Welcome to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Summer Camp!

The camp team is eagerly awaiting your arrival to make lifelong camp memories! We plan to explore the outdoors, create nature crafts, scout the museum, encounter live animals, play imaginative games, make connections to the world around us and each other, and so much more.

Please read and discuss this packet with your camper before camp. This document will be updated periodically and is subject to change.

-Becca and Kerry—Camp Directors
   (camps@naturemuseum.org)

Camp Hours

9:00am - 3:00pm
Drop-Off: 8:50 - 9:10am
Pick-Up: 2:50 - 3:10pm

Notify all drop-off and pick-up persons to bring the printed camper code everyday (see page 8).

You are invited to Summer Camp Open House!

Join us for an evening Open House during your camp session to experience camp with your camper and get to know camp staff and other camp families. For more information, see the “Open House” section on page 2.

Table of Contents

Open House............................... 2
Communication and Example Schedule…. 3
What to Bring.............................. 4
Weather and Health....................... 5
Camp and COVID-19...................... 6
Water Wednesday and Field Trips........ 7
Contactless Drop-off/Pick-up............. 8
Behavior Policy......................... 10
Frequently Asked Questions............ 11
Summer Camp Open House

Our Summer Camp Open Houses allow camp families to make memories together by experiencing Nature Museum Summer Camp through their campers’ eyes. Come join us for an evening during your camp session to connect with camp staff and the Nature Museum!

During Camp Open House, you’ll have a chance to…

- Enjoy a showcase of camp creations like our projects & crafts, games, and songs
- Get to know your camper’s camp staff
- Engage in camp activities like outdoor explorations and nature play
- Meet Nature Museum specimens up close

At Camp Open Houses, staff is not able to provide child care or supervision. Siblings are welcome to join in the fun, but all children must remain under parent/guardian supervision the entire time.

Mark Your Calendar
Check the Open House dates for your camp session(s), and add them to your calendar. All Open Houses will be held outside on North Lawn!

☐ **Session 1:** Thursday, July 6 • 4:00 - 6:00pm

☐ **Session 2:** Thursday, July 20 • 4:00 - 6:00pm

☐ **Session 3:** Thursday, August 3 • 4:00 - 6:00pm

☐ **Session 4:** Thursday, August 17 • 4:00 - 6:00pm

Summer Nature Fest
Thursday, July 13

Looking for another way to connect with the Nature Museum this summer? Consider joining us for an evening filled with fun at our annual Summer Nature Fest. Encounter our collection up close, meet some of our living specimens, chat with our Nature Museum scientists, explore the Nature Museum grounds, and meet the Nature Cat. More information will be available soon at [naturemuseum.org/events](http://naturemuseum.org/events).
Communication

Camp families will get a Daily Camper Page and other important information via email. The Daily Camper Page email is sent at the end of the day with updates, notes, and pictures from the camp day! Emails will be sent to the email address listed at registration. Please contact the Camp Directors to update the email address on file (camps@naturemuseum.org).

Reminders and camper updates will be given to the pick-up person at the end of the day.

Schedules

To build connections to nature, campers spend the majority of the day outside. Time outside includes planned activities and child-led play time on Nature Museum grounds. Campers also spend some of their day indoors connecting with museum specimens, collections, and exhibits. In the event of unsafe weather conditions or other unforeseeable factors, campers will be moved indoors.

Make sure your camper comes dressed for the weather, including wearing sunscreen and closed-toed shoes. Campers will also be encouraged to reapply sunscreen before afternoon activities.

While each day (and age group) is unique, this is an example schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:50 - 9:10</td>
<td>Camper Drop-Off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:10 - 9:30</td>
<td>Morning Meeting and Introduction to the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 - 10:10</td>
<td>Outdoor Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(nature walk, habitat investigations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10 - 10:20</td>
<td>Bathroom Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20 - 11:20</td>
<td>Collection Connection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(specimen observation, exhibit exploration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20 - 11:30</td>
<td>Bathroom Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 - 12:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 - 12:45</td>
<td>Child-Led Outdoor Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 - 12:55</td>
<td>Bathroom Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:55 - 1:30</td>
<td>Outdoor Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(team challenges and games)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 - 2:00</td>
<td>Snack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 - 2:40</td>
<td>Creation Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(craft and maker activity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:40 - 2:50</td>
<td>Wrap up and Prep for Pick-Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:50 - 3:10</td>
<td>Camper Pick-Up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What to Bring

See page 7 for important information for how to prepare for Water Wednesdays and Field Trips.

Campers should come to camp dressed with:

- Weather appropriate “play” clothing
- Closed-toed shoes (Open-toed shoes and sandals are not permitted at camp!)
- (optional) A mask covering their mouth and nose
- (optional) Camp t-shirt (These will be distributed on the first day and can be worn as much as you like!)

In a zippered backpack, bring the following labeled with your camper’s name:

- **Lunch** - Campers must bring a lunch every day. Nature Museum Camps have a strict no peanut or tree nut policy. Please feel free to send labeled soy nut or sun butter as an alternative. We strongly encourage using reusable lunch containers to help reduce waste! Don’t forget to label lunch containers and bags too!

- **Snack** - Campers are asked to bring a snack every day. If your camper is enrolled in aftercare, please pack 2 snacks for the day. Nature Museum Camps have a strict no peanut or tree nut policy. We strongly encourage using reusable containers to help reduce waste! Don’t forget to label containers and bags too!

- **Water Bottle** - Pack a filled reusable water bottle. Campers will have access to water jugs for refills.

- **Extra Clothes** - Camp activities happen outdoors whenever possible, so send your camper dressed and prepared for the weather - including rain! Please pack a change of clothes: include an extra shirt, socks, and shorts or pants. For younger campers, please be sure to include underwear in case of an accident. Make sure all clothes are labeled with your camper’s name.

- **Sunscreen** - We recommend applying sunscreen before camp. Campers will need to apply sunscreen themselves during the camp day. Camp staff can help to distribute sunscreen into hands, but staff will not apply it for campers.

- **Bug Spray** - (optional) We ask for deet-free products at camp. Bug spray will only be allowed to be applied outside.

- **(optional) Extra Masks** - Please pack at least two masks per day so that campers may change their masks mid-day. We recommend packing a third mask in the case a mask accidentally gets soiled.

*Remember:* All items brought to camp should be labeled with the camper’s name and must be taken home at the end of the day.
What to Leave at Home

Electronic Devices - Please leave electronic devices at home, including cell phones, music/audio devices, video games, etc. In case of emergency, camp staff has access to a radio and phone at all times.

Valuables - Please leave anything of particular monetary or sentimental value at home. The Museum is not responsible for any lost, broken, or stolen items.

Toys - Please leave toys at home. Campers will have plenty to do at camp, and this policy helps avoid distraction! In certain situations, however, exceptions can be made. Alert the Camp Directors ahead of time if:

- your camper would like to share a topical book or other object with fellow campers.
- your camper needs a security item such as a family photo or stuffed animal.

Weather

Outdoor activities will be prioritized, except in cases of extreme heat and thunderstorms. Each camp group has access to indoor space. Send your camper with appropriate clothing and gear for the day’s forecast. See the “What to Bring” section on page 4 for more details. On days when the heat index is over 90 degrees, campers will take indoor cooling breaks.

Health and Wellness

The Nature Museum Summer Camp Directors and Head Counselors are trained by the Red Cross in CPR and First Aid, in the administration of EpiPens, and to recognize the signs of a severe allergic reaction.

For injuries or for illness, camp staff will notify the primary guardian, followed by the secondary guardian if applicable, and then the emergency contact (in the order listed on the registration form) until a contact is notified. Other camper updates will be shared with the authorized pick-up person at the end of the camp day.

Please be sure to note any allergies, medications or medical conditions on your camper’s registration form. If your camper has an EpiPen, provide the details of their emergency action plan on the registration form.

If your camper is taking medication during camp, add it on the registration form and send the medication in the original container. Nature Museum Summer Camp staff members are able to remind campers to take medications but are unable to dispense medications of any kind*. Any medications brought to camp must be taken home at the end of the day; the Nature Museum cannot keep or store medications overnight.

*with the exception of prescribed EpiPens

For more on our COVID-19 specific Health and Wellness information see page 6.
Other COVID Precautions

- Nature Museum Summer Camp will be mask optional this year. If you would like your camper to be masked, please email the Directors (camps@naturemuseum.org) so we can help provide reminders throughout the day.
- At times, we may require additional health and safety measures beyond what is required by public health officials. Campers may be required to wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status in some situations.
- All staff will complete a daily Health Screener, camp families will be asked to self-screen daily.

Please note: These other COVID policies and procedures are subject to change, based on changes in the COVID landscape and/or local, or state health recommendations and regulations.
Water Wednesdays

Each Wednesday, we welcome some “splish-splashing” fun! Campers that do not wish to participate in water play will ALWAYS have an opportunity to play in a water-free zone.

- **Campers 4 to 7 years old** will engage in some light water play on North Lawn. They will be able to splash in water play bins / sensory bins with toys and play in the sprinkler or hose on the North Lawn.

- **Campers 8 to 9 years old** will enjoy a walking field trip to Fullerton Beach, just north of the volleyball courts, where they can play, wade, and swim in the posted lifeguard section.

**What to Bring for Water Play**

On Wednesdays, select clothes that will continue to allow for comfort and sun protection!

- **Campers 4 to 7 years old**
  - Should come dressed…
    - in “play” clothes and closed toed shoes, as usual.
  - and need to bring…
    - a full change of clothes* and extra pair of shoes*, so campers have dry clothes if they need to change after water play

- **Campers 8 to 9 years olds**
  - Should come dressed…
    - with their swim items/ swimsuit (if they want to get in the water) on under their clothes and
    - in closed-toe water shoes or closed-toe sturdy sandals* to wear in the water
  - and need to bring…
    - a towel
    - additional t-shirt* and full change of clothes
    - additional closed-toed shoes*

*NOTE: All campers will wear a t-shirt or tank top and closed-toed shoes during water play.

**Field Trips**

Campers enrolled in our 8 to 9 year-old camps will take field trips offsite. Prior to the trips, a reminder will go out in the Daily Camper Page email. **Campers are required to wear their camp shirt on field trip days.**

Please note: On off-site field trip days, campers are unable to arrive late or leave early.

**Cycle Sleuths (Session 3)**

*Thursday, August 3*

*Canoeing Trip on the Chicago River*

**Sustainable Stewards (Session 4)**

*Thursday, August 17*

*Land Restoration at Little Red Schoolhouse*

4 to 7 year-old campers stay at the Nature Museum and surrounding grounds at all times.
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Summer Camp  
Contactless Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

In the week prior to your camp session, you will receive a welcome email with your camper’s unique camper code and other reminders. You will use that code and the map on page 9 for your camper’s pick-up / drop-off location!

This year, a unique code will be used for contactless pick-up verification - take care to keep it private and communicate the pick up plans with all pick-up persons. Campers will not be released without this code.

Every day for drop-off and pick-up, pick-up persons must display a printed copy of their camper’s unique code.

For Contactless Drop-Off:

Each morning, families need to complete a self pre-screener for their campers, checking for signs of illness, especially symptoms of COVID-19.

Camp families may drop-off their camper(s) between 8:50 and 9:10am. Any camper arriving after 9:10am must be signed in with camp staff in the Museum’s lobby. Security or a Guest Experience team member can contact camp staff who will meet you in the lobby to complete the sign in process. You must wait with your camper(s) until camp staff arrive. If you know your camper will be arriving late, please email camps@naturemuseum.org.

For Contactless Pick-Up:

Pick-up runs from 2:50pm to 3:10pm. A charge of $0.50 per minute will accrue for each camper picked up after 3:10pm. Any camper leaving before 2:50pm must signed out with camp staff in the Museum’s lobby. A Guest Experience team member can contact camp staff who will meet you in the lobby to complete the sign out process. If you know your camper will need to be signed out early, please email camps@naturemuseum.org.

For Aftercare Pick-Up:

Campers in aftercare can be picked up anytime between 3:30-5:00pm. A charge of $0.50 per minute will accrue for each camper picked up after 5:00pm. All aftercare pick-ups will take place in the Museum’s lobby. If you arrive before 4:00pm, enter the building and head to the front desk and let them know you are here for a camp pick-up. If you arrive after 4:00pm, when our museum closes, please ring the silver doorbell to the left of the main entrance. A camp director or security guard will let you into the building. Then, a camp staff member will collect your camper and walk them down to the lobby to meet with you.
Nature Museum Summer Camp
Contactless Drop-Off and Pick Up Procedures

Each camp group has a designated drop-off and pick-up location (see the map below). In the week prior to your camp session, you will receive an email from the Camp Directors to the email address listed when you registered. This email will include your camper’s drop-off/pick-up location AND their unique camper code.

Camp families with multiple campers will be asked to drop-off and pick-up each of their campers at their groups’ designated locations. Aftercare families will pick-up their campers from the Museum’s lobby.

A unique code will be used for contactless pick-up verification - take care to keep it private and communicate the pick up plans with all pick-up persons. Campers will not be released without this code.

Every day for drop-off and pick-up, pick-up persons must display a printed copy of their camper's unique code.
Behavior Policy

The Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum strives to offer exceptional educational programs. To provide a positive summer camp experience for all campers, the Nature Museum Summer Camp has the following behavior policy. Please review this policy carefully with your camper, and keep a copy for occasional reference if necessary. Campers will be expected to adhere to the following behavior guidelines:

1. **Be Respectful:**
   - Campers are expected to treat Nature Museum staff members and other campers with kindness and respect.
   - Campers are encouraged to offer positive comments toward fellow campers. Overly negative or demeaning commentary will not be allowed.
   - Campers are expected to listen to camp staff and follow their instructions.
   - Campers are expected to show respect to animals. Campers are expected to follow Nature Museum staff directions on how to appropriately interact with the animals in the Nature Museum’s living collection.

2. **Be Responsible:**
   - Campers are expected to care for their own belongings.
   - Campers are expected to exhibit respect and care for the Nature Museum’s objects and facilities.
   - Campers are expected to clean-up after themselves following camp activities and lunch.
   - Campers are expected to manage their masking, social distancing, and make COVID-19 safe decisions.

3. **Be Safe and Be Kind:**
   - Violence of any kind (shoving, hitting, pushing, etc.) will not be tolerated. Additionally, violent imaginative play (war games, imaginary guns/weapons) will be redirected by staff. Please discuss appropriate play topics for the camp setting with your child.
   - Swearing and foul language are not appropriate language at camp.
   - The Nature Museum camps strive to be a “bully free” zone, one that encourages positive camper interactions and various social support systems. In support of this culture, we encourage your camper to alert camp staff to any bullying they may be experiencing/witnessing so that we may best address these issues as quickly as possible.

The following guidelines will be used to address behavior issues. This policy is designed to address the issue and assist the parent/guardian and child in dealing with the behavioral incident. The goal is to help ensure a positive and safe environment for every camper. The counselor, followed by the Summer Camp Directors, will determine when a behavior issue requires further attention.

**First Incident** – Staff will address the behavior issue with camper. The counselor may elect to remove the camper from camp activities for a brief period of time. The counselor may choose to use this consequence multiple times before proceeding to the next stage of disciplinary action.

**Second Incident** – If a disruptive behavior continues, the counselor will inform the Camp Directors. An incident report may be completed describing the camper’s behavior. The issue will be discussed with the parent/guardian and Camp Director(s) and the parent/guardian will be asked to sign a copy of this Behavior Policy document.

**Third Incident** – If similar behavior persists, parent/guardian will be notified and an incident report will be completed. The camper will then be suspended from one full day of camp. A refund will not be issued.

**Fourth Incident** – The Camp Directors will discuss the appropriate action. The objective is to help the child and parent/guardian resolve the behavioral issue. If necessary, the child will be removed from the Summer Camp. Should the Camp Directors elect this course of action, a refund will not be issued for any of the remaining days of camp.
Frequently Asked Questions

Registration

Q. What age groups are available?

A. This year, Nature Museum Summer Camp is accepting campers 4 to 9 years old.

Q. How do I register?

A. Nature Museum Camps partner with CampDoc.com for registration. Register online by going to naturemuseumcamp.org/summer-camp and clicking the “Register my camper” button to create your CampDoc account. Once your forms and registration are completed online, you will receive an email from register@campdoc.com. The CampDoc.com site is secure, encrypted, and password protected. Only Nature Museum Camp Staff will have access to camper health information.

If you registered through CampDoc for camp with us in the past, you can log into your CampDoc account using your same email and password. You’ll have access to your account and camper profile which will streamline your registration!

Q. Do you have a waitlist?

A. Yes. Once a camp session is filled, we immediately begin a waitlist. If your child is placed on the waitlist, we will contact you if a spot becomes available. Payment will only be processed if you choose to accept the spot.

Q. What is your cancellation policy?

A. The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum reserves the right to cancel this program at any time for any reason.

A non-refundable 10% administrative processing fee is included in camp tuition.

Cancellations, made for non-medical reasons, must be received more than 60 days before the start of the camp session to receive full refund less this processing fee. Cancellations, made for non-medical reasons, received 15 to 60 days before the start of the camp session will receive a 50% refund. Non-medical cancellations within two weeks of the first day of camp will not receive a refund.
Camp Logistics

Q. What are the camp times and dates?

A. This year, camp is offered in two-week sessions. Camp is not offered on July 4, 2023. Camp runs from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Session dates are available on the main Summer Camp page and on the registration form.

Q. Do you offer before or aftercare?

A. We have a set number of pre-registered campers for each aftercare session. All aftercare sessions are currently full. You can see if your camper is registered in aftercare by checking your CampDoc profile.

Q. What should my camper bring each day?

A. In a zippered backpack, please label the following with your camper’s name:

- lunch - We have a strict no peanut and tree nut policy.
- snack - We have a strict no peanut and tree nut policy.
- extra clothes - younger campers should come with a change of clothes including an extra shirt, pair of shorts, and underwear in case of accidents. All clothing should be labeled with your camper’s name.
- a filled, reusable water bottle - labeled with your camper’s name.
- sunscreen - Please note: camp staff is not permitted to apply sprays or lotions to campers. We recommend applying it before drop off; campers are given time after lunch to apply additional spray or lotion.
- bug spray (optional)
- extra masks (optional) - we recommend sending your camper with at least two masks
- Remember: The designated pick-up person will need their camper’s unique camper code each day for pick-up.

Q. How are the camps staffed?

A. Our summer camps are supervised by two Camp Directors, who are full time members of the Museum staff. Head Counselors and Counselors lead activities and supervise the campers throughout the day.

Q. What is your bathroom policy?

A. All campers must be fully potty-trained and need no assistance when using the restroom. Campers will be offered several bathroom breaks throughout the day and groups will not mix during this time. A camp staff member will always be stationed at the restrooms during this time.

Q. Is the camp staff trained in first aid?

A. Yes, our Directors and Head Counselors are certified in CPR and First Aid by the Red Cross and trained to recognize the signs of a severe allergic reaction and in the administration of EpiPens. If your camper has an EpiPen, be sure to include that in your camper’s Health Profile. The Camp Directors will contact you prior to the start of camp to discuss the action plan for emergency administration.
Q. Will my child be spending time outside?

A. Yes! The majority of your camper’s day will be spent outside. Please dress your camper for the weather and be prepared to pick up a muddy, grass-stained, happy camper at the end of the day! We will absolutely play in the rain, but campers will participate in indoor activities in the event of inclement weather, including extreme heat and lightning.

Q. What if my child has special needs?

A. Please note any special needs your child has on the registration form. The Camp Directors will contact you prior to the start of camp to discuss any strategies or accommodations the staff can implement to best support your child during Nature Museum Summer Camp.

Q. Should I pack a lunch? Does my child need a snack?

A. Yes, you must send your camper with lunch. For the safety of all participants, we have a strict no peanut and tree nut policy. We will provide a designated snack time for campers after lunch, so please also send your camper with a snack. If your camper is registered for aftercare, please send a second snack for them to eat during that time.

Q. Is there anything my camper should not bring?

A. Campers should not bring electronics (including cell phones), valuables or other games/toys. If needed, a small comfort item can be packed (e.g., a small stuffed animal, or family picture), but please do not pack items with significant meaning. Keep in mind that camper items may be misplaced. Nature Museum camp staff is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

Q. Does the Nature Museum Summer Camp have a Behavior Policy?

A. Yes. All campers are required to review the camp behavior policy with their parent or guardian prior to their first day of camp. The complete policy can be found in the Orientation Packet on page 10.

Aftercare

Q. My camper isn’t enrolled in aftercare, but I need childcare from 3-5! Can I enroll in aftercare on a daily basis?

A. No, we do not offer daily opt-in aftercare. We have a set number of pre-registered campers for each aftercare session. All aftercare sessions are currently full. We are not able to accommodate extra campers during this time. All campers NOT enrolled in aftercare should be picked up by 3:10pm. You can see if you are registered in aftercare by checking your CampDoc profile.

Q. Should I go to my camper’s drop off location for pick up from aftercare?

A. No, all campers enrolled in aftercare will be picked up in the Museum’s lobby. You can enter through the museum’s main entrance. A camp director or camp staff member will connect you with your camper when you arrive. Don’t forget to bring your camper code for sign out!