

For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Lisa Desatnik, 513-984-5474

All New YMCA Summer Overnight Camping Adventures Combine Learning and Growing With The Outdoors

Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky's most popular overnight summer camp, YMCA Camp Ernst, is adding two outdoor adventure programs this year – one just for teens and one for teens and parents – where they'll be canoeing, bicycling and camping along one of the most scenic bike trails in the country.

"Camp Ernst has a long tradition of teens coming back year after year because they have such a great time. We wanted to give the older teens who are looking for something different, a new opportunity. These are going to be challenging overnight trips that will be packed with fun team and character building activities," said Bill Easley, YMCA Camp Ernst program coordinator overseeing the adventure trips who, in 2008, completed a solo cross country bicycling trip across the southern United States.

Distinctly different, both programs will have participants exploring the beautiful Little Miami River and surrounding trails, cooking over a fire and pitching tents for sleep. The three day parent-teen trips will offer families unique close-to-home vacation type experiences. Participants will camp at public or state parks or YMCA's along the route. The five day teen trips will include swimming breaks at the Beach water park or YMCA's, as well as hikes through Ohio's great natural wonders in parks such as Caesar Creek or John Bryan.

YMCA Camp Ernst will supply bicycles and equipment, and will offer training prior to departure. A support vehicle will follow the groups with supplies and cell phones.

In addition to Easley, other YMCA Camp Ernst adventure trips staff include Lyndsey Reese, former YMCA Camp Ernst counselor and Bowling Green University senior, and Frank Henson, bicycling enthusiast and past YMCA Camp Ernst director.

Like all YMCA summer camps, instilling positive character values through fun activities for every interest is why kids want to come back to Camp Ernst. Named best summer camp by Cincinnati Magazine, Cincinnati Family Magazine, and the U.S. Local Business Association, it is also accredited by the American Camp Association (as are other local YMCA day camps)

YMCA's Camp Ernst is located at 7615 Camp Ernst Road in Burlington, Kentucky (41005). For more information or to register, the public is invited to call YMCA Camp Ernst at 859-586-6181 or visit www.myycamp.org.

As the area's largest youth and family-focused not-for-profit, the YMCA reinforces character values through assets-based programs and services to more than 143,000 individuals, kids and families annually. Adult mentors encourage young people to be caring, responsible, respectful, and honest through sports, summer camps, structured child and afterschool care, and

leadership building programs. Branches offer quality time for families, resources for parents, and a variety of opportunities for seniors to be active. The Membership for All sliding scale fee structure means everyone, no matter their ability to pay, can always benefit from the YMCA. Last year alone more than 17,400 families and individuals enjoyed healthier and happier lives because generous partners helped the YMCA in its vision to be accessible to all.