



Arboretum Nature Camp

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q: Do parents stay with their children at camp?

A: Arboretum Nature Camp is intended for independent child participation. Parents do not accompany their children beyond dropping them off in the morning and picking them up at the end of the day.

Q: Can parents choose to stay with their children at camp?

A: We do not allow parents to stay with their children once they are dropped off. We encourage those interested in a parent/child experience to explore our Acorns & Oaks program.

Q: What is the cost of Arboretum Nature Camp?

A: Members: \$400 per week; Non-Members: \$430 per week

Q: Do you offer a sibling discount?

A: We do not offer a sibling discount at this time.

Q: What are the hours of Arboretum Nature Camp?

A: The camp day is from 9am-5pm. Drop-off is from 9-9:15am and pick-up is from 4:45-5pm.

Q: Can I drop off my child later than 9:15am and pick up my child earlier than 4:45pm?

A: As a general rule, we do not allow regular drop-off and pick-up outside of the designated times, as it is extremely disruptive to the staff, schedule, and camper experience. If your child has a standing commitment that requires them to consistently be dropped off late or picked up early, we recommend attending a different camp that offers flexible attendance times. We are able to accommodate occasional changes in schedule, however these must be discussed and arranged with the Camp Director in advance. If we are not in the classroom at the drop-off or pick-up time, families are required to meet the group where they are in the garden.

Q: Do you offer extended care in the morning or evening?

A: We do not currently offer extended care outside the hours of camp.

Q: What is the age requirement for camp?

A: Our camp requires children to be between the ages of 5 and 10 years old. Children must be 5 years old by the first day of the camp they are registered for.

Q: My child is turning 11 but loves Arboretum Camp. Can they still attend?

A: Yes! We often have campers who have attended our camp before and remain eager to attend even when they turn 11. Because these children are familiar with our program and structure, they are welcome to return when they turn 11, with the understanding that curriculum will remain catered to ages 5-10.

Q: Can my 4 year old attend if they are mature for their age, or close to being 5 years old?

A: No. All campers must be 5 years old by the first day of their camp week, no exceptions. If it is discovered that your camper is under 5 years old, you will be asked to not return, and no refunds will be provided.

Q: What does a typical camp day look like?

A: Arboretum Nature Camp combines playful explorations of the garden with counselor facilitated projects. We start our day with a "Garden Adventure" wherein we explore different parts of the Arboretum with loosely guided

explorations and self-directed outdoor play, nature journaling, and more. We do two hands-on projects related to the theme of the camp each day, and break for snacks and lunch in between.

Q: Does the Arboretum provide snacks or lunch?

A: We do not. Campers are responsible for bringing their own snacks and lunches.

Q: Is camp held indoors or outdoors?

A: The majority of the camp day takes place outdoors, however we do use a classroom as our base, and some projects are conducted inside the classroom.

Q: How many children attend each week?

A: We host two cohorts of 24 children per week, for a total of 48 campers per week.

Q: Are all 48 campers together during the week?

A: No. Our two cohorts of 24 children are based in two separate classrooms. The two cohorts only interact during the lunch hour, similar to recess at a school.

Q: Can my child be placed in the same cohort as their friend?

A: While we take friend requests into consideration when arranging our cohorts, **we cannot guarantee that all requests to group friends together will be accommodated**. Cohort friend requests should be sent to brooke.applegate@arboretum.org immediately after registering. Groupings are NOT promised.

Q: Are children grouped together by age?

A: No. Our program is designed for multi-age interaction; both cohorts will have children ranging from 5 to 10 years old.

Q: Can my child attend if they have special needs?

A: Absolutely! Arboretum Nature Camp is designed to be welcoming and accessible to children of all different abilities. If your child has special needs that require one-on-one attention, they are simply required to attend with a personal aide to assist them so as to ensure their safety and success at camp. 1:1 aides must be trained, certified support professionals and must provide proof of their status as a trained/certified aide at least one week in advance of the first day of camp. All aides must also be Live Scanned by The Arboretum's designated Live Scan agency at least one week prior to the first day of camp and must pass their Live Scan background check. The fee is \$20, paid directly to the provider at the time of service. Aides are all required to review and sign aide paperwork one week prior to the first day of camp and to adhere to the aide guidelines therein. If your child has special needs staff should be aware of, or needs to attend camp with an aide, please contact the Camp Director **immediately after registration** to discuss and if needed, to make arrangements at brooke.applegate@arboretum.org.

Q: Does Arboretum Camp provide one-on-one aides to children with special needs?

A: The Arboretum does not provide one-on-one aides/support/attention to individual campers who require it. All 1:1 aides must be arranged and provided by the camper's family.

Q: Can a parent, friend, or family member serve as a 1:1 aide to a camper with special needs?

A: If that individual is a trained, certified aide and can provide proof of that status, they are welcome to attend in support of the camper. If not, they are not allowed to serve as a camper aide.

Q: Are staff and volunteers background checked?

A: Yes. All camp staff are background checked and experienced educators; All volunteers are background checked.

Q: Are staff vaccinated against Covid-19?

A: Yes. It is required of all camp staff.

Q: Are staff First Aid certified?

A: Yes. It is required of all camp staff.

Q: What is your staff to child ratio?

A: We have a minimum of 1 staff to every 8 children. We have between 2 and 4 volunteers assisting per week in addition to this ratio.

Q: What should my child bring to camp?

A: Food, water bottles, appropriate shoes and clothing, sunscreen and hats if needed, mosquito spray if needed, extra change of clothes, extra face masks if needed.

Q: Can my child bring outside toys and belongings to camp?

A: We do not allow outside toys or belongings at camp. If your child has a security/comfort item, please discuss this with the Camp Director in advance.

Q: Does the Arboretum administer camper medication?

A: Arboretum camp staff do not administer medication, as we do not have trained doctors, nurses, or medical staff. Guardians are responsible for administering all camper medication.

Q: Are there standards of behavior that are required to attend camp?

A: Yes. Please review the Camp Code of Conduct [HERE](#).

Q: What should I expect after I register?

A: You will receive a confirmation receipt via email reflecting the weeks you registered for. Approximately one week prior to the start of each camp week you are registered for, you will receive an email containing detailed information on cohort assignments, where to go and what to expect during the camp week, and required paperwork that you will need to bring with you the first day of camp. You do not need to submit new paperwork for each additional week of camp, one set of paperwork will be kept for the entire summer.

Q: What should I do if the camp week I am interested in is sold out? Do you have a wait list?

A: We do not have a wait list for summer camp. If and when we receive cancellations, we will open the available spaces on the website. If the camp you are interested in is sold out, please check the website daily to see if new spots have opened up.

Q: What is your refund policy?

A: PLEASE NOTE THE UPDATE BELOW BEFORE REGISTERING:

Arboretum Nature Camp is a highly popular program. Space is limited and demand tends to far exceed availability. We ask that families please not register unless they are confident they can commit to their chosen dates. The following penalty fees apply to cancellations received within their respective timeframes:

- **All camp cancellations are subject to a minimum \$100 penalty fee per child per week regardless of when they are requested.**
- **All camp cancellations must be requested no later than two weeks (14 days) in advance of the first day of the camp week start date in order to qualify for a partial refund. Partial refunds are registration fees minus the \$100 penalty fee per child per week.**
- **Cancellations requested less than two weeks (14 days) in advance of the first day of the camp week start date will not qualify for a refund of any kind.**
 - **Your registration denotes your understanding of this policy.**