



## SUMMER CAMP: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 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 free for members and \$6 per day for nonmembers. 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

We will be using a new check-in system, Brightwheel. You will receive an email invitation to create an account for your camper, a week prior to camp. Below is a link that can be helpful to check out prior to camp.

[Brightwheel for guardians](#)

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

Sign in begins at 8:45.

Camp begins at 9 am for all classes.

Class 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 (not provided by the Arboretum), 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.

## 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 and Crocs 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.

## 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 lunch for them to eat. Healthy and hearty snacks and lunches are important to help keep your child fueled and energized for the day's activities. We advise against food delivery apps.

## 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. Please note that parents and siblings should not be entering the classroom at any point of the day.

## **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 on your campers' Bright Wheel profile.

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](mailto: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.

If inclement weather occurs at pick-up time, please do not put yourself in danger. Campers will be supervised in the Nature Center building until it is safe for you to walk to and from the parking areas.

## **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, Abby Greer,

[agreer@houstonarboretum.org](mailto:agreer@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](#).

## **CANCELLATION, REFUNDS, TRANSFERS**

All sales are considered final.

Please refer to our website for our complete [cancellation policy](#) or contact Abby Greer at [agreer@houstonarboretum.org](mailto:agreer@houstonarboretum.org)