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Great Escape Before & After School Care FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WELCOME! Our Great Escape program is back and better than ever! The Y's Youth Development Team is excited to kick off the 2015-2016 school year with a lot of energy focused on staff development, inclusion and child enrichment to give you even more to love!

Enjoy the convenience of child care right at your school. With an emphasis on safety, health, social growth and academic enhancement, the Y's Great Escape program serves kindergartners through middle schoolers with a variety of after-school activity options to explore and develop their interests and talents. Engage in special projects, arts & crafts, indoor and outdoor games, a healthy snack and an opportunity to complete homework.

QUESTION: How will my child get to and from the Great Escape program?

ANSWER: On the first day of school, we recommend that you give a note to the school teacher indicating the days/times that your child will be attending Great Escape. Your child will also receive a Y luggage tag to put on their backpack as an easy queue for staff to know that your child is a Great Escape participant. The tag will be marked with the days/times that your child is attending Great Escape.

QUESTION: What if my child is coming to Great Escape from an after school activity?

ANSWER: Please complete the ALTERNATE ARRIVAL / RELEASE AGREEMENT so that the Great Escape staff are aware of the transition.

QUESTION: What are the hours of the Great Escape program?

ANSWER: End-of-school until 6:00 pm. You may pick-up any time within those hours.

QUESTION: What if I cannot get to school by 6:00 pm to pick up my child?

ANSWER: We will assess a late pick-up fee of \$1 per minute after 6:00 pm. Please arrange to have your child picked up on time.

QUESTION: Do I need to bring anything when I pick up my child?

ANSWER: You are responsible for signing your child out of the Great Escape program each day of attendance. For your child's safety, please be sure that all individuals who are authorized to pick up your child bring a PHOTO ID to present upon pick-up.

QUESTION: What will my child eat for a snack?

ANSWER: Our programs offer a nutritious snack before after school each day. The Y follows the guidelines set forth by the State of Wisconsin for child care food programs. Examples of snacks include: fruit, crackers, pretzels, popcorn, cereal. If your child has any dietary restrictions, please be sure to indicate so on your child's registration form.

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QUESTION: How should I report that my child will not be attending Great Escape if he/she is ill or absent?

ANSWER: Please call the phone number assigned to your Great Escape site (available at www.watertownareaymca.org or on the business card given to you at the beginning of the school year). Someone will only answer that phone during program hours but you can leave a message to report your child's absence.

QUESTION: Do I have to pay for days that my child does not attend?

ANSWER: Yes. When you select your child's schedule, we establish your 2x/month draft, and assign staff based on enrollment for each day/time. If your child is ill or absent, your bank draft or credit card draft will NOT be adjusted.

QUESTION: How far in advance do I need to report a change to my child's schedule?

ANSWER: ALL schedule changes and terminations require 14 days WRITTEN notice through the Y's Child Care office.

QUESTION: What are my payment options for Great Escape?

ANSWER: The Watertown area YMCA requires all Great Escape families to pay via bank draft withdrawal or credit card withdrawal. Drafts occur on the 12th and 26 of each month, September through June. You will receive a list of payment dates upon enrolling in the Great Escape program. The draft takes into account school breaks and holidays, so your draft amount will stay consistent all year.

QUESTION: I'd like to enroll my child(ren) but cannot afford the program. Are there any financial assistance options?

ANSWER: The Y believes in providing membership and program services to all who desire to participate. For information about financial assistance, please contact Kay Nord, the Y's Executive Director at knord@watertownareaymca.org or (920) 262-8555, x112. You can also download an application for financial assistance at www.watertownareaymca.org.

QUESTION: Does the Y offer programming for days that schools are not in session?

ANSWER: Absolutely! The Watertown Area YMCA offers School's Out programming at the Y. Rates and information are available at www.watertownareaymca.org. Early Release program will take place at the same schools as the Great Escape program. School's Out programs take place at the Y. (Please note: School's Out and Early Release are non-licensed child care programs, so we cannot accept W-2 payments and are subject to minimum enrollment.)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Please contact Tom Sieger with any additional questions.

(920) 262-8555

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www.watertownareaymca.org