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Registration now open for 'Camp AYS'

Kids can enjoy summer activities where they're already comfortable; overnight camp offered for first time

(Indianapolis, Ind.) – [AYS, Inc. \(AYS\)](#), Central Indiana's premier provider of before- and after-school programs for kids, today announced that registration is now open for its "Camp AYS" summer programs.

AYS offers Camp AYS at eight different locations across the area, all of which are sites where the nonprofit already offers its school-year before- and after-school programs.

All of the AYS summer camps will be focused on increasing physical fitness; making new friends; diving into new experiences; and, having fun safely. Weekly themes (which vary by site) will include Citizen Science, CSI, Gaming, Got Talent?, Sportscenter and Superheroes. All of the camps will also feature a special environmental week, dubbed the "Great Outdoors."

Through the Great Outdoors, participants will be encouraged to develop a connection to nature. Children will hike, swim, navigate an obstacle course and enjoy other interactive environmental education activities during a day field trip to Jameson Camp. In addition, the Great Outdoors will utilize ethics activities from the Leave No Trace program developed by the United States Forest Service and experiences from the Open Air Laboratories program developed by the Natural History Museum of London.

"Studies show that frequent exposure to nature and natural, green spaces has positive effects on anxiety levels, attention span, stress and self-worth," said AYS President & CEO Chrystal Struben. "While this program can't completely fix a lack of outdoor time for children, our goal is to give them a boost to their emotional well-being."

For 2016, AYS will offer a new overnight camp. At the "AYS Overnight Adventure at Jameson Camp" in Indianapolis, campers entering 3rd through 7th grade will spend the day exploring 100 acres of beautiful meadows and forests. The group will stay in modern, well-maintained cabins and participate in a variety of outdoor activities including environmental education, archery, wall-climbing and swimming.

Other than the trip to Camp Jameson, AYS summer camps are open to kids entering grades K and up, with one early childhood camp in Noblesville for children ages 3 to 5. For a list of camp locations, and to register, please go to <https://www.ayskids.org/camp/>.

AYS offers a variety of services through its before- and after-school programs, early childhood classes and school break camps. Its programs complement school-day learning and primarily focus on math, literacy, health, and character development. The nonprofit's secondary priorities include science and art.

AYS' first program started in Indianapolis in 1980 with fewer than 10 children. Today, the organization serves over 2,500 children during the school year and 500 in the summer. AYS currently has 39 school-age and four early childhood locations in Central Indiana, including eight in Indianapolis Public Schools and multiple sites in Washington Township, Decatur Township, Speedway and Noblesville. For a complete list of AYS sites, please go to <https://www.ayskids.org/locations/>.

For more information on AYS and its education and enrichment programming, please visit www.ayskids.org.

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