

Power Scholars Academy

2022 Parent Handbook



Power Scholars Academy

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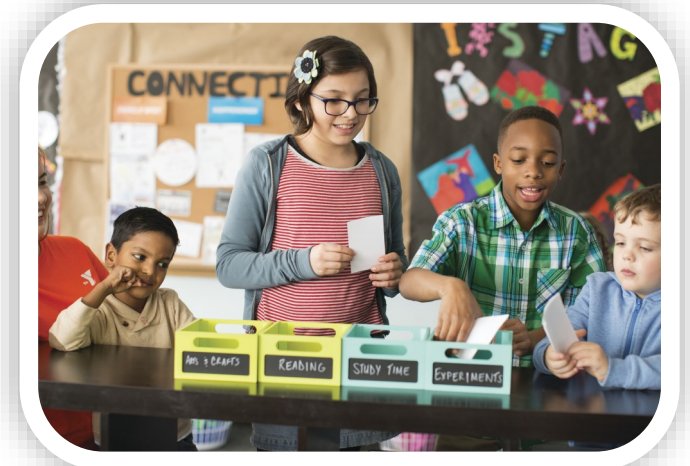
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Noble County Family YMCA

Power Scholars Academy 2022

For decades, The Noble County Family YMCA has been serving families through healthy living programs, youth sports, aquatics, after school, food insecurity prevention programs, summer camp, and we are delighted to provide a support program to prevent the summer learning slide and to prepare students for the start of the school year: Power Scholars Academy!

Power Scholars Academy strives to provide high-level enriching programming coupled with activities that work to engage students on learning concepts essential to their success in school while also encouraging youth to explore and develop to their greatest potential in *spirit, mind, and body*. With these priorities in mind, our camp incorporates healthy and safety conscious policies into our practices, procedures and activities to provide your children with the ideal summer experience. We are looking forward to another incredible summer with the youth of Noble County!

OUR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY:

Our programs will create a space where kids are accepted for who they are, supported and encouraged to explore the world around them.

Youth will be surrounded by positive role models dedicated to creating a safe and fun environment where kids can be free to discover new interests, safely venture outside their comfort zone with support and guidance, and forge lasting friendships.

We are creating pathways and scaffolding for youth to grow more resilient, confident and hope-driven skills that will help them take on the challenges of life beyond their summer experience.

Your Y Leadership Team

Shea Boschee

CEO

Noble County Family
YMCA

580.336.4411

shea.boschee

Brandi Kelly

Membership & Healthy
Living Director

Noble County Family YMCA

580.336.4411

brandi.kelly
@noblecoymca.org

Emily Androes

Director of Operations &
Youth Programs

Noble County Family YMCA

580.336.4411

emily.androes
@noblecoymca.org

Bri Sturgeon

Coordinator for ESSER Youth
Programs

Noble County Family YMCA

580.336.4411

bsturgeon
@noblecoymca.org

Caity King

Director of Strategic
Advancement

Noble County Family YMCA

580.336.4411

caity.king
@noblecoymca.org

Our Guiding Values

Caring

Caring: To show concern and compassion for others. Caring means looking for ways to help others, even when it isn't convenient for us.

We will help one another if we fall down, fall behind, or need a friend. We listen to the struggles of one another and work to help each other overcome those

Honesty

Honesty: To be truthful about our choices and actions, even when it means there may be consequences. Honesty means making the same good choices when no one else is around.

We will play by the rules, be truthful when asked questions, and we will not take things that do not belong to us.

Respect

Respect: To treat others the way they wish to be treated and understand each person is unique, bringing a different set of gifts, ideas, and boundaries to the table. We must listen to one another to see the needs of others.

We will listen to one another, treat equipment, people, and places kindly.

Responsibility

Responsibility: To take care of the world and community around us, to understand and work towards the expectations set for us, and to be good stewards of our belongings.

We will stay with our group, take care of our belongings, set a good example for others, and encourage our camp family to do the same.

The Character Creed:

I pledge my commitment to the Four Core Values of **Caring**, **Honesty**, **Respect**, and **Responsibility** and to reflect them in my thoughts, words, and actions to be

Our Staff

Staff Training: All Youth Development staff are required to complete many hours of training before the start of Power Scholars Academy. This training prepares them for activating emergency response protocols, handling behavior issues with a solid understanding of positive redirection techniques, group management, etc. All staff are certified in Basic Life Support, Basic First Aid, AED, Hazard Communication, Child Abuse Prevention, Trauma-Informed Practices and Character Development.

Staff Expectations: Our staff understand they play a vital role in creating both safe and exciting experiences for every child in our programs. As such, they are focused on being Positive Role Models while also preventing unnecessary risk. We encourage our staff to engage in all program activities, from group games to the talent show, to demonstrate the safe and appropriate way to be have fun while still holding up our core values.

Staff Fraternization: While our staff do a wonderful job of engaging with and protecting their scholars, their role is exclusive to The Y. **This means our staff may not babysit for Power Scholars Academy families or attend birthday parties., or any gatherings outside of The Y.** We love and appreciate our Y families, however, we maintain these boundaries to ensure a professional and safe summer experience for every student and staff.

Policies & Procedures

The Registration Process

HOW TO REGISTER:

Our Program Coordinator, Bri, will be assisting you in registering your child for the program. Please email her a copy of your completed registration packet or any questions you may have.

bsturgeon@noblecoymca.org

Registration packets may be picked up at the front desk of the YMCA, found on our website's program tab under Power Scholars Academy.

You may also call with any questions you may have Monday—Friday, 10:00am—4:00pm, at 580.336.4411

AFTER REGISTRATION:

Once enrolled, families are required to return a signed copy of the code of conduct. The code of conduct can be found on the last page of the Parent Handbook.

We can also provide you the individual form via email, printed copies available at the front desk of the YMCA, and on our website under the programs tab on the Power Scholars Academy page.

Please ensure that you have submitted the code of conduct within the first week of the program. Please return by email to bsturgeon@noblecoymca.org or in-person!

Changes & Communication

We are delighted that your student will be joining us for Power Scholars Academy. Over the course of Power Scholars Academy, June 20 — August 12, if there are any changes to your students needs—be it an authorized pick-up adjustment, medication, or an absence—please let our Power Scholars Academy Team know at your earliest convenience.

Emily Androes
Director of Operations & Youth Programs
emily.androes@noblecoymca.org
580.336.4411

Bri Sturgeon
Youth ESSER Program Coordinator
bsturgeon@noblecoymca.org
580.336.4411

Meals & Snacks at Power Scholars Academy

Through partnerships with fellow community-focused organizations, nutritious lunch and snack will be provided to all scholars at no cost (breakfast is not provided). Meal menus are set by our partners and are posted weekly in the check-in/check-out area. If your child has specific allergies or preferences, please contact our youth development leadership to discuss accommodations.

Designated meal times for meals are built into each group's daily schedule. Meals are never more than 4 hours apart, though meal times may vary from group to group based on their daily activities. Our dedicated meal times bring scholars and counselors together, where fun conversations are had and friendships grow. Meal-time talk is important for team-building and trust! Bare in mind, if your child has any food or severe allergies, our staff would love to know so we can ensure your child's safety during meals.

Lunch
11:00 -11:30

Snack
3:00-3:30

Health & Safety Measures

The Noble County Family YMCA has carefully considered how the coronavirus pandemic could affect the well-being of kids, families, staff and the community. Our desire, as always, is to positively impact youth and families in spirit, mind, and body. While the pandemic has impacted how people gather, we at The Y are committed to our community and ensuring that every child in our programs has an unforgettable summer.

Protecting your child's health and safety to the best of our abilities is always our priority. The measures outlined below are to that purpose exactly: prioritizing each kid's health and safety while providing memorable experiences, strong positive role models, and a foundation from which they can grow to their fullest potential. Should you have any questions or concerns about how we are incorporating COVID-conscious measures into Power Scholars Academy, please contact our Director of Operations & Youth Programs, Emily Androes

Health & Safety Measures Continued

Academy Groups & Interaction:

Following state and local health department guidelines, groups will maintain small group sizes identity. Groups will function independently, following their own schedule to maximize their experience and sense of group ownership. Groups will rotate through the same exciting program areas, joining other groups for activities periodically.

Social Distancing & PPE:

The combination of social distancing, thorough and regular handwashing, and the use of personal protective equipment like masks reduces the risk of infection with communicable diseases. Following the guidance of the Noble County Health Department, staff recommend and institute procedures to keep our scholars safe, which may include social distancing and masking, or other health protection precautions. Hand sanitizer and regular hand-washing breaks will be provided to create a healthy summer.

Cleaning Procedures:

All equipment, supplies, and surfaces utilized during program will be sanitized between uses, employing cleaning products rated to eliminate COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. Programming will limit the amount of hands-on and shared equipment. Thorough and rigorous cleaning procedures occur each day after Power Scholars Academy has closed for the day.

Our commitment is to protect the summer scholars community, and this requires communication, partnership, and patience. We appreciate our families understanding and cooperating in this keeping our Y community safe.

Fever, Isolation, Dismissal and Re-admittance:

If your student or someone in your household is running a fever of 100.4°F or higher, they will not be admitted to program. If your student begins to run a fever or vomit during program, they will be isolated from the group and you will be contacted to pick them up. If your child becomes ill, she/he will be isolated from other children and you will be contacted to pick her/him up. The YMCA is not equipped to handle ill children beyond securing their immediate comfort. If you are contacted, you need to make arrangements to pick up your child within one (1) hour. Please be sure to keep YMCA staff of informed of any changes in your work or emergency phone numbers. If you cannot be reached, we will contact someone you have authorized.

No Nit Policy (Lice):

The YMCA has a No Nit Policy as a health standard intended to keep children lice free, nit free and able to attend the YMCA program. Head lice are one of the most common communicable childhood diseases. Parents can help prevent the spread of lice by conducting routine screening, early detection and removal of lice and nits. Should your child contract lice or nits, please inform the YMCA. Parents may be asked to provide a doctor's note that their child is free of lice and nits before returning to the program. Should there be an outbreak of lice; parents will be notified in writing. The center will be properly treated. Our pri-



Allergies, Medications, and Special Accommodations

Allergies:

All allergies should be noted on your child's registration paperwork. Please feel free to also discuss any particular concerns regarding allergies with camp leadership to ensure your scholar's best experience. It should be noted that as a day camp, scholars do spend a good portion of their day enjoying the outdoors while participating in other activities. At camp, we have a strict no food sharing rule for the scholars so as not to expose anyone to their allergens unknowingly; we also extend this to ask meals or snacks not to be brought from home.

Medications:

All medications (over-the-counter, prescription, epi-pens, inhalers, cough drops, etc.) must be checked into the office with a completed medical release form. **NO MEDICATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED IN YOUR SCHOLAR'S LUNCHBOX OR BACKPACK.** All prescribed medications must be in the original container with label identifying the prescribing physician, medication name, dosage, and frequency of administration.

Special Accommodations:

Scholars with emotional or physical needs should be brought to the attention of the Camp Director prior to the start of camp. The more fully informed we are, the better we can work towards your scholar's success at camp.

Though we wish to accommodate the needs of every scholar, camp is not a one-on-one program, and scholars will spend their time in group settings indoors and outdoors.

Dropping Off & Picking Up Your Scholar

Safety of your child is our ultimate priority; therefore, scholars must be signed in and out every day, including your initials and the time of day.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up will occur in the lobby of the Upper Elementary, 1303 N 15th Street, Perry, Ok. Our staff will assist parents to check scholars in and out. Staff will walk scholars in and assist them in getting settled in the program area.

- Photo ID is required for any person picking up a scholar
- All those listed to pick up the child must be 18 years of age or older
- All guardians must meet staff to sign in/out before the scholar will be accepted/released—***this is a state law***
- No child in our care will be released to persons not listed on the authorized pick up list without parental authorization
- In case of an emergency or any changes, please contact the director to make arrangements for other individuals to pick up your scholar
- If a person picking up a child displays signs of being impaired or in some way unable to provide safe transportation for the child, the director will make arrangements for alternative transportation with another person listed on the child's approved list

Power Scholars Academy opens at 7:30 am and closes at 6:00 pm. All scholars must be picked up by 5:30 pm.

Because PSA utilizes the full property and field trips, if you are planning on picking up before 3:30 pm, please call the YMCA main desk phone at least 45 minutes ahead of the intended pick up time.

Noble County Family YMCA: 580.336.4411

Additional Notes for Drop Off

Self - Health Monitoring:

It is our highest priority to maintain a safe and healthy camp atmosphere. Please keep in mind that students who are sick, running a fever, or who have vomited in the last 24 hours are not ready to re-enter the camp environment. Please take into account your child's health before drop-off each day.

PLEASE ALLOW YOURSELF AMPLE TIME FOR DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

The Scholar Experience

Diversity & Inclusion at Power Scholars Academy:

We strive to create an atmosphere where every kid is accepted for who they are and is welcomed into a safe community that allows everyone self-expression. Our programs are about learning life skills, developing character, and building friendships. Few environments are as special as camp, where kids are taken into the fold of a community as they explore their independence while learning how to be a community contributor outside of camp. Our belief is that by creating an environment that protects and embraces diversity, we are building a generation to go out in the world and do good.

The Y is made up of people of all ages and from every walk of life, working side-by-side to strengthen communities. Together, we work to ensure that everyone, regardless of any factors, has the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity. Our core values are Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility—they guide everything we do.

Discipline & Positive Redirection

At The Y, we believe every child has the opportunity to grow to their fullest potential. We also understand that mistakes and accidents are a natural part of learning and growth, one must learn from past choices to better inform what a positive choice would be. Our role is to guide scholars towards making positive choices and help them understand how poor choices can affect their community and themselves. It all comes back to our Four Core Values and reflection.

The philosophy of our program is based on character development principles of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, and Caring. It is expected that our staff gives respect and courtesies to each participant, as we expect the same in return. Program rules are designed to enhance the happiness and safety of all kids. Children who do not demonstrate appropriate behavior in the judgment of the directors will be sent home.

Power Scholars Academy Culture & Activities

Power Scholars Academy involves hours of unique programming. From math, literacy, social-emotional learning to group games, performing arts, environmental education, arts & crafts and movement, nutrition, safety around water, target sports, character counts and other fun! Your scholar is guaranteed to come home excited and tired, but excited to tell you all about their day.

Because we are dedicated to creating a summer experience like no other, we encourage scholars to fully participate in all aspects of Power Scholars Academy. Students are given alternatives if they wish to not join in, however we hope that they find a way to still support their group.

Schedule

Every scholar’s group will have a set schedule for the week that ensures every kiddo has the opportunity to experience as much as possible. Though weather and other circumstances may cause us to move certain activities around, below is a good example of what an average week of camp might look like!

BASIC DAILY GROUP SCHEDULE	
7:30–8:00	Arrival & Free Choice Centers
8:00–8:30	Opening Ceremonies
8:30–9:20	Academic Rotation 1
9:30–10:20	Academic Rotation 2
10:30–11:20	Academic Rotation 3
11:30–12:00	Lunch
12:00–12:50	Specialty or Camp Rotation 1
1:00–1:50	Specialty or Camp Rotation 2
2:00–2:50	Specialty or Camp Rotation 3
3:00–3:30	Snack
3:30–4:00	Closing Ceremonies
4:00–4:15	Clean Up & Find Your Things
4:15–6:00	Dismissal & free choice centers

ROTATIONS	
Field Games	Math
Movement	Performing Arts
Arts & Crafts	Swimming
STEAM	Target Sports
Performing Arts	Team Building
Environmental Ed.	Literacy
Safety Around Water	Fine Arts
Character Counts	Nutrition
SEL	E-Sports

Challenge by Choice

Every student should have the opportunity to grow to their fullest potential, be accepted for who they are, and be supported in taking measured risks and step out of their comfort zone. The Y empowers kids to determine for themselves what they are comfortable trying. The Challenge by Choice philosophy guides us in evaluating three levels of comfort going into a task or activity: the comfort zone, the stretch zone, and the panic zone. Growth comes from individuals stepping into their stretch zones when they feel prepared to make that choice.

Power Scholars Academy staff scaffold youth to be brave and bold, stepping into their stretch zone when they are ready. Every kiddo’s comfort, stretch, and panic zones are different. The best summer experience comes from full participation in program activities, but we believe kids should be supported to decide how they wish to fully participate. Your child may take time to warm up to active games or the swim test, but they can support their team, help keep track of their group’s goals, or find another role to participate in.

Swimming & Safety Around Water

Students will have the opportunity to swim and participate in Safety Around Water on Fridays, weather permitting. Scholars must bring a swimsuit and towel and must pass the swim test to swim without a lifejacket. Swim tests are administered each time we visit the pool. Life jackets are readily available to any kiddo who would feel more comfortable wearing one. Lifeguards are present at all times during the swim rotation and may determine whether any given situation or behavior is safe for students.

Counselors may swim with students or will patrol the pool deck to better monitor safety in the water and engage with the kids.

SCHOLAR ESSENTIALS

What to bring to camp:

- Backpack
- Refillable water bottle
- Breakfast, lunch, and/or snack
- Closed-toe shoes
- Sunscreen
- Swimsuit
- Towel
- Old clothes they can get dirty in

What not to bring to camp:

- Cell phones
- Tablets or hand-held games
- Toys
- Trading cards (Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh, baseball, etc)
- Matches or lighters
- Fireworks
- Vaping devices, cigarettes, etc.

Questions, comments or concerns? Feel free to reach out to our team!

580.336.4411 | emily.androes@noblecoymca.org | 107 North 7th Street, Perry OK 73077

NOBLE COUNTY FAMILY YMCA CODE OF CONDUCT

Positive discipline and guidance are critical and necessary developmental aspects of a child's life and the application of both is an ongoing process. YMCA staff strives to create an environment for children and staff to have positive experiences from which they can grow to their fullest potential; because of that, our discipline philosophy at the YMCA employs positive reinforcement and social-emotional practices to help your child grow.

The Noble County Family YMCA has developed the following policy in regard to child behavior & discipline:

The YMCA may immediately suspend a child for engaging in any verbal, physical, or psychological bullying or confrontation during the program. Our goal is that each child has the opportunity to feel safe and grow in Spirit, Mind, and Body; establishing an environment of respect and tolerance is paramount to this purpose. We reserve the right to suspend or expel any child without prior notice to parents if the child is putting themselves or another child or staff in danger. The YMCA may also immediately suspend a child for bringing any type of weapon to the program (pocket knives, guns—toy or real, etc.). Prior notice to parents will not be required.

The Noble County Family YMCA may suspend (upon written notification) a child from the program when the child does not engage in one or more of the following by showing:

- Respect for authority, self, and others
- Fairness, by treating others with courtesy
- Responsibility, by following directions and being prepared for the program
- Caring, by keeping his or her hands, feet, and objects to themselves
- Citizenship, by avoiding disruptive behavior at the YMCA and contributing to the group
- Honesty, by telling the truth

At the time of the first offense (other than those listed in the handbook as requiring immediate suspension), there will be a written warning and notification will be made to the child's guardian. The second offense will result in suspension from at least one scheduled day of the program. The third offense will result in a conference with the director, the parents/guardians, and the child, evaluating the child's placement in our program.

Verbal or physical bullying is not allowed, nor tolerated; if a child bullies other children, he or she may be immediately removed from the program. Parents will be responsible for any and all financial damages. It is at the Youth Development Director and YMCA Leadership's discretion whether any type of behavior violates the program culture and will deal with said behavior as they best see fit.

By signing below, I agree that I have received a copy and/or have read The Noble County Family YMCA's Power Scholars Academy Handbook:

Guardian Name (Print and Sign): _____

Child Name: _____

Date: _____