

YWCA Open Fields 2019

YWCA Open Fields, a summer day program for teenage/young adult males with special needs, will be in session for six weeks - June 17th through July 24th, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 10 AM to 2 PM each day. The program will be held at Bush School, 800 Nebobish Street, Essexville. The program fee for YWCA Open Fields 2019 is \$475. Theme this year is 'Michigan Outdoors!'

YWCA Open Fields is a summer day program for teenage/young adult guys - ages 12 to 20+ with special needs. Program emphasis is on Community Service/Volunteering in the Community, learning how to better advocate for themselves, social awareness skills in a variety of different situations, plus daily recreation/physical fitness - all this while building friendships! The special needs teenage/young adult guys enrolled in YWCA Open Fields learn differently than other students in traditional school settings, and they are in most cases, in some type of special education program.

The special needs teenage/young adult guys will receive a small stipend each week which they will use for purchasing their needs/wants during this program; this also gives them an opportunity to work with real money in making purchases and concepts of saving money for upcoming events. The special needs teenage/young adult guys will work alongside Male Mentors - ratio of 3 or 4 teenage/young adult guys per 1 Male Mentor - whose duties are to model the activities to be done, supervise the special needs teenage/young adult guys, give direction and guidance, as well as, being a friend throughout their day! The Male Mentors - ratio of 4 guys per 1 male Mentor - will work with the special needs teenage/young adult guys to help each of them grow to be responsible, caring young men. This program incorporates the use of Bay Metro Transportation, Bay County Library System, Bay City State Recreation Area, River Walk, & other local destinations to help foster a variety of activities for these special needs teenage/young adult guys. YWCA Open Fields is a program of the YWCA, Great Lakes Bay Region, Kimberly Houston, Interim Executive Director (989-894-9055; www.ywcaglb.org). This is the 8th year of YWCA Open Fields.

The program fee for YWCA Open Fields 2019 is \$475. Scholarships may be available through Disability Services Resource Center (DSRC), Bay City and possibly through other local civic groups. Respite moneys' may be used toward the fee - check with Bay Arenac Behavioral Health (BABH). Payment plans are also available. Payment must be made prior to June 19th unless a payment plan has been authorized and approved by Diane Rapson Gabil, YWCA Open Fields, Director. Each special needs young man will need to bring daily a sack lunch including beverage; refrigeration is available. Family's transport their son; Bay Metro Transportation is available on a limited basis, at family's own expense. If wanting to use Bay Metro, call them prior to May 15th (989-894-2900).

Enrollment will be based on each individual teenage/young adult guys needs and the ability of YWCA Open Fields staff to meet those needs. Each special needs young man MUST be able to respond positively to directions given to him by someone other than just a family member. Turning in of the application form does not insure the applicant enrollment in YWCA Open Fields 2019. Each applicant's family will be notified if accepted into YWCA Open Fields no later than June 3, 2019. YWCA Open Fields program enrollment space is limited to 16 for 2019; forms received after date and/or if enrollment is filled, will be placed on a waiting list. NOTE: This program is not equipped to include special needs young men with severe mental, emotional, or multiple impairments or those special needs males who have access to extended year programming in public/intermediate school district programs.

If you know of a special needs teenage/young adult male who would benefit from a 6 weeks summer day program, involving Community Service/Volunteering, learning advocating for himself, gaining social awareness, and recreation/physical fitness, contact Diane Rapson Gabil, YWCA Open Fields 2019, Director, (989-392-1080 - cell; drapsongabil@chartermi.net).

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Please fill out the pre-enrollment form below and mail to YWCA Open Fields 2019, c/o Diane Rapson Gabil, Director, 1031 North Jones Road, Essexville, MI 48732

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| special needs male's name | birth date | age |
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| mailing address | city/zip code |
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| parents/guardians name(s) | contact phone number(s) |
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| e-mail address |
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| male's height & weight | T-shirt size | school/program male attends & instructor's name |
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teenage/young adult guys male certification/disability/restrictions: _____