



Camp Policies

A number of policies are in place for the safety and well being of your child. Please read these policies and return the signed statement at least one week prior to camp. Please keep a copy for yourself.

Arrival and Dismissal

- Parents and guardians must walk their children into the museum classroom to drop off their children with the *Discovery Camp, Jr.* staff person. The camp day is from **9:30am – 12:00pm**
- **Monday Morning check-in:** Please come to the **Science School** door at the Science Building to check-in between 9:15-9:30am (Monday only). This door is located to the left of the main stairs leading to the IMAX®. There is a sign above the door that says "Science School". The children will be in Classroom A.
- **Tuesday – Friday Morning check-in:** Walk your child to his or her classroom through the **Science School** door between 9:20-9:30am. Camp staff will be in the classroom to check in your children.
- We will unlock the **Science School** door at 11:55am for pick-up Monday-Thursday.
- On Friday only, we will have an open house for parents from 11:30am-12:00pm to showcase what the children have done during the week so the door will be unlocked at 11:30am on Friday only.
- Adults picking up campers must show their state or federal issue photo identification and be on the list of people to pick up your child. No exceptions to this rule – just because your child's instructor knows who you are, please be prepared to show ID to any member of camp staff.
- Please do not pull into the circular drive in front of the Science Building, as this is a restricted fire zone.

Medical and Participant Release Form

- The Medical and Participant Release Form must be filled out completely and returned at least two weeks prior to the start of camp. Please use this form to let us know about your child so we can provide a positive experience for him/her.
- You may fax this form to 214-428-4310, attention Reservations.

Personal Items

Each camper should bring a change of clothes in a zipper bag. Please label everything (including the bag) with your child's name. The change of clothes will stay in the room and will be sent home on Friday at the end of camp.

- Campers are **not** allowed to bring other personal items, such as trading cards, cell phones, electronic games, etc. We cannot be held responsible if these items are damaged or get misplaced.

Illness

- Please keep children home if they have a fever of 100° or more, skin rash, and/or discharge from the eyes, ears, nose, or any other visible signs of illness. Children may return to camp after they have been free of symptoms for 24 hours and/or have been to the doctor and the doctor has cleared the child to

return. If you have visited the doctor, please bring a note from the doctor stating that your child is cleared to come back to camp.

- In the event your child becomes ill at camp, we will notify you immediately. For the comfort and wellness of your child, we will expect you to pick your child up within one hour of that call.

Camp Rules

- Campers are expected to behave in a safe and courteous manner at all times. Parents may not stay in the classroom. If you feel that your child is unable to remain in camp without you, it may be best to wait a year before you send him/her to camp. Our camps are supervised by education professionals and aim to promote independent learning and socialization. Please discuss these rules with your child:
 - Listen and follow instructions
 - Participate in camp activities
 - Respect others, their property and camp property
 - Campers must wear closed-toe shoes
 - No chewing gum
 - Items restricted at your child's school are also not allowed in camp (cell phones, etc.)

All participants must be at least 3 years of age and able to use the bathroom without any assistance.

Snacks

Snacks are a critical part of your child's experience at camp. Parents are responsible for providing a small simple snack and drink for their child each day (disposable only please). Please make sure all food items do not need refrigeration or microwave heating.

Special Needs and Medications

MNS is happy to accommodate children with limited special needs, but in order for us to be able to help your child have an enjoyable experience at camp, we ask that you notify the Camp Coordinator of your child's needs at least one week prior to your child's first day of camp. Please notify us of any allergies, accessibility concerns, behavioral, psychological or emotional conditions or other special needs using the form provided upon registering for camp. Please call 972-201-0573 or 972-201-0607 to speak with the Camp Coordinator.

If your child has a severe allergy and is susceptible to anaphylactic shock, you are required to provide epinephrine (adrenaline) injections to the camp staff. All MNS camp staff is trained in CPR/First Aid and the use of "epi" pens.

While we hope to offer these camps to as wide a range of children as possible, it is not possible for us to offer one-on-one care.

Cancellations, Exchanges & Refunds

- Registrations are not transferable from one child to another.
- Patrons can transfer the registered child from one camp to another if the request is made at least **14 calendar days** before the first day of the original camp session and if space is available.
- Patrons who withdraw from camp more than **60 days** prior to their session will receive a full refund. Patrons who withdraw from camp **60 days to two weeks** prior to their session will receive a 50% refund of the cost of the dropped camp if notification is received at least **14 days** before camp starts.
- To receive a refund, patrons must contact the Education Department by phone no later than 10 working days prior to the first day of camp at 214-428-5555, x8. Once your withdrawal from camp is processed, you will receive written confirmation (along with refund, if applicable) by mail.

Please note: MNS reserves the right to cancel camps that do not meet minimum enrollment. If a camp is canceled by the MNS, patrons will receive a full refund.

Frequently Asked Questions

REGISTRATION

How can I be sure to get the camps I want?

The best way is to become a Museum of Nature & Science member and register online during priority registration (typically 2 weeks prior to open registration). Please visit natureandscience.org or call 214-428-5555, x1462 to purchase, renew or upgrade a membership online.

How can I find out which camps are filled?

Camp sessions with online enrollment (natureandscience.org) are updated in real-time, and the number of spaces available is listed next to the name of each camp session on the online registration page. If the number of available spaces is 0, the camp is full. If you are registering by phone then the attendant should be able to provide up-to-date enrollment information.

What is the best way to register a carpool so that all children have classes the same week?

Register **online** at the same time on the same day in the early morning and be sure to register children in same class. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that all children will get the camp group they want with their carpool group or friends, and we cannot make exceptions to allow more children into the camp sessions. We also cannot rearrange classes to place your child with a specific group of individuals.

May I register my child for an older age group?

No, we strictly enforce age group requirements. Age groups correspond to the child's age as of June 1, 2010.

Before and after camp care is not offered for Discovery Jr. Camps.

CAMP DAY

How should my child dress for camp?

Your child should wear comfortable clothes that may get messy. For safety, we require closed-toe shoes. Campers may also need a sweater in case the camp room is cool.

What are the qualifications of your teachers and assistants?

The majority of our teachers are certified school teachers, others are science professionals. The majority of our teaching assistants are participants in our youth volunteer program. All camp teachers are certified in basic CPR/First Aid.

What is the typical class size?

Though class sizes will range, they will be no smaller than 10 and no larger than 16. This helps ensure that your child has the individualized attention he or she needs to enjoy his/her experience.

How are campers supervised?

Camp staff will sign children in and out. Parents or guardians must bring a valid I.D. and be on the approved list of individuals (as found on the Medical and Participant Release Form) who may pick up the child from camp. Campers are supervised at all times and are escorted on restroom breaks.

Updated 2/17/10

What are the behavior expectations for campers?

Camper expectations are posted in each room and are emphasized throughout the week. In the event of a severe behavior problem, we will call you to pick up your child. At our discretion, your child may or may not be allowed to return to camp the following day.

Who can I contact during the day if I need to leave an emergency message concerning my child?

Please call the Education Office at 214-428-5555, x8 and a staff member will deliver your message to the appropriate person.