

Michigan Department of Education Summer Learning Grant Press Release/Funding Announcement

(Augusta, MI) - Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center is delighted to announce they have been awarded a portion of a \$2.3 million grant from the Michigan Department of Education to provide summer learning opportunities for children in summer programs. Local YMCAs throughout Michigan have joined together to deliver a coordinated program to support children, families, and schools while they recover from the pandemic and prepare for a successful return to the school year.

"The Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center has been a leader in camp programming and character development since the very beginning," said Zach Klipsch, CEO of the Sherman Lake YMCA. "The pandemic has created opportunities for us to serve our community in new ways like meal distributions, blood drives and in-person virtual school. This grant will give us the opportunity to serve children in a deeper way this summer and we are excited to help them recover academically and as well as facilitating friendships and social-emotional growth."

"The Y is prepared to work with schools to overcome the challenges facing students, families and communities," said Fran Talsma, Executive Director for the Michigan Alliance of YMCAs "To effectively combat COVID learning loss, in- and out-of-school learning needs to be connected and seamless. We have the capacity and expertise to support schools and help achieve positive outcomes for students. The Y is ready to meet the academic, social-emotional, physical, and nutritional needs of children and is committed to strong collaborations to improve the academic success and overall well-being of children."

As always, the Ys summer programs will focus on FUN, keeping kids safe, active, fed, and engaged with other children and adults. Support from the Michigan Department of Education will allow Y's to offer traditional camp programs that are enhanced to address the unique academic needs created by the pandemic.

For more information about the Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center, please visit <https://www.shermanlakeymca.org/>.