



SUMMER CAMP: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO TO CONTACT

Registrar – Christina Spade, cspade@houstonarboretum.org

Camp Coordinator – Alondra Cavazos, campcoordinator@houstonarboretum.org

Education Director – Tiffany Ritter, tritter@houstonarboretum.org

Early or Late arrivals or pickups – please call our main phone line at 713-681-8433

PARKING

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center – 610 Entrance

Located at 120 W Loop N Freeway, Houston, TX 77024

Parents will receive an email with a parking pass to be used during drop-off and pickup times. If you are unable to print at home, or forget yours, extras are available at drop-off.

Parking is always free for members. For nonmembers, parking is free on Thursdays and is \$6 per vehicle all other days. Parking can be paid for at the parking meters or via the Park Houston Mobile App. Parking is free on Thursdays.

DROP-OFF AND PICKUP

For safety reasons, campers must be accompanied to check-in and be signed in by an adult. Children are not allowed to enter the property alone. There will be signs directing you to the sign-in areas. Campers may be signed in beginning at 8:45am.

Campers must be picked up at the end of class unless they are enrolled in After Camp. **A \$1.00 per minute charge will be charged for late pickup.** Campers must be signed out by a designated adult prior to leaving. If someone else will be picking up your child that day, you must inform the Camp Teacher at drop-off and provide their contact information.

CLASS TIME

Camp begins at 9 am for all classes.

Camp ends at 12pm for half-day campers and 3pm for full-day campers.



After Camp closes at 5:30pm.

DAILY ROUTINE

Our programs are a combination of hands-on science activities, nature hikes, outdoor games, and live animal encounters. This program will have both indoor and outdoor components. Each class will have a mid-morning snack time, and full-day campers will have a lunch break at 12 pm. For campers enrolled in our After Camp program, a snack will be provided at 3pm.

LUNCH AND SNACKS

Each child will need to bring a refillable water bottle and a mid-morning snack. If your child is attending the full-day camp, please provide a lunch for them to eat. Healthy, hearty snacks and lunches are important to help keep your child fueled and energized for the day's activities. In the case that a camper has severe food allergies, families will be notified the week prior to camp of any classroom food restrictions.

AGE GROUPS & REQUIREMENTS

We strictly enforce age requirements. Your child must be the correct age for each registered class or camp week.

Half-day classes are only available for 4 and 5-6 year old campers. *The 5-6 half-day class is separate from the full-day class.*

Full-day 5-6 campers will be in 2 classrooms, you will receive an email at least one week prior to your camp to provide any camp buddy requests.

All campers, regardless of abilities or disabilities, must be capable of exhibiting respectful behavior and attending camp without an aide.

WHAT TO WEAR

Arrive dressed in closed-toe shoes and comfortable play clothes. Sandals are not permitted for safety reasons. Be prepared for the weather including hat, sunscreen, jackets, raincoat, or rain boots, as needed. A backpack is recommended for keeping belongings together. Please label everything with your camper's name. Items left at the end of each week will be placed into Lost & Found located in the Nature Shop.

PARENTS AND SIBLINGS ATTENDANCE



Parents or guardians and siblings of campers are not permitted to attend class but are welcome to explore the Arboretum's grounds on their own.

ALLERGIES AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Please ensure that you have provided all pertinent medical information and emergency contacts during the registration process. Any changes can be made in person on first day of class with your camper's teacher.

A FARE emergency care plan form must be provided for any camper with severe allergies.

All campers, regardless of abilities or disabilities, must be capable of exhibiting respectful behavior and attending camp without an aide.

To make any changes to this information, or if you wish to discuss specific needs for your camper, please contact Camp Coordinator, Alondra Cavazos, campcoordinator@houstonarboretum.org

The Houston Arboretum does not administer medications.

WEATHER

Come prepared for the Houston weather including heat, cold, and/or rain. Our programs are rain or shine, and campers may still go out in light rain. An indoor program will be provided in the event of severe weather, thunder, or lightning.

MOSQUITOES

We will provide insect repellent with 25% DEET as the active ingredient. You are welcome to bring your own repellent with your child but please note that the [Centers for Disease Control](#) does not recommend Citronella or other botanical repellents except for those containing oil of lemon eucalyptus.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos are frequently taken during our programs. These photos are used primarily for the promotion of our Children's Programming. Occasionally, photos are used on the Houston Arboretum's social media pages or local news TV, newspapers, and magazines. If you would not like your child photographed or videoed, please inform our Registrar, Christina Spade, at cspade@houstonarboretum.org.



HEALTH & SAFETY

The health and safety of our campers, volunteers, staff, and guests is our first priority. Our summer camps have extensive safety procedures and training for both volunteers and staff, including heat stress.

Our camp teachers are experienced educators who enjoy working with children and sharing their passion for nature and wildlife. All teachers, interns, and volunteers have passed a background check.

Please visit our website for [current visitor policies](#).

WAITLISTS

Waitlists are a queue that you can join, allowing you to wait for a seat to open in a class. If a class is sold out and no waitlist is available, then the waitlist is full. If you are on a waitlist, it is important that you check your email used during registration on a regular basis as you only have 24 hours from the time a notification is sent to secure the seat.

Please refer to our website for more detailed [waitlist information](#).

CANCELLATION, REFUNDS, TRANSFERS

All sales are considered final.

Please refer to our website for our complete [cancellation policy](#) or contact Christina Spade at cspade@houstonarboretum.org.