

PEGGY NOTEBAERT NATURE MUSEUM

SUMMER CAMP



2017 FAQ Sheet

Registration

Q. When does registration open for summer camps? What age groups are available?

A. Open registration will begin on **February 15th, 2017 at 9 a.m.** The Nature Museum camps accepts 4 to 11 year-olds.

Q. How do I register?

A. Register online at naturemuseum.org/summercamp. Within five business days of submitting an online registration form you will receive notification via email if your camper has been accepted into the session(s). Upon receiving the acceptance email, you will have two full businesses days to submit payment over the phone to secure your camper's spot(s). If you have registration questions, please contact the Camp Directors at camps@naturemuseum.org.

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. Cancellations received 60 days or more prior to the first day of your session will receive a 90% refund. Cancellations received 15 to 60 days prior to the day will receive a 50% refund. Cancellation within two weeks of the first day will not receive a refund.

Q. What is the timeline on confirmation of registration?

A. A confirmation email will be sent within five business days after the receipt of a completed form.

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Camp Logistics

Q. What are the camp times and dates?

A. Camp is offered in two week sessions. Camp is not offered on July 4, 2017. For 4 year-old campers: camps run from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For 5 to 11 year-old campers: Camp run from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Schedules are available on the main Summer Camp page and on the registration form.

Q. Do you offer after-care for the four year old group?

A. Yes. After-care is offered from 1 - 3 p.m. for an additional \$105/week. Campers explore the museum and have time for additional outdoor play with their counselors.

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.)
- extra clothes - younger campers should come with a change of clothes including an extra shirt, pair of shorts, and underwear in case of accidents.
- reusable water bottle
- sunscreen - preferably a broad-spectrum protection spray or lotion formulated to protect against both UVA and UVB rays.

(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.)

Campers should come to camp wearing:

- weather appropriate "play" clothing
- camp t-shirt (On the first day of camp and for all field trips, and any other day you like)
- close-toed shoes (Open toed shoes and flip flops are not permitted in camp.)

On Water-Wednesdays, campers will need to pack a:

- towel
- additional t-shirt and change of clothes
- closed toe water shoes or sandals

On Water-Wednesdays, campers should come wearing:

- their swim suit under their clothes (if they want to play in the water)
- closed-toed shoes

Remember: The designated pick-up person should bring their photo ID every day for pick-up

Q. What is Water Wednesday?

A. Every Wednesday, campers have the opportunity to explore water through active outdoor play. Campers not wishing to join the water play will have the opportunity to play in a water free zone.

Q. How are the camps staffed? How many adults will be with my camper?

A. Our summer camps are supervised by the Camp Directors and the Assistant Camp Director. Head Counselors (college-aged) and Counselors (high school and college-aged) lead activities and supervise the campers throughout the day. For the 4 year-old campers, our adult to child ratio is 1:5. For the 5 to 11 year-old campers, the ratio is 1:7.

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. A Head Counselor will always be stationed in the public restrooms during this time.

Q. Do you have trained medical personnel on staff?

A. Yes, all the Summer Camp staff are certified in CPR and First Aid and trained to recognize the signs of a severe allergic reaction and in the administration of EpiPens. If your camper will carry an EpiPen, make a note your registration form. 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 any time outside?

A. Yes! The majority of your camper's day will be spent outside interacting with natural elements and exploring the nature of Chicago at their own pace with tools chosen (or built!) by them. 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. Does camp provide lunch? Do I need to send a snack with my camper?

A. We do not provide lunch. You must send your camper with lunch. For the safety of all participants, we have a strict no peanut and tree nut policy. A healthy afternoon snack will be provided, including a fruit and grain option in addition to water. Gluten-free, dairy-free and nut-free options are available upon request for those campers with allergies and/or food sensitivities.

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 (i.e., 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 your camper reports.

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

A. Yes. All campers are required to review the camp behavior policy and contract with their parent or guardian prior to their first day of camp. The complete policy can be found in the Orientation Packet on page 7.

