Summer Day Camp Parent Handbook



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA 550 West Dustman Road, Bluffton, Indiana 46714 Phone: 260-565-9622 Fax: 260-565-4341

Website: www.fwymca.org

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There's something about summer camp memories that stick with us forever. The friendships we make, the skills we learn, and the confidence we build last long after the summer ends. The CNFF YMCA has provided children in our community with a camp experience they will never forget. Our camp offer a variety of experiences for children of all ages and abilities, offering safe and supervised fun provided by a caring, responsible staff. Each child gains something different at camp: making new friends, learning how to swim, self-confidence, independence, and leadership—skills that last far beyond camp. Whether it's your child's first camp experience or they are returning, our camp provide an environment where campers are encouraged to grow, have fun, and make those memories that will last a lifetime.

This parent handbook has been designed to answer your questions, promote communication between our staff and your family, and to assist you in understanding our policies and procedures. The policies outlined in this booklet are intended to protect your child(ren) and to ensure that his/her experience at the program is positive and rewarding.

Please read the handbook carefully with your child(ren) and refer to it as needed. We look forward to a tremendous summer!

Sincerely,

Courtney Springer Youth and Family Director Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA

About the Y

The Y is the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening the foundation of communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Our Cause

Strengthening the foundations of community is our cause. Everyday, we work sideby-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income, or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

How We Do It

We are the nation's leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Through our three areas of focus, the Y nurtures the potential of every child and teen, improves the nation's health and well-being and provides opportunities to give back and support our neighbors.

Our Impact

The Y is, and always will be, dedicated to building healthy, confident, connected and secure children, adults, families and communities. Every day our impact is felt when an individual makes a healthy choice, when a mentor inspires a child and when a community comes together for the common good.

Our Promise

The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne has made a promise to our community to turn no one away due to the inability to pay.

Camp Location:

Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA 550 West Dustman Road Bluffton, Indiana 46714

The YMCA Mission Statement:

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Character Development

Y's throughout the USA strive to implement our character development program exemplifying our core values of: CARING, HONESTY, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, and FAITH.

These core values provide a foundation that guide all Y programs, staff trainings, and operations. It is our job to give youth and adults experiences that help them develop a set of positive values, morals, and ethics to live by. Y Staff strive to provide an environment focused on these Y core values. Campers will be taught these core values on a consistent basis. Each child will be taught expectations of conduct while at camp. Teaching the core values will allow campers in our care to form a foundation that will provide a stable, secure base on which to build their lives.

Staff Qualifications

The quality and effectiveness of Y services for children are directly related to the skills and personal characteristics of the staff. Recruiting, selecting, training, and supporting the staff are essential, interrelated processes in ensuring the success and integrity of children's programs. The leaders are required to have experience in working with children, knowledge of recreation activities, and must model the Y's core values.

All Y staff are first aid and CPR certified. Background checks are conducted on all staff members. This includes a criminal background check, national sex offender public registry check, drug screen, and reference checks. We take pride in our staff training, which includes: emergency procedures, program planning, child abuse awareness, and other areas pertaining to child development.

Admissions Criteria

Campers must be entering Kindergarten through 5th grade (exception Middle school-High School for LIT/CIT program). Parents must complete, in its entirety, the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne Program Registration/Health Forms, and Draft Agreement at the time of registration. It is also our policy that every child be fully toilet trained and capable of using the facilities without assistance. We understand that accidents can occur, in which case, we would require that parents pick up their children immediately or provide clean attire. Due to staffing policies and training, if accidents begin to occur on a regular basis, the child will not be able to attend our programs.

Equal Access

The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne, in keeping with its mission to help all people realize their fullest potential, encourages and supports the participation of all children in Y Child Care Programs. We serve all children regardless of gender, race, color, nationality, religion, ethnicity, or disability. Consideration is given to the individual needs of every child and the ability of the program to meet those needs.

Special Needs

If your child has special needs (including disabilities, medicinal requirements, behavioral conditions, or child custody concerns etc.), please indicate these on the health form and notify the staff. A copy of the child's IEP is also required to better serve your child. The IEP will only be shared with the appropriate staff members.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for children who have special needs, provided a written request is made at least two weeks before the child's attendance. One-on-one aides are not provided by the Y, but will be accommodated if the family provides them, and they meet our hiring and volunteer criteria. Unless a family-provided personal aide accompanies them, children must possess the ability to self-monitor, be independently mobile, and the ability to reasonably foresee the consequences of their actions.

No child will be denied acceptance unless his or her presence would pose a significant risk to himself or herself, or to the general population, as determined by the staff. However, if the Y cannot meet the child's need through reasonable accommodations, the placement cannot be accepted. Decisions are made on a per case basis. Upon inquiry the Y can direct you to a professional resource in the community.

Program Information

Program Goals

- Create a community by building relationships among campers and staff
- Create a safe, nurturing, welcoming environment where campers will quickly realize camp is a place where they belong and can be themselves
- Provide positive role models that will support and guide campers through curriculum that will allow them to discover and learn new skills, talents, and interests
- Show campers that they can accomplish anything when they believe in themselves
- Immerse campers in an atmosphere that inspires them to live healthy, help others, work together, and make strong friendships that will last a lifetime.
- The Y is here to help campers flourish socially, emotionally, cognitively, and

physically. Rooted in the core values of: caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Following are the curriculum areas that we use in our activity planning: Arts & Humanities, Character Development, Health & Wellness (Sports & Games), Literacy (Camp Readers), STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), Service Learning, Nature exploration, and Conflict Resolution.

Session Times

All camp sessions are one week in length, Monday through Friday. Camp begins at 9:00 a.m. each day and ends at 4:00 p.m. Extended care beginning at 6:30 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. is available for no additional charge.

Weeks available

June 3-7	July 8-12
June 10-14	July 15-19
June 17-21	July 22-26
June 25-29	July 29- August 2

July 1-5* August 5-9

Daily Needs (please be sure to label all items)

Sunscreen (spray kind preferred)

Bug Spray

Water Bottle

Sack Lunch & Drink (some field trips and days when not provided by the vendor, more info. will be in your newsletter)

Gym Shoes (closed toe/heel with rubber bottom-no heelys or spinners)

One Piece Swimsuit & Towel

Backpack or Bag for belongings

Plastic Bag for wet suits and towels

Comfortable Clothing (Dress for weather)

Toys/Electronics from Home:

We do not allow campers to bring personal items from home (including electronic devices, cell phones, sharp objects, weapons, firearms, explosives etc.). We are not responsible for any of these items should a camper make the poor choice to bring them. Due to the nature of our program damages and theft of personal items is possible. If participants are caught with any of the above items the staff reserves the right to confiscate them.

^{*}Pro-rated week

Field Trips

We will be going on a field trip once a week and/or having a guest presenter. There will be posted bulletins with specific information each morning when you sign in. Please do not send additional money with your child for souvenirs, food, etc. For safety, campers must wear his/her camp shirt on all trips. All transportation is provided by Wells on Wheels and the YMCA.

Swim Time

We swim 5 days a week. We will only swim at public facilities where the staff are certified lifeguards. Our staff (who are CPR & First Aid certified) also act as look-outs to assist the guards in keeping the children safe. During their time at the pool, established ratios will be maintained.

Test.

All swimmers 13 years and younger are required to pass a swim test before being allowed in a Y pool without a US Coast Guard Approved lifejacket. The swim test consists of 4 steps (a deep water plunge, an endurance swim, treading water for 30 seconds, more swimming, and floating on the back for 10 seconds.) and will be administered by a certified lifeguard. Doggy paddle is not allowed.

Mark.

Swimmers who pass the test will receive a swim band that allows them access to the entire pool. All swimmers who do NOT pass the test will be in the shallow end in a US Coast Guard Approved lifejacket.

Protect.

Testing and marking is the way we ensure that your children are protected. Please be aware that lifeguards have the discretion to mandate a US Coast Guard Approved lifejacket on a swimmer at any time as well as require a swim test for any swimmer at any time. This is for the safety of all children.

Bus Safety Rules

Please go over the following rules with your child so they will know what is expected of them on the bus.

- Passengers should remain seated at all times with all body parts inside the vehicle
- Passengers should wear seat belts when applicable
- Noise level should be such as not to distract the driver
- No throwing objects inside or outside of the vehicle
- Passengers should enter and leave the vehicle under the direction of a staff member and/or driver. If the vehicle makes an emergency stop, passengers should follow directions of the staff, and use the buddy system if leaving the vehicle
- No disruptive or rude behavior

- Clean up after yourselves!!! If you bring something onto the bus, make sure you take it back with you
- Know where the emergency exits are, and how to use them

Marketing

On occasion, the Y takes photographs, film footage, or tape recordings of our programs. This media may include your child's image or voice and is used only for purposes of promoting or interpreting Y programs. On the registration form you will be asked for permission to include your child in these promotional materials.

Staff Relationships Outside of Y Program

For the safety and protection of your child and our staff, Y employees are not allowed to babysit for program participants, spend time outside of program with our families, transport children in their private vehicles, or contact families by personal phone, email, or internet. Please do NOT put our staff at risk of losing their position with us by asking them to do so.

Inclement Weather

Outdoor play is an important part of our daily camp schedule. Parents are asked to dress their children appropriately for the weather conditions. A light sweater or jacket may be needed in the mornings.

Heat/O-zone Advisories

At the Y we are committed to the safety of all children. All precautions will be taken to prevent heat related injuries. Staff are trained to do the following for your camper:

- Make sure there are frequent water breaks
- Lower physical activities
- Act as role models, applying sunscreen & wearing hats outside
- Make sure campers are in the shade or indoors whenever possible
- Make sure there are opportunities for children to reapply sunscreen
- Watch for the signs of heat exhaustion

Rain/Thunderstorms

If it rains, camp will continue as normal. If it thunderstorms we will seek shelter immediately and stay there until it subsides. Should there be a tornado warning, all children and staff will go to the predetermined safe room. They will sit on the floor against the wall until the threat passes. Monthly drills are done for safety purposes.

Payment Procedures

Program Fees

Full payment is due Thursday before your registered week of camp. Payment is for the entire week and will not be prorated if your child attends less than the entire week. Any changes in registered weeks must be submitted to the child Care office 3 business days prior (the Wednesday before), otherwise your account will be charged accordingly.

The preferred method of payment is to set up an automatic draft. We also accept personal checks, money orders, automatic bill pay, credit card payments and cash at the CNFF YMCA branch. If you need to make a payment in person, you can do so at the CNFF YMCA branch.

CCDF Vouchers

We do accept CCDF Vouchers. If you need an 805 form completed, we ask that you call and request it at least 5 business days before your appointment. The Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) allows parents the opportunity to maintain employment and complete educational goals without the overwhelming financial burden of child care costs. Parents must be working, going to school, or receiving job training to qualify for this program.

Financial Assistance

We believe that no one should be turned away due to inability to pay. The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne is a non-profit organization committed to strengthening the foundations of our community, one child at a time. Our Annual Campaign is a Y initiative that provides scholarships for programs and memberships to children and families in need. Those families unable to pay the full cost of participation (and aren't already receiving CCDF funds) are encouraged to apply, please call the Child Care office @ 449-8464, 449-8266 or download an application from the website. Once approved you will receive an award letter. It is your responsibility to keep your original copy as proof of your scholarship amount. You will be charged for any additional copies.

Delinquent Accounts

When payment on an account falls three days behind, the parent/guardian will be notified that their child cannot return to the program. Your child may return when the account is brought current or payment arrangements are made. If parent/guardian has been notified of delinquent account and sends their child to the program anyway, staff will call to have the child immediately picked up.

Insufficient Funds

If payment to the program is returned due to insufficient funds, the parent/guardian is responsible for immediately issuing another payment plus all NSF fees that are assessed. After two returned checks, payment must be in the form of a money order or credit card payable at the CNFF YMCA branch.

Tax Information

Statements will not be mailed to you. They are available online at: www.fwymca.org (instructions are at the end of the handbook). Our tax ID number is: 35-0886850.

Sign-In and Sign-Out Procedures

The safety of every child is a priority of the Y. Following Sign-In and Sign-Out procedures helps ensure the safety of your child and allows staff to determine which children are present at any given time.

Sign-In

For your child's safety, please park in the parking lot adjacent to the building. Do NOT park at the curb or across the street. An adult (at least 18 years old) must walk all children to the designated area. The adult must sign the child into the program by initialing next to the child's name on the attendance roster.

Under no circumstances may a child be dropped off without being signed into the program by an adult. If this occurs, the parent/guardian will be called and required to come to the site to sign their child into the program.

Sign-Out

All children must be signed out of the program by a parent/guardian or an authorized adult (at least 18 years old). When a child is picked up from the program the parent/guardian or authorized adult must come to the designated area and sign the child out of the program by initialing next to the child's name on the attendance roster. No child will be released from the program without an adult initial. All adults picking up children must be prepared to show I.D. so staff can verify their identity. For your child's protection, anyone without proper I.D. will be stopped from taking a child from the program and the parent/guardian will be contacted immediately.

If someone other than the parent/guardian or those on the authorization list needs to pick up your child, you must notify the Y staff in writing at least one day in advance. Any restricted individual must have the appropriate paperwork (restraining order, court documents etc.) on file with the director.

Absences

If your child will be absent from a registered week of camp, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the camp director before 9 am the day of the absence. If the director doesn't receive prior notification of the absence a Y staff member will call you to inquire about the absence.

Late Pick-Up

Camp ends at 6:00 p.m. and our staff is scheduled to leave. If you are running late, please notify your camp director. A late pick up fee will be assessed after the program closes. There will be an additional charge of \$1.00 per child, per minute starting at 6:05 p.m. payable to the YMCA.

Parents who have not notified the camp director they will be late can expect the following sequence of events to occur. These steps are necessary to ensure the safety of the child as well as Y staff members:

- <u>6:00 p.m.</u> Program closes. Staff member in charge begins calling parent work number to check for problems or miscommunications. If contact is not made, alternative contacts listed on the registration form will be called.
- <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Staff member in charge contacts program director, and local authorities to apprise them of the situation.
- <u>6:45 p.m.</u> If there is no contact from the parent and no other safe option, the child will be turned over to the city or county police department.

You risk dismissal from the program if:

- You fail to pay the late fee.
- You are late picking up your child three times within a 30-day period.

Parents must keep the Y office and camp staff notified of phone number changes for work, home, and emergency contacts at all times.

Health & Safety

Medication During Program

Any medication that needs to be administered during program hours must:

- Be accompanied by "Permission to Medicate" form. (Available at each site)
- Be brought directly to the camp director in its original container with the child's name, physician's name, and drug name on the container.
- Have specific doctor instruction for dosage, times, etc. The Y can only administer medication according to original instructions on label. If direction from parent is different, the parent must provide a physician's written change.
- No over-the-counter medication, including aspirin, cough medicine etc will be given without a doctor's written consent.
- Staff cannot administer amounts other than specified on bottle or split pills.

Medication will not be administered past expiration date.

Child Illness

For the sake of your child and others, if a child has a temperature of over 100 degrees, is vomiting, or shows other signs of illness, parents are asked to keep the participant at home. Parents must notify their Y Site of the absence and the nature of the illness. If this happens during program hours we will call you and ask that you pick your child up within one hour.

Illness/Injury Occurring During Program Hours

The Y does not aim to exclude children from the program unnecessarily. The Y's illness/injury policies are based on the following criteria:

- Preventable public health practices
- The comfort and safety of the sick child
- The staff's ability to accommodate or care for a sick child
- The protection of the other students, staff and parents from communicable disease conditions

If your child becomes ill/injured, they will be isolated from the other children and you will be contacted to pick him or her up with in one hour of notification (depending on the severity of the injury or illness). The YMCA is not equipped to handle ill/injured children beyond securing their immediate comfort (basic first aid). If you cannot be reached, we will contact someone you've authorized from your emergency contact on the Health and Registration form for immediate pick up. Please be sure to keep the YMCA and your Camp Director informed of any changes in your work or emergency phone numbers. In an emergency, medical aid will be sought immediately.

Communicable Disease

Communicable diseases are diseases that are transmitted from one individual to another and easily spread among children. Common communicable diseases among children are: head lice, pink eye, ringworm and chickenpox. The following policies have been created to reduce the spread of communicable diseases.

Head Lice

The Y reserves the right to inspect your child's head in the event lice is suspected in order to protect all of the other campers, staff, and parents

- In the event nits/head lice are found among your child, a parent/guardian must pick up the child with in one hour of the notification.
- The Y will notify all parents of all head lice/nits cases when found or reported.
- If nits/head lice are found outside of the Y care, parents/guardians must contact the Site Director immediately so proper notification can be made to the other parents.

• Students with nits/head lice must not return to Y care until 24 hours after first treatment is complete.

Same policies apply to all other communicable diseases.

Confidentiality

Student's records are kept within groups, as staff needs to access them regularly. Any information in a child's record that is sensitive will be kept in a secure place.

Behavior Management Procedures

Philosophy

The Y strives to maintain a positive approach to managing children's behavior at all times. "Discipline" is the process of teaching self-control and the ability to live within limitations and agreed upon guidelines. The staff and children at each site establish expected behavior guidelines. Positive behavior is self-rewarding and allows for program activities to occur. When children choose to behave outside the guidelines, some consequence is required to avoid future problems. The overall safety of all children in the program is our highest priority.

Children's Rules

It is our intent that each child enjoys the planned activities by understanding that they are responsible for their actions. With prior knowledge of our basic rules of safety and good conduct, each child is made aware of how to exercise self-discipline and to understand that we are here to assist her or him and that we expect them to succeed. Rules for behavior are posted at every Y Camp. Character Development is an important part of our program.

Process

When positive behavior is displayed, the consequence is participation and enjoyment of planned activities. In cases of negative or inappropriate behavior, the following process will be employed.

- **Redirection:** Every effort will be made to help the child understand the inappropriateness of his or her actions and agree to an alternate form of behavior. When the conflict is child-to-child, every effort will be made to have them reason together face-to-face with staff facilitating.
- **Removal from the Specific Activity:** When redirection has been pursued and behavior has not changed, removing the child from the activity involved for an appropriate amount of time is necessary. The removal time will be age

- appropriate. Other duty-oriented consequences suitable to the inappropriate behavior may also be utilized at this stage.
- **Behavior Reports:** When the child is not successful in correcting the behavior, or the behavior is of a serious nature, a behavior write-up will occur. This write-up will be discussed with the child and parent, and requires a parent signature. If a child receives three write-ups a parent conference may be required.
- **Removal from the Program:** If the above process has not resulted in corrected behavior, the child may be removed from the program.

Serious Behavior Issues

When a child has a serious discipline problem, on any one occasion, the parent may be called by staff and asked to pick up the child within one hour of the call. Should it be decided by Y staff that a child poses a serious problem, the child may be suspended from the program for a period of one to five days or may be re-moved from the program entirely. No child will be allowed to continue in the program who becomes a safety hazard to him/herself or others. In addition to behavior management procedures outlined above, parents must be aware that a child may be released from the program, without refund, for the following misconduct:

- Leaving Y Camp premises without permission, or going into unauthorized areas
- Using foul language, being rude or discourteous to staff and other children
- Defacing property
- Physical Violence (fighting, biting, putting hands on another child, threatening)
- Bringing or using any illegal substances and weapons
- Any demonstration of sexual contact/words
- Any behavior that jeopardizes the safety of staff or participants
- Stealing

Other Behavior Related Issues

No staff member will ever, strike, swear at, abuse, or threaten with physical intimidation either a child or parent. No staff member will allow a child to be stricken, sworn at, abused or physically intimidated by anyone else in the program. No staff member will ever solicit or accept gratuities in consideration for any treatment of a child.

Parent Conferences

Informal or formal conferences may be requested by staff or parents regarding their child's behavior. Typically, conferences are requested after multiple behavior reports or extreme changes in a child's demeanor. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is that you share changes occurring at home. Staff can better provide for a child's needs when we are aware of changes.

HEPA (Healthy Eating & Physical Activity) Standards

The CNFF YMCA implements a series of healthy eating and physical activity standards in our programs as part of the Y's national commitment to combat childhood obesity and ensure that all those who participate in Y programs live healthier, balanced lives.

Specific ways we implement these standards:

- Parent Education- programs and information for parents about physical activity and nutrition as it relates to the health of their children.
- Physical Activity- minimum 30min. of physical activity each day, including a mix of moderate and vigorous activities. Play will take place outdoors whenever possible.
- Screen Time- no access to television or movies. Limit digital device time to less than one hour per day. Digital device use is limited to homework or programs that actively engage children in activity.
- Food- we will commit to serving fruits, vegetables, or 100% juice for each snack with water being the primary beverage.

The standards are based in part on years of research supported by collaborations with the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), University of Massachusetts at Boston, the Healthy out of School Time Coalition (HOST) and the National Institute for Out of School Time (NIOST).

Snack/Lunch Guidelines

Nutrition is a very important aspect of each camp day. Campers will need to bring a morning and afternoon snack each day. If your child has an allergy please be sure to inform the staff of the specific details including the severity. Y care is a candy, junk food and soda pop free zone.

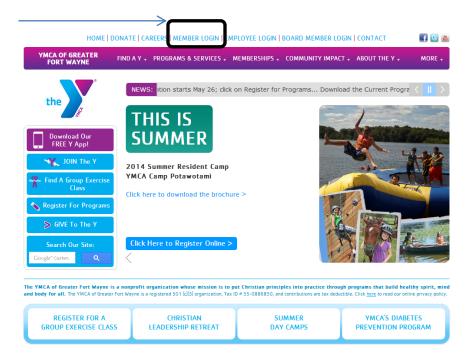
Please keep in mind the following suggestions:

- Pack extra drinks and a refillable water bottle
- Send foods that are easy to eat and don't require cooking or refrigeration
- Strive for a litter-less lunch (reusable containers)
- Label your child's lunch with first and last name

Child Care Online Account Instructions

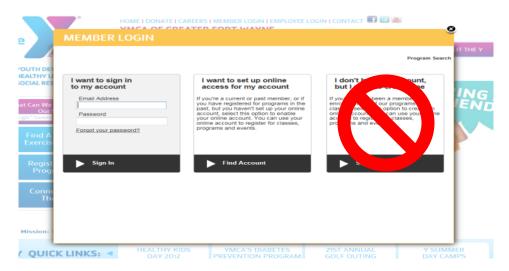
Log in/Set up Account

To log in to your online account, go to our website, www.fwymca.org and click on "MEMBER LOGIN" at the top of the page.



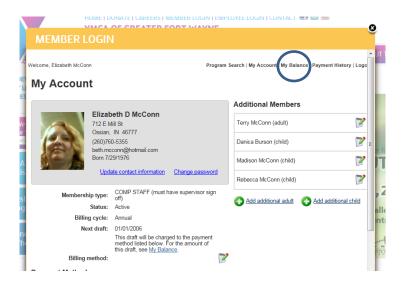
You now have three options to log in.

- Because you are registered for childcare/camp programs, you do already have an account in our system so please do NOT use the option on the right or it will not be tied to your registrations.
- If you have never used the online system before, please use the middle option to set up online access for your account. You will be asked to search for yourself and set up and email address and password.
- If you already have your email address and password on file, please use the option on the left to sign in to your account.



If you have problems logging in to your account, please contact our office at 449-8464.

Making a Payment



- Click "My Balance"
- Choose what you want to pay and click "Pay Fees Now"
- Make any changes necessary and click continue.
- Choose payment method and click continue, then verify payment and submit.

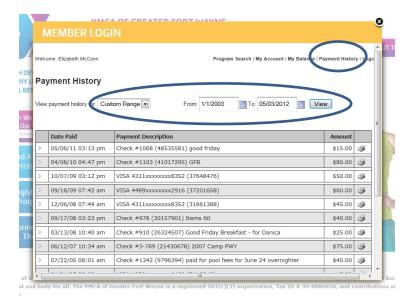
Manage your account

- Click on "My Account" at the top of page
- From here you can update contact info, change your password, and more!



Viewing Payments, Receipts, & Tax Statements

- Click "Payment History" at the top of the page then choose the date range.



- To see detail of a payment click on that line.
- To print the transaction click on the printer icon and you will get a printer friendly receipt.

