



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

MERLEFEST 2026

WELCOME RIVERS EDGE CAMPERS!

All Rivers Edge campers **should use YMCA Boulevard, NOT STOKES STREET**, to access the Rivers Edge Campground. Address to use is 1801 YMCA Boulevard Wilkesboro NC, 28297. The Y will be on your left. You will follow YMCA Blvd to the end and take a right onto Industrial Drive. Campground check in address is 1608 Industrial Drive Wilkesboro, NC 28697

SITES AVAILABLE: all are first come, first serve- no marked/numbered sites and primitive with potable water available throughout the grounds, but no power.

- 375 tent sites- along the greenway track/river and inside fields (can be set up next to a pop up/RV less than 25 feet if you have multiple campers in your party)
- 175 Pop up/van camper sites – along the greenway/river and inside fields (can also be set up with other campers that do not exceed 28 feet)
- 75 less than 25 foot RV sites – can be parked in most areas but will be designated sites for RV so these must be parked in partnership with grounds staff.
- 75 greater than 25 foot RV sites – designated areas specifically for these campers and anyone over 30 feet must park on paved area or along the front line only.
- Medical sites are available with adequate doctors note of necessity.

Check in at the Rivers Edge campground will start at noon on Wednesday.

- We have been successful in getting the campground open no later than noon, so if possible, we encourage campers to come on Wednesday in time to enter just after noon.
- It is first come, first serve, but we have ample space for all campers.
- **NO ONE SHOULD SET UP CAMP** before the gates open on Wednesday or without checking in at the main gate.
- We do not allow anyone to bring their camper earlier than noon on Wednesday as this area operates as Park and Rec fields until Wednesday morning. We reserve the right to have campers towed who come in early.
- If you come in on Tuesday night and camp along the runway, we do not allow you to come into the area to stake off your area. Anyone who does so will be subject to dismissal from camping.
- The camper parking line will be clearly marked with obvious areas not to block.

WILKES FAMILY YMCA

1801 YMCA Boulevard, Wilkesboro NC 28697

P 336 838 3991 F 336 838 0979 www.wilkesymca.org A United Way Agency

Our Mission: "Helping all people reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind and body." Financial Assistance available.



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- Cars will line up on the left side of the street. This will eliminate the blocking of the businesses and allow for a longer line for easier early credentialing.
- In order to have space for all RVs and Pull Behind trailers, we will have 5 staff to direct and assist with parking in areas specific to the size of your camper.
- Wood will be available for sale, but you can also bring wood in. Wood deliveries must check in at main gate and cannot bring wood before the campground opens.
- This is a family campground with security at entrances. We do not allow non-campers to come into the campground to preserve the safety and quality experience for all campers.

Pumping Services

There is no dump station but the company who provides and services our Port a Jons, can pump your campers and add water for a fee. They only accept cash.

Business As Usual

- The bath house is open 24/7 once we open the campground for anyone camping at Rivers Edge.
- There will be ice for sale beginning on Wednesday and as long as we can keep it in stock.
- One car per campsite; extra parking available outside the campground.
- Shuttle service is provided throughout the day starting one hour before the festival each day, and until all are cleared from campus.
- Generators permitted for RVs and pull behind campers but cannot affect the experience of those camping around you. All other generators must be agreed upon by the camping crowd around you.
- Please make sure you leave the names of additional people in your party with the Gate Staff when you check in if they are coming in after you. Only one car per site.
- All cars accessing the campground must have a parking sticker on the passenger top window.
- Respect your fellow campers and control noise after midnight.
- **All campers should be gone from campground by 9am on Monday or pay a \$50 fine.**
- We have 4 big roll off trash receptacles. Please remove your trash from your site as you exit and throughout the festival to keep the grounds clean.

NEWS from Wilkes Community College

Gates open at 2:30pm with music starting at 3pm on Thursday.

Friday – Sunday gates open at 10:30am with music starting at 11am.

Shuttles will start at 2pm on Thursday and by 9:30am Friday – Sunday.

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Rules for Safety and Visibility

- Personal tents or canopies are not permitted on festival grounds.
- Large umbrellas (beach or patio) are not allowed. Golf umbrellas and personal umbrellas are allowed.
- Tall canopy chairs are not allowed.
- No personal grills on festival grounds.

FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE VOLUNTEERS

Lot D is located within easy walking distance of the Rivers Edge Campground and is where you can get a shuttle to the campus for your volunteer shift. These shuttles begin running earlier than the shuttles for festival goers so check the schedule sent in your volunteer packet.

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