are ineffective in changing the youth's behavior, the Youth Director may suspend the youth. The length of suspension will be determined based on each individual situation. Factors such as type/severity of behavior, behavior history, age of youth, etc. will be considered when determining the length of the suspension.
- If the youth continues to have challenges after a suspension, the Youth Director may set up a conference with the parent/guardian to develop a behavior plan for the youth.
- If suspensions nor a behavior plan are effective in changing the child's behavior, the child may be dismissed from the program. Dismissal from the program for disciplinary reasons could result in permanent removal from all YMCA programs.

## Special Circumstances

The goal of the YMCA of the Triangle is to meaningfully include all youth and provide accommodations in our programs when needed. To help us achieve this goal, we respectfully ask parents or guardians to inform the YMCA, prior to the start of the program, of any special circumstances which may affect your child's ability to participate. By providing information regarding the strengths and needs of your child, the staff can prepare helpful accommodations that will better serve all children in our programs.

Upon being informed of such circumstances, the Program Director or other staff member may request a meeting to gather more information and discuss the accommodations that can be created to successfully include your child.

While we aim to be as inclusive as possible within our classes and we are able to provide some accommodations, students must be able to adhere to our behavior expectations and participate in each class as they are explained in the class descriptions. We provide a variety of teacher-led and student-led environments so that we are able to match students to the appropriate environment for their current needs. Not all classes will be appropriate for all students.

### Bullying and Conflict Resolution

Bullying is any unwanted behavior that involves a power imbalance. Here at the Y, our goal is to stop bullying, and we encourage our participants, parents, and staff to be Upstanders. An Upstander is one who recognizes when something is wrong and acts to make it right. If there is disclosure, discovery, or suspicion of bullying we will handle each instance case by case and with care. At the Y we are building a caring, respectful, honest, and responsible community for all; the safety of our program participants is our main concern.

Conversely, we define conflict as a disagreement or argument in which both sides express their views and there is an equal power balance. We believe conflict with resolution is a natural and important part of Youth Development. Conflict can be constructive if managed in the right way. We will identify and resolve conflicts in a healthy and proactive fashion. The conflict resolution skills we learn and practice will make a positive impact on our Y programs and in every child's future.

## Homeschool Administration

The Homeschool Hub is not a school, and therefore you will remain the administrator of your child's homeschool. Our teachers will provide students with feedback about their progress in class, but will not provide students with graded assignments. We also do not provide attendance records, credits, or transcripts. All state required homeschool documentation should be maintained by each child's homeschool administrator. If you have any questions about what your child is learning, please reach out to the individual teacher for more information.

## Contact Information:

Address - Camp Kanata
13524 Camp Kanata Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Program Phone Number - (919) 556-2661

Homeschool Lead Teacher - Karmen Paterson Karmen.Paterson@ymcatriangle.org

## Financial Assistance:

Thanks to funds from our **YMCA Annual Campaign**, the YMCA of the Triangle provides financial assistance for children, teens, adults and families who cannot afford the full cost of YMCA programs. All are welcome to **apply for financial assistance**. *Please note that for our first year of Homeschool Hub at Camp Kanata, we will not be able to offer financial assistance.

# Schedule Planning Template

| | Fall Session 1 | Fall Session 2 |
|---|---|---|
| Tuesday<br>9:00-10:55 | | |
| Tuesday<br>12:00-1:55 | | |
| Wednesday<br>9:00-10:55 | | |
| Wednesday<br>12:00-1:55 | | |
| Thursday<br>9:00-10:55 | | |
| Thursday<br>12:00-1:55 | | |