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.

Maddy 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.

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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:** Tuesday, July 2 • 4:00 - 6:00pm
- **Session 2:** Thursday, July 18 • 4:00 - 6:00pm
- **Session 3:** Thursday, August 1 • 4:00 - 6:00pm
- **Session 4:** Thursday, August 15 • 4:00 - 6:00pm

Summer Nature Fest
*Thursday, June 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 (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 (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 (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 (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; wear them 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.

- **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.

*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
Nature Museum Camp and COVID-19

Nature Museum Camp COVID-19 Safety Policy

Nature Museum Camp strongly encourages all campers and staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19. At times, Nature Museum Camp 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. Please help campers be ready for these situations by providing a face covering.

Email the camp directors at camps@naturemuseum.org if you have any questions.

At Nature Museum Camp, our priority has been and will continue to be providing a safe space for our campers, staff, volunteers and guests.

The Nature Museum will follow the CDC guidelines if a camper becomes ill while at camp, has known contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or tests positive for COVID-19. To keep our camp community safe, our camp families and campers should also follow the guidance from the City of Chicago and the CDC.

**Contact us as soon as possible if your camper tests positive for COVID-19 or you learn they were exposed to someone that tests positive for COVID-19.** In the event that the Nature Museum becomes aware of COVID-19 exposure at Nature Museum Camp, families with a camper in the impacted group will be notified.

If a camper feels unwell or has symptoms of infectious illness while at camp, they will be taken to an isolation area to rest under the supervision of a staff member. Parents/guardians will be called to pick up their camper and advised to consult their doctor and current guidelines regarding COVID-19 testing.

If a camper feels unwell or has symptoms of infectious illness in the health screener or during camp, the camper can return to camp when their symptoms improve and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Additionally, proof of a negative COVID-19 test or a doctor’s note clearing the camper for return to camp may be required.

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.

*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
  ○ 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 1
Canoeing Trip on the Chicago River

Sustainable Stewards (Session 4)
Thursday, August 15
Land Restoration at Little Red Schoolhouse

4 to 7 year-old campers stay at the Nature Museum and surrounding grounds at all times.
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 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 Drop-Off:

Camp families may drop-off their camper(s) between 8:50am 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 Pick-Up:

Pick-up runs from 2:50pm to 3:10pm. A charge of $1 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 $1 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
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 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 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.

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.