

Family Camp - City Escape

28th Feb - 2nd March 2025

Over the weekend of 28 February, 14 Defence families came together for a Family Camp run by the YMCA. The camp took place in the scenic Adelaide Caravan Park, right on the edge of the city and alongside the beautiful River Torrens. Held during the lively “Mad March” season, this camp offered a perfect balance of urban excitement and natural serenity.

Families arrived at the park straight from school, settling into their cabins – their cozy home for the weekend. Our first group activity took place at the Dunstan Adventure Playground, where the giant flying fox, massive slide, and swings were an instant hit with kids and adults alike.

We kicked things off with introductions and a fun fact-sharing session. For some, this was their very first YMCA camp; for others, a warm and familiar return.

Dinner was a relaxed picnic featuring delicious beef hamburgers prepared by Kylie and Ella. After the meal, it was time to get creative with a Marshmallow Creature Challenge. The results? Imaginative, unique, and—most importantly—very tasty!

After dinner & some more play it was time to head back to the cabins to rest ready for a big Saturday.

Families began Saturday with breakfast packs they collected the night before—cereal, fruit, and pancake mix enjoyed in the comfort of their cabins.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



The day officially kicked off with a Family Scavenger Hunt. Meeting at the Friendship Gate at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens (a scenic 1.5 km walk from camp), families set out on a choose-your-own-adventure style hunt across the city. From the Museum to Rundle Mall and the Chihuly Glass Sculptures in the Gardens, families explored Adelaide's iconic landmarks with clues, checklists, and plenty of enthusiasm.

Once families had completed their chosen Scavenger Hunt they were to meet back in the Gardens where they received a lollipop for their efforts.

After the hunt, it was time to recharge at Twelve Tree Reserve with fresh rolls and hot chips. Some tired legs opted to relax, while others rallied for a game of backyard cricket.

The fun continued with Big Rainbow Ball games, including a hilarious round of Poison Ball—extra fun (and funny) when the ball is bigger than the players! We finished up with some classic sports day activities: parachute games, three-legged races, and a giant egg-and-spoon race.

That evening, families had the freedom to explore the city using the Y Discovery Guide. Some ventured into the bustling Fringe Festival for a show, while others enjoyed a cozy night in with board games borrowed from the Y library.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



Sunday morning began with ham and cheese croissants before checking out of the cabins.

Our final stop: The Lost Dice board game café, home to more than 500 games. From classics like The Game of Life to exciting new discoveries, it was the perfect way to wind down and reflect on a fun-filled weekend.

To find out what The Y is running next for Defence Families head to our website: [Defence Communities | YMCA SA](#) or email: youth@ymcasa.org.au



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



