2020 Camp Al-Gon-Quian
Program Guide
Camp Al-Gon-Quian’s Goal
The goal of Camp Al-Gon-Quian (the Ann Arbor Y’s sleepaway camp) is to operate a safe, fun and engaging resident camp program. Our transformative camp experience is based on the Y core values (also known as the four pillars) of respect, responsibility, honesty and caring. We promote character development, celebrate diversity, encourage service learning, and teach our teen participants leadership skills. Through the use of an outdoor camp setting and both individual and group activities, we work to nurture the spirit, educate the mind and promote a healthy lifestyle. Our programs and activities are sensitive and open to people of all faiths, backgrounds, and cultures. Camp Al-Gon-Quian gives children a magical experience that lasts a lifetime!

Camp Al-Gon-Quian Early Registration
Registration for Summer 2020 will begin on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 11AM.

Eligibility: Early registration is for returning campers, Ann Arbor YMCA members and alumni registered in our Alumni Database. It’s a special opportunity to reserve a spot before open registration begins on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 8AM.

We will be using the same registration system through CampMinder as we did in 2018 and 2019. As a reminder, CampMinder (CM) is a software company that specializes in camp registration and camper management. Registration, payment, forms, photos and emails will all be available using the CM platform. One profile, one login, one password!

Registration Instructions
Register online at: https://annarborymca.campintouch.com/ui/forms/application/camper/

To help registration go smoothly, we will be sending an information email outlining the registration process prior to December 8 so that our families feel prepared. Remember, if you’re a returning family, you already have an account on file that can be accessed by entering your email address and password during registration. All previously entered information will pre-populate
Who is eligible to attend Camp Al-Gon-Quian? During our regular summer camping season (Session 1–6), we serve all genders, ages 8–16. Mini Camp, offered during the first half of Session 6, is for campers ages 6–9. Family Camp is open to all ages. Many of our campers are from the Ann Arbor area, but we also have campers each summer from around the country and around the world. About 40 percent of our campers are members of the Ann Arbor YMCA.

Session Dates 2020

- **Session 1:** Saturday, June 20 – Saturday, June 27*
- **Session 2:** Saturday, June 27 – Saturday July 11*
- **Session 3:** Saturday, July 11 – Saturday July 25**
- **Session 4:** Sunday, July 26 – Sunday, August 9
- **Session 5:** Sunday, August 9 – Sunday, August 16
- **Session 6:** Sunday, August 16 – Sunday, August 23
- **Mini Camp:** Sunday, August 16 – Wednesday, August 19
- **Family Camp:** Tuesday, August 25 – Saturday, August 29

*Session 1&2 are nut-allergy friendly.

**There will be a “camper break” between 3 & 4 (7/25-7/26). Campers staying for both sessions must sign up for the stay-over program or be picked up by a parent or guardian for the night of July 25.

Session 2,3,4 are when we run our Leaders-In-Training Program.
Off-Season Camps!

- Winter Leadership Camp (14-16) .................. December 27-30, 2019

2020 Dates and Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>YMCA Member</th>
<th>Non-Member</th>
<th>Deposit</th>
<th>Length</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>$525</td>
<td>$615</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1 Week</td>
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<td>Session 6</td>
<td>$525</td>
<td>$615</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>1 Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Camp</td>
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<td>$360</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>4 Days, 3 Nights</td>
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<td>Family Camp*</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>$350</td>
<td>5 Days, 4 Nights</td>
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</table>

*Family Camp costs $165/family member (in addition to the $350 cabin reservation fee). Children who are 5 and under attend for free.

Which session(s) would be best for my child?

One Week vs. Two Weeks?

Has your camper been to a one-week session? Are they ready to go for two-weeks? We know an extra week can sometimes be intimidating, but at AGQ our two-week sessions allow our campers to experience camp on a whole new level! Special activities offered include, **Frodo (4 Day, 3 Night Hiking Trip)**, **Big Wild Overnight (Off-Camp Camping Trip)**, **Climbing Wall Concentration**, and the Leaders-In-Training Program. Additionally, during two-week sessions campers have the opportunity to enjoy more of our regular activity areas, compete against other camps during our Sports Day, and experience the magic of the All-Day Activity. Camp just got a whole lot more magical!
What is the Leaders-In-Training (LIT) program?

The LIT program is designed for our oldest campers who are entering the 10th or 11th grade. This two-week program, offered during Sessions 2, 3 and 4, allows campers to develop their leadership skills and build friendships within their peer group. Campers may only sign up for one session of the LIT program. LITs have the opportunity to work with younger campers with counselor supervision, plan an all-camp dance, participate in leadership workshops, shadow staff members, complete a service project directed at camp or the community, and go on a special off-camp trip with their LIT leaders. In the morning, LITs sign up for regular camp activities with the rest of the campers, but spend the afternoon and evening time with their LIT group. The LIT program is a great introduction to those interested in working at camp someday!

Am I Fit For Mini Camp?

Mini-Camp is a 4 day, 3 night program designed for our youngest AGQ campers (ages 6–9). These campers have the opportunity to experience all aspects of camp while under the supervision of our dedicated staff. Mini Camp gives younger campers a unique overnight camp experience in a setting where they can feel safe while away from their parents and family.
Cabin Life

Cabin groups are arranged by age, grade and cabin-mate requests. We do our best to ensure all cabin-mates are within one year or grade of each other. Campers are expected to maintain an acceptable level of manners, behavior and attitude in this cabin group to create a living environment that is positive for all parties involved. Basic requirements will include group responsibility for the cleanliness of the living area and respect for others’ personal items. Living in a cabin group is like creating a new family: they’ll live together, they’ll clean their cabin every day, they’ll eat together, go on a camp-out together, etc. As with any family, there may be conflicts, but our counselors will be there to help the campers work through any issues and learn lessons from them. Our cabin groups are designed to help build upon the important relationship and social skills campers will use for the rest of their lives. In addition to the portion of time each camper spends with their cabin group, there is also plenty of time where they’re able to socialize with other campers, such as a sibling, friend or cousin who is in another cabin.
What are Add-Ons (Additional Options)?

At the beginning of the session, campers choose their own daily activities. These include Swimming, Archery, Arts and Crafts, Canoeing, Drama, and more! We do offer four concentration classes which allow campers to experience a more advanced and thorough curriculum for the following activities: Sailing, Horseback Riding, Water-skiing, and Climbing Wall. These concentration classes are available at an additional cost and the camper must be registered before camp begins. Please note that you are NOT required to sign your child up for one of these concentrations. They are optional. All concentration activities are available for both one-week or two-week sessions, except Climbing Wall, which is only available the second week of a two-week session.

In addition to the add-on activities, we also offer two overnight camping trips during our two week sessions: Big Wild and Frodo Journey. The Big Wild overnight is designed for all ages as an introduction to hiking and front country camping. It focuses on Leave No Trace outdoor ethics and basic camp craft. Frodo Journey is a four day, three night program for campers 12–16 who are interested in a more challenging out of camp experience. Frodo campers explore places like Pictured Rocks, the Porcupine Mountains, Sleeping Bear Dunes and South Manitou Island. If your camper is looking for a true outdoor adventure, Frodo Journey is the best option for them!

You can register your camper for any of these add-ons the same way you would register for a regular AGQ session. They will be designated under their own category during online registration (e.g. Camp Al-Gon-Quian – Session 2 Additional Options). Scholarships are available for add-ons as well.

Add-On Activity Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Add-On Activity</th>
<th>1 Week</th>
<th>2 Weeks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climbing Concentration</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horseback Riding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sailing Concentration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water-skiing Concentration</td>
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<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frodo Journey (4 Day Hiking Adventure)</td>
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<td>$175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Wild Overnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stayover Camp (Between S3 and S4)</td>
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<td>$115</td>
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</table>
Transportation
Transportation is available to and from Camp Al-Gon-Quian by chartered coach for an additional fee of $75 each way. Drop-off and pick-up will be from a school in Ann Arbor. Each coach is complete with a restroom and air conditioning, and YMCA staff members accompany each bus. All drop-off and pick-up times and locations are provided in the Parent Handbook that you will receive shortly after registration. Pre-registration is required for bus transportation and all cancellation policies apply. Scholarships are available for the bus.

Camp Store
Al-Gon-Quian has an on-site store for campers which features camp apparel, water bottles, snacks, and souvenirs. Apparel usually includes a variation of sweatshirts, t-shirts, sweatpants, and other exciting gear. The Camp Store is open each day after dinner at our main recreation hall. Store accounts can be funded prior to camp through your online account. T-shirts can also be pre-ordered during registration so they’re available for pickup when your camper arrives.
**Camp Staff**

Staff members are, without question, the key to happy and healthy campers and a successful summer camp program. The counselors at AGQ are usually college-aged students from around the country and sometimes around the world. Many of our counselors were once campers at AGQ themselves, and all of them have gone through a rigorous application and interview process. To ensure camper safety, we have all staff applicants undergo a thorough background check, as well as multiple days (sometimes weeks) of comprehensive training prior to the start of camp. Al-Gon-Quian employs around 60 full summer staff, 24 junior staff and 45 teen volunteers (CITS) throughout the summer. This job is for dedicated individuals who have a sincere desire to work with children and have a positive impact on their lives. Our counselors are selected for their maturity, experience working with children, decision-making skills, and their ability to be strong role models. We’re incredibly grateful to have a deeply committed group of individuals who choose to spend three months in the middle of the woods changing lives. They truly embody the camp spirit. If you know of anyone that might be interested in a rewarding summer employment opportunity, please have them contact camping@annarborymca.org. We’re always looking for new talent, whether they’ve been to AGQ before or not.

**Health & Safety**

At Camp Al-Gon-Quian, your child’s safety is our top priority. Staff members are American Red Cross certified in CPR and First Aid, and all waterfront staff members are certified lifeguards. We have a certified Health Officer on site, and a Registered Nurse (on call and on site) who is available at various times throughout the day. All campers complete a health check at the beginning of each session, and are taught the best ways to keep themselves safe at camp, and stay healthy during their session. Health forms completed by parents allow our health staff to have a thorough understanding of each camper, including past injuries, daily medications and allergies.

On the waterfront, all boaters are required to wear life preservers regardless of swimming ability. Swimming buddies, buddy tags and buddy checks all provide additional measures of safety in the water. Swim checks are done at the start of each session to ensure your camper has the proper skill to swim in our roped-off swim area without a lifejacket.
Visitors are required to check in at the Camp Office and to wear visitors’ tags. All horseback riders wear helmets and appropriate clothing for riding. All campers who decide to climb the wall wear helmets and harnesses. Close-toed shoes are encouraged and required for certain activities, but all campers must have some type of footwear on whenever they are outside of their cabins.

Location and Facilities

One of the most magical parts of Camp Al-Gon-Quian is our stunning location. Our beautiful 150-acre camp sits on the southwest shore of Burt Lake, the second largest inland lake in Michigan. The main site offers a combination of lakeshore, rolling hills and fields, woods and a natural spring. Burt lake provides the ideal location for water activities during the day and it is a canvas for the moon, stars and northern lights at night. Other facilities include a basketball court, health center, a woodworking shop, playing fields for land sports and games, a barn and horse pasture, climbing wall and zip line and miles of walking trails. Our multipurpose building, Rowe Hall, houses the drama program, the camp store, indoor evening activities, and a variety of rainy day opportunities. Our rustic cabins typically sleep 9–12 campers and 2–3 counselors. Both sides of camp have access to modern bathroom facilities, complete with hot water and showers with private changing stalls. It is important to us to acknowledge that our camp is situated on Anishinaabek homelands and that those of us who are not indigenous to the region are guests there.
We are committed to developing relationships and collaborating with indigenous peoples in the surrounding areas in order to honor and respect their living legacies. We are grateful for the opportunities that this beautiful region offers our program participants.

On Google maps, search “Ann Arbor YMCA Camp Al-Gon-Quian”

**American Camp Association (ACA) Accreditation**

Camp Al-Gon-Quian is accredited by the American Camp Association, the only nationwide organization that accredits all types of organized camps. This voluntary accreditation assures families that Camp Al-Gon-Quian has made a commitment to be a safe, nurturing environment for your children and that our practices have been measured against national standards that go beyond state licensing requirements. For parents, the ACA accreditation sign symbolizes our accountability and ongoing commitment to the children we serve.

**FUN FACT:** Camp Al-Gon-Quian’s founder, Herb Twining, was the President of the American Camp Association during the 1930s!
Diversity and Inclusion Statement

YMCA Camp Al-Gon-Quian campers and staff come from every walk of life, working side by side to strengthen community. Together we strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of gender, gender expression, gender identity, income, faith, sexual orientation or cultural background has the opportunity to experience camp to its fullest.

Did you know...

that more than 170 kids came to Camp Al-Gon-Quian last year with the help of a scholarship?

Did you know that more than 180 kids came to Camp Al-Gon-Quian last year with the help of a scholarship? If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the camp scholarship program, call Melika Belhaj, Financial Assistance Coordinator at (734) 661-8007 or email mbelhaj@annarborymca.org.

The following PDF provides detailed instructions on how to apply for a scholarship at the time of registration: https://www.annarborymca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/AGQ.pdf

Contact Information

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