

YUNASA WEST 2026 PARENT PACKET

Dear Yunasa West Parents:

Thank you for enrolling your child in Yunasa West. This handbook is designed to acquaint you with the procedures and practical details of our program.

It is our goal for all Yunasa West campers to grow socially, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, and physically; to expand their comfort zones by taking appropriate risks; to build lasting relationships; and to celebrate their own uniqueness and the uniqueness of others.

As camp rapidly approaches, we hope that you and your camper are looking forward to Yunasa West as much as we are. The following important information should assist you and your camper in preparing for camp. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me at varceo@educationaladvancement.org or call at (626) 403-8900 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Vivian Arceo
Program Coordinator

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BEFORE CAMP STARTS

FORMS

The enrollment process consists of three steps, all of which need to be completed by the deadline provided in your child's acceptance email.

1. Yunasa West/Enrollment Form, including Medical and Travel
2. Camp Shady Brook Medical Form via CampIntouch
 - Please be aware of deadlines and instructions for required forms, as YMCA Camp Shady Brook requires your child's healthcare provider's signature on some of the forms and permission for the onsite nurse to administer over-the-counter and prescribed medications.
3. Enrollment Deposit (see below)

DEPOSIT & BALANCE

A non-refundable enrollment deposit of \$350 is required to hold your place at camp. This deposit will be credited towards camp tuition. Please follow the links provided in your child's acceptance email. **If you have been granted tuition assistance, please pay the deposit amount provided in your award letter.*

Your camper's remaining tuition balance, including any travel fees, will need to be paid prior to their arrival to camp. A Final Invoice for the remaining tuition will be emailed prior to the start of camp.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Yunasa program fees, including the \$50 application fee, \$350 enrollment deposit, and tuition are non-refundable and due by the deadlines noted on our website: <https://educationaladvancement.org/programs/yunasa/tuition-and-aid/#cancellation>.

Up to 3 weeks before camp, campers who are no longer able to attend camp due to injury, illness, or other unforeseen circumstances may be given a refund, less application fee and enrollment deposit on case-by-case basis. Within three weeks before camp, no refunds will be granted apart from rare exceptions. If you can no longer participate, please email yunasa@educationaladvancement.org so your spot may be ceded to another camper.

There are no prorations or refunds for campers choosing to arrive late, depart early, or those dismissed from camp early due to behavioral or other challenges related to adjusting to camp, including severe homesickness. Campers who are dismissed from camp early due to breaking the code of conduct are not eligible for partial or full refunds.

HOUSING AND ACCOMODATIONS:

Yunasa West campers reside in bunk-style cabins with other campers and camp counselors. Campers who identify as male or female will reside in separate wings and have the use of a restroom shared with their cabinmates.

We will make every effort to provide gender-inclusive housing for campers who request this option, but since space is limited, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet every

request. Since bathroom space is limited, IEA Staff will assign shower & bathroom slots for campers in the gender-inclusive cabin.

Each wing will have 1-2 counselors residing with campers. Staff are assigned to housing units with consideration given to gender identity and expression.

MONEY FOR CAMP

If your child is interested in purchasing merchandise from the YMCA Camp Shady Brook store or would like to buy a Yunasa sweatshirt, campers will be able to check out their money from the Yunasa staff during Siesta Break times. We recommend sending \$45-60 with your child in cash.

If you add money to the Camp Shady Brook portal, please note that your child will only be able to purchase Camp Shady Brook items only and not Yunasa merchandise.

HOMESICKNESS POLICY:

Part of the resident camp experience is adjusting to new situations and people. Some campers make the transition quickly, others more slowly. We know that even veteran campers get homesick. IEA staff, Fellows, and Yunasa counselors are always available throughout the week to provide a listening ear, comfort, and the knowledge that each camper is safe and cared for.

Prior to Camp:

- Avoid offering a pick-up clause. Telling your child, “I’ll come pick you up if you don’t like it” creates undue stress on campers and staff. It is better to assume a camper will make it through the brief adjustment period.
- Watch the recording from our presentation on Preparing Your Gifted or 2e Child for Summer Camp: Independence, Flexibility, and Social-Emotional Growth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8Qp7pi11I>
- If possible, attend Yunasa Parent Q&A session (held on Zoom about 2 weeks before camp) with your child so they can meet the Yunasa staff and ask any questions prior to their arrival to camp.

During Camp:

If your child expresses homesickness via correspondence with you, they will probably make the adjustment by the time you reply. By working together with you, we are confident your child will adjust and have a wonderful week.

However, if homesickness stays extreme as the week progresses, we will call parents to discuss the situation. We will work with the camper and parents and will do everything possible for them to make it to the end of the week with a positive experience. In some special cases, it may be the best choice for everyone for the camper to leave early.

Yunasa West: What to Pack List

CLOTHING/EQUIPMENT TO BRING TO CAMP

Please pack enough clothing for one week. Please clearly mark your child's name on all items.

CLOTHING

T-shirts
Shorts
Underwear
Pajamas
Long pants
Socks
Rain gear
***Sneakers**
1-2 swimsuits
Jacket or sweatshirt

BEDDING

***Sleeping bag**
***Pillow**
Sheets & blankets (if preferred to sleeping bag)

TOILETRIES

Towels/washcloths
Beach towel
Toothbrush/toothpaste
Brush/comb
Shampoo and soap

ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT

Yoga mat (if you own one)
Calamine lotion
***Bug spray**
Special dietary foods/snacks
***Medications**
Sunscreen
Sunglasses
***Refillable water bottle**
Lip balm
Nasal spray

OPTIONAL

Musical instruments
Deck of cards
Flashlight
Camera
Stationary
Journal
Hat/visor
Writing utensils
Board/card games

DO NOT BRING

Pocketknives
Expensive items
Laptop computer
Cell phone
Video games
Soda
Candy
Pets

***Mandatory item**

OPENING DAY DETAILS

Directions to Camp:

Camp Shady Brook
8716 South Y Camp Road
Sedalia, CO 80135.

YMCA Camp Shady Brook is in the Mountain Time zone.

CHECK IN DATES:

- Graduating Leadership 2 Campers: Friday, June 5, 2026 (*one day earlier*)
- Leadership 1 Campers & Non-Leadership Campers: Saturday, June 6, 2026

SATURDAY CHECK IN: June 6, 2026

Drive up the dirt road to Camp Shady Brook's parking lot. **Registration will take place at the Pavilion or Dining Hall depending on weather conditions, and signage will direct you.** Please park in the designated area and Shady Brook staff will direct campers and families to the correct check-in tables.

Opening Day Parent Event:

- Saturday, June 6th starting at 4:00pm.

ARRIVING TO CAMP:

Arrival for **DRIVING** Campers:

Arrival Times to Camp Shady Brook on Saturday, June 6, 2026: 3:30pm-5:00pm.

Arrival for **FLYING** Campers:

Arrival Times to DEN on Saturday, June 6, 2026: 9:00am-1:00pm.

***Please note that if your camper has a flight scheduled before or after this time, we cannot guarantee transport or supervision for them. Campers who need an IEA shuttle must fly out within the time window specified.**

GRADUATING LEADERSHIP 2 CAMPERS:

Arrival Time on Friday, June 5, 2026:

FLYING to Yunasa West: 9:00am-1:00pm. (IEA will provide \$50/one way shuttle from DEN)

DRIVING to Yunasa West: 3:30pm-5:00pm.

Graduating Leadership 1 and Leadership 1 campers will arrive with all other campers on Saturday, June 6, 2026.

FLYING CAMPERS & IEA SHUTTLE DETAILS:

If your camper is flying to camp and needs a ride from the airport, your camper must fly into DEN (Denver International Airport). You will be charged an additional fee of \$50/one way for IEA transportation.

*Usually, children who are 14 and under may fly as unaccompanied minors. If flying under “**Unaccompanied Minor**” status as designated by the airline, please include an additional fee of \$35/for each time used. We cannot treat any child as an unaccompanied minor (e.g. provide an IEA chaperone to meet them at their gate) if he or she is not deemed one by the airline. Please check with the airline for more information regarding their policies and fees.

Colorado Springs Airport, Colorado Springs, CO (COS)

(Approximately 55 miles from Camp Shady Brook)

Please note that IEA airport pickup is not available from COS.

This airport may be an option for parents who are flying to Yunasa West with their child.

Denver International Airport, Denver, CO (DEN) – *Airport Campers Will Need to Fly into for Shuttle*

(Approximately 60 miles from Camp Shady Brook)

Yunasa West provides a shuttle service from Denver Airport to Camp Shady Brook. Counselors and staff will be present at DEN to meet campers flying in from 9:00am-1:00pm on Saturday, June 6, 2026. The staff will escort campers in a bus that will transport campers to Shady Brook to check in. (There will only be one trip made from DEN to camp).

If your camper does not fly into or out of Denver (DEN) within the specified time slot, IEA will not be able to provide transportation to or from the airport. If you are flying with your camper and/or are arranging travel from the airport to camp yourself, Colorado Springs Airport (COS) is a nearby option.

*If your child will need the shuttle or unaccompanied minor pick-up service, please indicate this in the Yunasa enrollment form.

Please send flight information as soon as it is confirmed if you have not already done so. If your camper is traveling as an unaccompanied minor to DEN, we will provide all necessary information very soon regarding the individual who will pick him or her up from the airport.

Overview of additional fees:

- IEA Shuttle: \$50/one way or \$100 (roundtrip)
- Unaccompanied Minor: \$35/one way or \$70 (roundtrip)

CLOSING DAY DETAILS

SATURDAY CLOSING PROGRAM AND CHECKOUT: June 13, 2026:

Yunasa West will culminate in a celebration, during which all campers will receive a certificate of participation, and staff will present the Yunasa West 2026 slideshow. This is an exciting and emotional time for campers and staff and, if you are in the area, we invite you to share this experience with your child.

Check-out will follow the Closing Celebration. If you are picking your child up and cannot attend the closing ceremony, **please plan to arrive no later than 11:00am.**

Closing Celebration Details on Saturday, June 13th

- Meet the Fellows (just families; campers will be packing up): Starting at 9:00am
- Closing Celebration (campers and families): Starting at 9:45am

If your child is flying home, they will have the opportunity to ride on a chartered bus to the airport, leaving camp by **11:15 a.m.** We ask that campers' flights depart from DEN (Denver International Airport) between **4:00pm and 6:30pm**. Please also pay for any checked baggage ahead of time.

DEPARTURE FROM CAMP:

Departure for **DRIVING** Campers:

Departure Times from Camp Shady Brook on Saturday, June 13, 2026: 11:00am.

Departure for **FLYING** Campers:

Departure Times from DEN on Saturday, June 13, 2026: 4:00pm-6:30pm.

***Please note that if your camper has a flight scheduled before or after this time, we cannot guarantee transport or supervision for them. Campers who need an IEA shuttle must fly out within the time window specified.**

A TYPICAL DAY AT YUNASA WEST:

Time	Activity
8:00-8:10 a.m.	Call in the Directions
8:15-8:45 a.m.	Breakfast/Schedule/Word of the Day
8:45-9:30 a.m.	Yoga
9:45-10:45 a.m.	Psychosynthesis: (guided visualizations; mindfulness)
11:00-12:15 p.m.	SESSION I: Camper Options (e.g., low ropes, horseback riding, archery, etc.)
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:45-2:15 p.m.	Elder Chat
2:15-3:00 p.m.	Siesta (rest, shower, quiet time)
3:00-4:30 p.m.	Fellows' Workshops (e.g., Labyrinth, Calming Stations, etc.)
4:45-5:45 p.m.	SESSION II: Camper Options (e.g., kayaking, fishing, arts and crafts, etc.)
6:00-6:45 p.m.	Dinner
6:45-7:15 p.m.	Prep for evening activity
7:30-9:00 p.m.	Evening activity (e.g., campfire, movie night, variety show, etc.)
9:15-9:30 p.m.	Prepare for bed
9:30 p.m.	Lights out

Note: Campers are encouraged to try new activities that will challenge them to expand their comfort zones. However, neither IEA nor the camp staff will ever force a camper to participate in an activity in which they do not feel comfortable.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

PHONE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY:

Contacting home: Use of the camp telephone is not permitted except in case of an emergency. We encourage campers not to call home due to homesickness because it often causes undue stress on both the camper and the parent. Contacting family and friends during the week distracts from the opportunity to integrate into the unique community of peers at Yunasa West.

There is no cell reception at Camp Shady Brook, and cell phone and/or Smartwatch use are not permitted for campers during the week of camp. We respect the relationship that our campers have with their families. However, Yunasa is a community that helps campers develop life skills which include independence and self-reliance.

Some campers use music to fall asleep at night. If this is critical for your child, please find another way for them to access music quietly on a device that does not also make calls. IEA will not be responsible for damage or loss of electronic devices.

If there is an emergency or a concern regarding a child's well-being, we will contact their family immediately.

We understand that many campers will use cell phones to check in with their parents when flights arrive safely. **If a camper brings a cell phone or Smartwatch to camp, it will be collected during check-in and held by IEA staff until camp check-out.** IEA will not be responsible for any damages to or loss of the cell phone, although every effort will be made to protect and keep all personal items safe, and devices will be charged before being returned (please provide a charger at check-in). In the event of an emergency, campers will be allowed to use an IEA staff member's cell phone or the camp phone.

To contact camp: In the event of an emergency, please reach out to the following numbers below. There is no cell reception at camp, but e-mail will be checked daily. We will check voice messages hourly and will respond as soon as possible. Messages left after 8pm MT will be checked the following morning. Please make sure that you mention you are calling regarding Yunasa West if you contact the camp office number, and they will inform the appropriate staff member.

Camp Shady Brook Camp Office Number: (303) 647-2313

Vivian Arceo's Google Voice Number (also available for texting): (626) 344-9323

FOOD:

Please do not pack candy, cookies, sodas, or any food items that may contain peanuts or tree nuts!

Well-balanced meals are provided three times a day. Extra candy and drinks might sound like fun; however, unmonitored food may cause problems in the cabins with wildlife, as well as with other campers' allergies. **All campers should bring a refillable bottle** to fill with water, which is always available at stations throughout camp. If your child has a special medical concern that requires the consumption of food at a time other than mealtime, please let us know and we will come up with a successful plan together. If your child has specific dietary needs, please inform us in advance on the Enrollment Form, and we will work with the camp kitchen to accommodate them.

****If your camper has a restricted diet and can only eat particular foods, you may send food items with your camper, as long as they are clearly marked with your child's name.**

****Do not send any food items that may contain peanuts or tree nuts of any kind!**

MAIL:

Campers look forward to letters from family and friends. Mail can be sent to your child addressed to:

Child's Name/Camp Yunasa West
YMCA Camp Shady Brook
8716 South Y Camp Road
Sedalia, CO 80135

NOTE: Please do not send food in the mail. Please note that you should try to mail letters to your child by Tuesday, or they may not arrive in time.

VISITORS:

Parents are free to tour Camp Shady Brook from 3:30pm to 5:00pm on opening day. Otherwise, we do not schedule any visits during the week of Yunasa West. If an emergency arises and a parent must travel to Camp Shady Brook during the week, we will make arrangements.

MEDICATION:

Please submit IEA's and Camp Shady Brook's medical forms provided in your enrollment email. If you send medication of any kind, it must be sent in its original packaging, clearly marked with your child's name. Please be sure to include the camper's full name, exact description of contents, and complete instructions for dosage. Please also place all medications in a large plastic Zip-loc bag.

All medications (prescription and OTC) will be kept and handled by the Shady Brook Health Center staff for the duration of camp. Unidentified medication will not be dispensed. Please have all medications in a separate bag, available to deliver during check-in. No medications will be permitted in the cabins.

EXCEPTIONS: Campers may keep topical creams, ointments, lotions, and shampoos in their

toiletry bag.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT:

Please use the “What to Bring” list as a guide for packing your camper's clothing. Please have your child check for any missing clothes prior to leaving Yunasa West. **We are not responsible for any belongings left behind and are unable to send items back to a camper once they have left camp.**

SNEAKERS:

Some activities require closed-toe sneakers, and we recommend comfortable sneakers as campers’ main footwear for the week.

CAMP STORE:

Campers may want to bring spending money to purchase souvenir items or snack items at the Camp Store, although Camp Store hours will vary and we cannot guarantee camper access. Cash will be checked in with IEA staff at the start of week for safekeeping and can be checked out for use when the store is open.

CAMPER ELIGIBILITY

To ensure your camper is set up for success at camp, they must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Meet the program age range (10-15) at the time of camp, unless identified as a Leadership Camper (15-16)
- Be comfortable being away from and out of contact with family members for the duration of the program
- Be able to share a communal living space with other campers (cabins can range from 8-14 campers per space)
- Follow the directions from adults other than parents or familiar caregivers
- Be without access to cell phones, e-watches, or devices that can connect to the internet and/or have voice and text capabilities
- Operate independently, but with supervision, when it comes to self-care such as hygiene, meal selection, emotional regulation, sleeping through the night, notifying an adult if feeling unwell, etc.
- Approach tools and workshop activities provided by Yunasa staff with an open mind and “challenge by choice” attitude, either trying new things or questions/discussing them in a respectful manner
- If experiencing anxiety, they should understand that they should let an adult know (can set up code words or signals ahead of time if this is anticipated), but their reaction must not be to run, hide, or do anything to put themselves or others in danger.

Health Eligibility:

If your child is ill with a contagious or communicable illness in the days before camp, please keep them home from camp and notify the staff immediately.

Students should not attend Yunasa if:

- They have a fever of 100.4°F or higher or have had a fever within the 24 hours before traveling to camp
- They have vomited or had diarrhea within the previous 24 hours
- They have a sore throat or upset stomach beyond what is normal for their constitution
- They are coughing excessively, or their chest and nose are severely congested
- There are any signs of contagious infection such as pink eye, etc.

DISMISSAL POLICY:

The reasons for a camper's dismissal from Yunasa West generally fall into three categories: serious behavior issues; chronic physical, mental, social, or emotional un-preparedness for camp; or injury/illness occurring while at camp. All Yunasa West staff members are trained in the field of giftedness and have a firm understanding of the characteristics and needs of the population. The expectations for camper behavior stem from the idea that each camper's actions, statements, and attitudes should demonstrate respect for self, others, and our world.

If a camper's actions, statements, or attitudes negatively impact the community, or if a camper is physically, mentally, socially, or emotionally unprepared for the camp activities, Yunasa West staff will intervene. The Program Coordinator will meet with the camper to discuss the issue(s), outline appropriate behaviors, and set goals.

If an issue continues to have an impact on the camper or camp community, parents/guardians will be contacted. Yunasa West staff will inform parents/guardians of the situation and ask them for suggestions to improve the behavior or address the issue. If the issue or inappropriate behavior continues, the camper will be dismissed. Parents/guardians will be contacted to make travel arrangements for their child's immediate departure from Yunasa West. No refund will be issued, and parents/guardians will be responsible for all travel costs. This includes the travel costs of removing a camper from Camp Shady Brook. If a camper is dismissed, he or she may be ineligible to return the following year.

The possession and/or use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or dangerous weapons are grounds for immediate dismissal. Additionally, a camper who behaves in such a manner that jeopardizes his/her safety or the safety of others will be dismissed from camp.

MEDICAL VOLUNTARY OR INVOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL FROM CAMP:

If it is necessary for a camper to withdraw from camp due to injury or illness, parents will be contacted by the Program Coordinator or other IEA staff member. Parents/guardians will be responsible for all travel costs, including the travel costs of removing a camper from Camp Shady Brook. No refund will be granted in case of voluntary withdrawal from camp. Refer to Cancellation & Refunds on page 3 for further details on our policy.

Yunasa Fellows & Facilitators

Yunasa faculty includes the President and Co-Founder of the *Institute for Educational Advancement* and several Yunasa Fellows, all of whom are nationally known experts in the field of gifted education. Yunasa West 2026 Fellow bios will be made available soon! For a look at our Yunasa 2025 and former Fellows over the years, visit <https://educationaladvancement.org/programs/yunasa/about-yunasa/yunasa-fellows/>

Yunasa Staff

Nicole Fugette



Nicole started teaching for IEA's Academy program in 2016 and joined the staff full-time in fall 2017. Since then, and now as a Senior Program Manager, she's enjoyed getting to know IEA's amazing students and watching them grow toward their full potential. Nicole has a bachelor's degree in Biology and completed her master's degree in Science Writing from Johns Hopkins University. When not working, Nicole enjoys learning new things through books and podcasts, experiencing live music, and spending time outdoors.

Vivian Arceo



Vivian Arceo graduated from Santa Clara University with a B.A. in Communication. She has previous experience with nonprofit organizations, working as both a summer camp counselor and program director before joining IEA. She is passionate about fostering community and seeks to create positive social change. Outside of work, Vivian enjoys catching up on her latest novel, discovering new food spots with friends, and stress watching her favorite sport teams.

LOCAL HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Although parents are not involved in the week's activities, some of our parents choose to stay in the area. Here is a list of hotel accommodations in the Sedalia area that may interest you:

Hotels Near Camp Shady Brook:

Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Woodland Park

722 Country Dr
Woodland Park, CO 80863
www.wyndhamhotels.com

The Bristlecone Lodge

510 North Highway 67
Woodland Park, Colorado
80863
<https://www.bristleconelodge.co>

Triple B Ranch

27640 North Highway 67
Woodland Park, Colorado 80863
<https://www.triplebranch.com/>

Drury Inn & Suites Colorado Springs

8155 N Academy Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO
80903
<https://www.druryhotels.com>

For information about local attractions or events please visit:

<http://www.colorado.com/denver-area>

YUNASA WEST CONTACT LIST

Camp Shady Brook Office (Emergency only)	(303) 647-2313
Yunasa Staff: Vivian Arceo and Nicole Fugette	yunasa@educationaladvancement.org varceo@educationaladvancement.org nfugette@educationaladvancement.org Google Voice Number (also available for texting): (626) 344-9323
Institute for Educational Advancement Office	(626) 403-8900

CAMP MAP/DIRECTIONS

