

Camp Recovery FAQ's

We know families and staff are eager for information, and we completely understand the need for clarity. On June 18th Camp experienced significant storm damage from a weather event, that the National Weather Service has declared to be a [microburst](#). Our leadership and facilities teams are working steadily through cleanup, safety assessments, utilities, road access, cabin areas, program spaces, and operational planning. We've compiled the answers to some common questions. If you have any other questions, please email them to campingservices@ymcaboston.org.

Is everyone safe?

Yes. Everyone who was on site during the storm is safe and accounted for. That continues to be the most important piece of information, and we are incredibly grateful.

What happened at the camp?

Camp had a severe storm categorized as a *Micro-burst* that caused significant tree damage and damage to some areas of camp. Our leadership and facilities teams have been assessing the property, coordinating cleanup, and working through power, plumbing, road access, cabin areas, and program spaces.

How bad is the damage?

The damage is significant, especially with trees and some areas of camp infrastructure. We are still working through full assessments, and we want to avoid sharing partial or unclear information before we know more.

How will this affect later sessions?

At this time, we are focused on the next most immediate decisions. We are not going to speculate beyond what we know, but families will be updated directly if anything changes for their camper's session. An email will be going out on July 1st to provide clarity about opening up camp. We appreciate your patience at this time since the recovery process changes by the hour. We have been fortunate to have the support of the local community and amazing contractors who have come into our camp moving at rapid speed to do significant work at a super-fast pace.

Will camp be canceled for the summer?

We are not making broad statements like that at this time. Leadership is actively working through recovery plans and assessing what is possible. Families will receive confirmed updates directly from the camp. The next update will be July 1st.

My camper is a Session 1 camper. What are the odds of my camper getting in a later session?

Prior to the storm, Pleasant Valley camp was completely FULL. We encourage families of PVC campers who can be flexible to add themselves to waitlists for Sessions 2, 3, and 4. Spots are not guaranteed for waitlist campers and still based on our ability to operate future sessions and cancelations of other campers.

North Woods had openings in Sessions 2 and 4 prior to the storm. We are doing our best to push as many Session 1 displaced boys into those spots.

Please be sure to complete the [GOOGLE FORM](#) so we know your preference.

Why can't you give a final answer right now for later Sessions?

There are several pieces that need to be fully assessed before we can responsibly confirm the plan, including safety, road access, utilities, cabin spaces, program areas, staffing logistics, and cleanup progress.

Are cabins damaged?

Some cabins and areas of camp were impacted by the storm. Camp leadership and facilities teams are assessing which areas are safe, which need repair, and what adjustments may be needed.

Is the waterfront damaged?

Some waterfront areas were impacted by the storm. We are still assessing what that means operationally and will include confirmed updates in future communications when appropriate.

Is there power, water, and Wi-Fi at camp?

Yes. Power, water, and Wi-Fi have been restored at camp. We are grateful for the progress this represents, and leadership is continuing to assess other operational needs, safety considerations, cleanup progress, and program areas before confirming next steps for opening.

Are staff still being trained?

Yes. All Staff are currently on site and continuing training so that everyone can be prepared for the return of campers. Staff training has been adjusted due to the storm's impact, but continues.

Are the roads safe?

Road access is part of the ongoing assessment and recovery work. There may be limited access due to cleanup, logging crews, equipment, and safety concerns. Families should not attempt to come to camp unless directed.

Will campers be safe if camp opens?

Yes. Camper safety is the central factor in every decision being made. Camp will only open if leadership is confident that we can operate safely and appropriately.

Who is making the decision about opening?

Camp leadership, YMCA leadership, facilities teams, and appropriate outside partners are all involved in assessing the property and making decisions about the next steps.

Are you working with outside professionals?

Yes. Camp is working with appropriate support teams for assessment, cleanup, utilities, tree work, and safety needs.

Can parents, alumni, staff, or families volunteer to help clean up?

We are grateful for the offers of help. We are organizing volunteer camp recovery days that will take place on July 9 and 10. You can learn more about those here:

<https://ymcaboston.volunteermatters.org/project-catalog/403>

Can staff or camp families who are nearby help during the day if they have their own housing?

We are not yet at a place where we can bring additional helpers onto camp informally, but we will absolutely keep your offer in mind if there is a safe and organized way for people to help.

Can parents donate or support camp?

Yes, all donations help us tremendously. [Click here to donate.](#)

Will families receive a refund if their campers' session is delayed or changed?

We know financial questions are important. Refunds will be offered to campers whose sessions have been impacted along with additional options to roll funds to the 2027 season, to donate, etc. Those options will be shared with families who are impacted.

Should families call or email questions?

The best way to send questions right now is by email to Camping Services: campingservices@ymcaboston.org . We are gathering common questions and will address as many as we can here in this spot.

Why haven't we received more photos or videos?

We understand that families may want to see more. Right now, the focus is on safety, cleanup, and assessment. Photos and videos will be shared soon so families can understand the impact of the storm on camp.

My camper is anxious. What should I tell them?

You can let your camper know that everyone is safe, grown-ups are working hard to get camp ready, and camp will only open when it is safe. We will share more information with families as soon as we know the plan.

My camper has never been to camp before. Should I be worried?

We know this is especially hard for new families who are still learning what to expect. We are very careful and will communicate clearly about any changes to arrival, programming, or preparation.

Will the camp experience still feel like camp?

That is one of the things leadership is considering. The goal is not just to open, but to make sure campers can have a safe, supported, meaningful camp experience. Some adjustments may be necessary, and those will be communicated once confirmed.

If families aren't able to wait until the camp makes a decision on opening a session, what should they do?

Families should make their own decision regarding the summer if they're not able to wait and see what happens.