



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:

- Lunch and one small snack.
 - If your camper is in after camp care, bring lunch and 2 small snacks.
- 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.*
- Insect spray including tick prevention for field trips or outdoor camps, *apply before camp and send to camp.*

Welcome:

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (NCMNS) looks forward to meeting your child at day camp this summer, where they will experience a range of creative, fun, and interactive activities and adventures. The Museum welcomes all campers and strives to provide an equal experience to any child registered. We are committed to open and honest communications with guardians to ensure the best experience for all our campers. If your child can benefit from any modifications and/or support to fully enjoy their time at camp, please contact summercamps@naturalsciences.org.

NCMNS is committed to offering fun, science-centered day camps. Select from one of our innovative interactive experiences. There is something for children K-12th grade.

What grade/level camp is appropriate for my child?:

Grade levels stated in program descriptions are now those of the upcoming school year (2025–2026). 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 \$45.00 processing fee per camp.

Following Wake County kindergarten eligibility requirements, campers must be five years old on or by August 31, 2025, to be eligible for kindergarten camps. A copy of the birth certificate or its equivalent must be emailed to summercamps@naturalsciences.org upon registration.

Accessibility and inclusion:

NCMNS aims to provide a friendly, accessible environment for all campers by providing the widest possible access to our building, exhibitions, events, and programs. If your child can benefit from any modification and/or support to fully enjoy their time at camp, please contact summercamps@naturalsciences.org.

Camper conduct:

Campers will be expected to follow the [Summer Camps Rules and Behavior Expectations](#) guidelines. Please go over these rules with your child before camp.

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, in the absence of improvement, the individual may be asked to forgo the summer camp experience until alternative behaviors are learned.

Registration:

Each child can enroll in **up to 2 weeks** of camp. The Museum will cancel any excess registration. **A \$45.00 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 2, 2025**. Cancellations received after May 2nd will not be eligible for a refund. **A \$45.00 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 \$45.00 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:

For the safety of all children, if you would like to discuss a topic with [Laura Dameron](#), Manager of Summer Camps, please make arrangements to chat outside of drop-off and pick-up times.

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. For safety, we ask that you do not get out of your car in the Loading Area. For additional information about drop-off or pick-up:

- [Drop-off and Pick-Up Information](#)

After camp care:

After camp care will be offered from **4:00pm-5:00pm** Monday – Friday with limited spots available. Prior registration is required. Guardians or previously authorized individuals can pick up their camper at the NRC Brick. Directions can be found in your Active Network account and will be emailed to you before the beginning of camp.

Early departures:

Early departures must be scheduled prior to the pickup date. Contact Laura Dameron at 919.707.9889 (office) or 919.418.7602 (cell). You can schedule an early pick-up **up to 1 hour** before camp ends. Guardians or authorized persons will meet at a prearranged meeting place, such as the classroom or another location on the grounds. Please have your photo ID available to show staff.

Late fees:

NCMNS employs the very best staff possible in our programs. After camp hours, staff have other personal and professional obligations. To accommodate any overtime that occurs for late pick-up, a **late fee of \$35.00 per 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.

What if my child needs prescribed or over-the-counter medication at camp?:

- Prior to the start of the camp, guardian should complete the [Medicine Administration Consent Form](#) and email the form summercamps@naturalsciences.org.
- Staff will collect medication at drop-off to place it in a secure location within your camper's camp. Medication must be in its original container with a visible label.

- Campers must be able to administer their own medication.

Will campers leave their classroom?:

Yes. All camps will periodically explore indoor and outdoor areas outside of their classroom. Museum staff will accompany each camp to assist in crossing busy streets or provide extra support. Camps located in downtown Raleigh may go outdoors to play games on Halifax Lawn or walk around the Capital grounds.

Lunch and snack:

Campers will need to bring a bag lunch and a small snack daily labeled with their name. If your child is in after camp care, please bring a bag lunch and 2 snacks. Campers will not have access to a refrigerator, microwave, or have time to purchase lunch from the café.

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 [Summer Camp Nut-free Guidelines](#) page. **Thank you for your consideration and support in keeping children with food allergies safe.**

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.
- 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.
- Touching or observing live animals, such as reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, fish, and mammals under close supervision of Museum staff. Campers must wash their hands with soap and water after the program.

Bloodborne pathogens exposure:

While your child is in the care of the Museum, if the camper 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 guardians of both children to explain what has happened. We recommend that you follow up with your child's primary physician.