Welcome!

Hello, and welcome to The Cabin's Summer Writing Camps! I'm Megan Williams, the Education Program Manager for The Cabin. I run camp along with Emmy Parton, our Education Program Coordinator. You can expect to hear from both of us over the course of the summer.

The Cabin's Summer Writing Camps help kids cultivate a lifelong love of writing through fun, week-long literary adventures. Campers explore community spaces as they build tools to creatively express themselves. Each one of our camps is led by an experienced teaching-writer who is thrilled to help your child build their confidence in writing.

We put together this Parent Handbook to share all of our policy and procedures in one place. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at megan@thecabinidaho.org or call 208-331-8000

See you this summer!

Megan Williams
Education Program Manager
THE CABIN, a center for readers & writers
**Enrollment**

Your camper should be enrolled at the grade level they will enter in the fall. Campers are only eligible to enroll in camps that match their grade level. If your camper ends up in a camp meant for younger or older campers, we will work with you to find a grade-level appropriate camp.

We recommend enrolling as early as possible to give your teaching-writer lots of opportunity to plan. If you are signing up more than one child for the same camp, please process your orders one at a time to give us correct camper information.

**Arrival & Dismissal**

Please arrive at your camp venue (check your email confirmation for details!) at least 10 minutes before the start of camp each day. We ask that you pick up your camper promptly at the end of camp each day as we have no childcare available. **We will only release campers to adults who are designated by name at the time of registration.** Campers will not be free to leave camp on their own unless a designated adult has given The Cabin explicit permission to release them.
What to Bring
At the beginning of each camp week, The Cabin will provide each student with a notebook, a pencil, a string backpack, and an inspiring teaching-writer. It’s been known to get hot on late July afternoons so it would be great if you could remind your camper to dress appropriately for the weather. We recommend wearing sunscreen, a hat, and good walking shoes. Most camps will spend the bulk of camp time outdoors exploring the surrounding parks and city areas. Each camper should also bring a water bottle and a snack. We cannot provide refrigeration.

If you have not filled out a Participation and Agreement Form for your camper by the first session, you may bring it to registration.

Field Trips
Each camp will have an opportunity to attend a field trip related to their camp. Field trips are within walking distance of The Cabin and may include the Boise Art Museum, the Idaho State Museum, Zoo Boise, the Boise Public Library, the Flying M, and more. We will send you any relevant field trip information in your pre-camp email.

Weather
Camp will not be canceled in the event of inclement weather. Even though most camps will move indoors at The Cabin, we recommend bringing a raincoat and/or an umbrella and waterproof shoes on rainy days, just in case your camper is far from the building or a covered area when the weather turns.

In the event of extreme heat (over 100 degrees for over an hour) or unhealthy air quality, camps will be moved indoors.
Cancellation for Low Enrollment
The maximum enrollment for each camp is 10 campers. A minimum number of 6 students are needed for The Cabin to run each camp. If this enrollment minimum isn’t reached by 5 days in advance of the first class, enrolled students will be notified of cancellation by email and phone call. Students enrolled in canceled camps will receive a refund for the full registration fee within one week of cancellation.
Your camper's safety is of the utmost importance to us! As such, we will be implementing health and safety protocols recommended by the CDC as well as state and local public health officials.

These guidelines are subject to change as the pandemic continues to evolve. For now, we will be following these protocols:

- Camps will be capped at 10 campers and campers will stay with their designated groups.
- Most camp sessions will be outside to help maintain distancing rules.
- Campers will be encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after camp and after transitioning from one activity to another.
- All indoor classroom spaces will be cleaned before and after camps and equipped with high-quality air purifiers to assist with ventilation.
- In light of the extremely low positivity rate (the lowest since Idaho's first positive case in March 2020), we will no longer be requiring masks in The Cabin's building. In the event of a future spike in cases, we will heed the guidance of local and national public health organizations.
- Friday camp readings will be held outdoors at Julia Davis Park.
- If you are feeling ill, please stay home! Let us know at 208-331-8000 or megan@thecabinidaho.org so we can arrange for you to attend another camp when you're feeling better.
Camper Absence & Illness Policy

We cannot refund students for missed classes, but your teaching-writer will make every effort to share class materials with you if you are absent. However, if you are feeling ill — particularly if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms — please stay home from camp!

If you need to cancel because of illness, or if you feel you have a unique situation, contact the Education Program Manager at megan@thecabinidaho.org or 208-331-8000 to make arrangements.

Cancellations by Camper
If you need to cancel your registration for reasons other than illness, the following refund schedule applies:
- More than 5 days before a camp, a full refund will be issued either back to your original form of payment, or as a credit for a future camp.
- 5 days or less before a camp, 50% of your tuition will be refunded by check.

Refunds will not be issued for cancellation requests received after camp has begun.
The Cabin aims to provide a safe and fun learning environment that respects the autonomy, creativity, and individuality of all campers. We know that our campers are still developing self-regulation skills and as a result may exhibit unsafe behaviors that require intervention. **Behaviors that may require intervention include but are not limited to:**

- Use of disrespectful language or gestures toward other campers, teaching-writers, and Cabin staff.
- Physical harm of others, including pushing, striking, shoving, grabbing, spitting, etc.
- Harm to self, including attempts and threats to harm oneself.
- Inability to safely stay and transition with the camp group, or threatening to run away or abandon the group.
- Refusal or inability to follow the teaching-writer's directions.
- Unwanted touching of others.

**If a camper engages in unsafe behavior, our interventions will proceed as follows:**

- **1- Safe Space:** If a camper's behaviors are deemed unsafe, we will pull them aside to a safe place to validate their emotions and work through the behavior with a teaching-writer.
2- Parent/Guardian Contact: If the teaching-writer and Cabin staff need extra support identifying what the camper's behavior is communicating and/or strategies to work with your camper, the teaching-writer and/or Cabin staff will communicate with you at camp pickup and/or by phone or email and outline the behavior the camper is working through and interventions we have tried with the goal of identifying additional ways to support your camper.

3- Administrator Outreach: If the unsafe behavior continues, the Education Program Manager will call you to discuss a further course of action. This may include sending the camper home for the day or, as a last resort, disenrolling the camper from camp.

If your camper’s behavior continues to compromise the safety and wellbeing of other campers, teaching-writers, teaching assistants, and/or Cabin staff, The Cabin reserves the right to disenroll your camper from camp. Disenrollment will only be used as a last resort — we want to work with you to figure out how your camper can safely remain part of their camp!

If you suspect your child may need additional support or accommodations, don't hesitate to reach out to Emmy at emmy@thecabinidaho.org or Megan at megan@thecabinidaho.org.

Mandatory Reporters
Idaho State Law requires our teaching-writers to report suspected child abuse, neglect, or abandonment to Idaho’s Child and Family Services.