2020 Summer Camps Guidelines

Guardians of participants in our Summer Camps program should read the following information carefully.

Things to bring or wear to camp everyday:
• Snacks, one for each half-day that your child is enrolled — morning and/or afternoon
• Lunch
• Full water bottle
• Comfortable, weather appropriate clothing that can get messy
• Closed-toed shoes such as tennis shoes. Flip flops, sandals, Crocs, Keen sandals, water shoes, or shoes with perforations will not be allowed.
• Sunscreen, apply before camp and send to camp
• Tick prevention for field trips or outdoor camps, clothing treatment before camp or insect spray containing DEET

Welcome:
The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences welcomes all campers and strives to provide an equal experience to any child registered for our camps. We are committed to open and honest communication with guardians to ensure the best experience for all of our campers.

If a camper’s conduct poses physical harm or risk to self or others we may ask to meet with guardians or other caretakers to develop and implement strategies to help with success. After a reasonable amount of time and effort has been made, the individual may be asked to forego the summer camp experience until alternative behaviors are learned.

If your child can benefit from any modification and/or support in order to fully enjoy their time at camp, please contact summercamps@naturalsciences.org.

What grade/level camp is appropriate for my child?
Grade levels stated in program descriptions are now those of the upcoming school year (2020–2021). Please double-check to make sure that you sign your child(ren) up for the appropriate age groups. We cannot make exceptions, and falsified registrations will be cancelled, minus the $30.00 processing fee per camp.

Following Wake County Kindergarten eligibility requirements, campers must be five years old on or by August 31, 2020, to be eligible for Kindergarten camps. A copy of the birth certificate or its equivalent must be emailed to summercamps@naturalsciences.org upon registration.

Registration:
Each child can enroll in up to 2 weeks of camp. The Museum will cancel any excess registration. A $30.00 processing fee per camp is required if the Museum cancels excess registration.
Refund policy:
The Museum can grant refunds only when a cancellation is received before May 21, 2020. Cancellations received after May 21, 2020 will not be eligible for a refund. A $30.00 processing fee per camp is required for all refunds. If we are alerted as soon as possible of a child’s illness or family emergency immediately before camp begins, we will do our best to provide a full refund, minus the $30.00 processing fee.

Cancellations:
Camps with low enrollment 3 weeks prior to the start date are subject to cancellation. Campers will be contacted to investigate the possibility of enrollment in another camp. A full refund will be issued if summer camps are cancelled by Museum staff.

Arrival and departure:
Campers must be picked-up by their guardians, emergency contact, or previously authorized individuals. Please have your photo id and Pick-Up Pass available for staff. Place the pick-up pass on your passenger's side dashboard. You must have this car identification pass for camp staff to release your child. If you do not see camp staff waiting at the curb, please circle the block or traffic circle to keep traffic flowing smoothly. You may receive a ticket from Capital Police if you remain in areas not designated for parking.

For safety, we ask that you do not get out of your car.

Camps at NC Museum of Natural Sciences - campers should be dropped-off or picked-up off the Bicentennial Plaza near the Nature Exploration Center (NEC), 11 West Jones Street. A map will be emailed to you before the beginning of camp.
- Staff members will be waiting at the Loading Area during the following times: 8:30–8:45am and 4:45–5:10pm.
- If you arrive late to drop-off, you will be responsible for accompanying your child(ren) to their classroom.

If you would like to park and walk your child to drop-off/pick-up, please know that finding parking can be difficult. Limited metered parking and two-hour parking may be found on Jones and Edenton Streets. There is an outdoor parking lot ($2.00/hour) located one block east of the Museum, with entrances on Jones and Edenton Streets. The Green Square parking deck is at the corner of Edenton and McDowell Streets, behind the NRC. The entrance to the deck is on Edenton between Salisbury and McDowell Streets. Please allow plenty of time if you plan to drive in and park.

Camps at Prairie Ridge Ecostation — campers should be dropped-off or picked-up at the information kiosk by the parking lot. A map will be emailed to you before the beginning of camp.
- Staff members will be waiting at the kiosk during the following times: 8:15–8:30am, 12:45–1:10pm or 3:15–3:40pm.
- If you arrive late to drop-off, you will be responsible for accompanying your child(ren) to the Outdoor Classroom.

If you would like to park and walk your child to drop-off/pick-up, please park in a designated parking space in the parking lot away from the drop-off/pick-up line.

Late fees:
We have so much to do and learn — please make sure your child is on time each day! The Museum employs the very best staff possible in our programs. After camp hours, staff have other personal and professional obligations. In order to accommodate any overtime that may occur for late pick-up, a late fee of $30.00 day will be implemented if you are more than 10 minutes late picking up your child. The late fee must be paid in full before the beginning of the next day of camp for your child to attend.
Lunch:
Campers will need to bring a bag lunch with them daily. Please package the lunch items together with the child’s name. Campers will not have access to a refrigerator or microwave.

Snacks:
Please provide a small snack for each half day of camp in which your child is enrolled. If they are registered for a morning camp, then you will only need to send one snack. If they are enrolled in a full-day camp, please send two snacks — one for the morning, and one for the afternoon.

Nut-free policy:
In response to the growing number of severe nut allergies, and for the safety of all children who attend our camps, the Museum adopted this policy in 2010. Please read all ingredients carefully when providing lunch and snacks for camp, this includes foods that have peanuts, peanut flour, peanut oil, almonds, filberts, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, and walnuts. For more information, please review our Nut-free Policy & Alternative Snack Suggestions page. Thank you for your consideration and support in keeping children with food allergies safe.

Rules and behavior expectations:
Children will be expected to follow the Summer Camps Rules and Behavior Expectations guidelines. Please go over these rules with your child before camp.

Activities:
Camp programs may include:
- Use of scissors, pencils, glue, clay, paint, finger paint, tie dying materials, food coloring, hammers, and other hand tools. Children will wear safety glasses and finger guards when appropriate.
- Activities in which clothes can get very dirty. Old clothes should be worn.
- Children should wear comfortable, closed-toed shoes every day. Some camps may require an extra pair of socks and shoes to be sent to camp.
- Walks and field trips which may entail crossing busy streets and/or traveling in Museum vans. Children will be accompanied by adults at all times.
- Eating unusual foods, such as marine invertebrates, persimmons, and other fruits, vegetables or plants. If your child is allergic to certain foods, please include this information on your registration form.
- Handling, touching, or observing live animals, such as reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, fish, and mammals under close supervision of the instructor.
- Camps located in Downtown Raleigh may go outdoors to play games on the Halifax Lawn or take a walk.

Bloodborne pathogens exposure:
While your child is in the care of the Museum, if he/she is exposed to a body fluid on broken skin or mucous membrane (e.g. splashing in the mouth or eye) from another child, Museum staff will document what has occurred and contact the parents of both children to explain what has happened. We recommend that you follow up with your child’s primary physician.

Museum Staff will only administer medication to participants if:
1. The Medicine Administration Consent Form for assisted administration of medication is completed prior to the beginning of the camp and is in the possession of the Museum staff, AND
2. Medication is in an original container with appropriate medicine contained within, visible label including the name of medication, the date of expiration, clear dosage amount, and directions with the participant’s name clearly indicated on the bottle/box.