Discovery Place Summer Camp Procedures & Protocols

Effective for the 2022 Camp season

Mission and Focus
Every year, Discovery Place offers hundreds of future scientists, innovators and world problem-solvers the opportunity to spend part of their summer with us by participating in our Summer Camps. We are excited to, once again, be able to provide these educational and fun Camps, while being mindful of the everchanging environment that Covid 19 encompasses.

We have modified our Summer Camps to address the health and safety of our Campers and staff as it relates to COVID-19. Additionally, we have reviewed the curriculum in each Camp and adjusted it as necessary to prioritize the safety of each Camp environment. While we will continue to place health and safety at the forefront of our work, Discovery Place offers Summer Camp programming as a way for children to experience hands-on learning in the areas of science, technology and nature, and this will remain a foundational part of our 2022 Summer Camp season.

We are continuing to follow all federal, state and local guidelines related to COVID-19, and these guidelines are at the center of our ongoing work to create and maintain a safe environment for all Campers and staff throughout the summer. Guidance for our COVID-19 Summer Camp Safety protocols comes from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS); and the American Camp Association (ACA).

**Our procedures and protocols may change as the conditions around COVID-19 change. Updates to our policies and procedures will be communicated via our website and pre-camp email from the Camp Director. **
Essential Functions of a Summer Camp Participant
A Camper must have the following capabilities to participate in Summer Camp at Discovery Place:

• Be able to move independently from place to place
• Take care of their own personal needs
• Have effective interactions in our group-based environment (pair work, group projects, etc.)
• Abide by the code of conduct and behavior guidelines

If you have any questions about the essential functions listed above, please contact us. We would be happy to talk to you about your Campers’ specific needs. Please note:

• Discovery Place is not a therapeutic setting; however, we work with families to accommodate their children’s needs as long as they can abide by the essential functions of a participant (above).
• If a Camper has a current IEP issued from the school system that requires an aide or other resources, Discovery Place will accommodate those individuals. Caregivers or members of the family are not considered a licensed aide or support person.
• Discovery Place does not administer oral or topical medications. Campers must be able to administer their own medications during the program hours.

Prior to the Week of Camp

• Electronic health screening forms must be filled out and submitted by the Friday before a Campers’ first day of Camp. This is an updated form with several new questions related to COVID-19.

Things to Bring Each Day

• All Campers must wear a face covering (gator style, cloth mask or bandana) that properly covers their nose and mouth. Face shields may be worn in addition to a face covering however will not be permitted in place of a face covering. Discovery Place will not provide masks to those who forget to bring one, and that Camper will not be permitted inside the Museum.
• Campers must bring lunch and snacks for the day, as no food options will be offered on site. Please ensure all food is nut-free.
• Campers should bring a refillable water bottle. They will have access to water-bottle filling stations. They will not be permitted to utilize the water fountain.
Drop-Off and Pick-Up
Drop-off Times and Locations
Camper drop-off will be staggered based on age groups; please see details below.

Discovery Place Science:
- Morning Camps: Campers in Pre-K through 2nd grade should be dropped off between 8:40 and 8:50 a.m. Campers in 3rd grade or higher should be dropped off between 8:50 and 9:00 a.m.
- Afternoon Camps: Campers in Pre-K through 2nd grade should be dropped off between 12:50 to 1:00 p.m. Campers in 3rd grade or higher should be dropped off between 12:55 to 1:00 p.m.
- For those with Campers in both age groups, the parent/guardian should choose which drop-off time they prefer.

Discovery Place Nature:
- Morning Camps: Campers in Pre-K through kindergarten should be dropped off between 8:40 and 8:50 a.m. Campers in 1st and 2nd grade should be dropped off between 8:50 and 9:00 a.m.
- Afternoon Camps: Campers in Pre-K through kindergarten should be dropped off between 12:50 to 1:00 p.m. Campers in 1st and 2nd grade should be dropped off between 12:55 to 1:00 p.m.
- For those with Campers in both age groups, the parent/guardian should choose which drop-off time they prefer.

Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville:
- Morning Camps: Campers in Pre-K through kindergarten should be dropped off between 8:40 and 8:50 a.m. Campers in 1st and 2nd grade should be dropped off between 8:50 and 9:00 a.m.
- Afternoon Camps: Campers in Pre-K through kindergarten should be dropped off between 12:50 to 1:00 p.m. Campers in 1st and 2nd grade should be dropped off between 12:55 to 1:00 p.m.
- For those with Campers in both age groups, the parent/guardian should choose which drop-off time they prefer.
- Park in the deck and walk your Camper to the Learning Garden, located across from the parking deck entrance. Camp Presenters will be at the drop-off point for check-in.
Pick-Up Times and Locations
Campers can be picked up beginning 15 minutes prior to the scheduled end of Camp at the same location as drop-off.

- Science/Nature: Picking up a Camper will be a contactless process. A pick-up pass will be provided to registrants that must be displayed in their vehicle at the time of pick-up.
- KIDS-Huntersville: Caregivers should park in the deck, walk to the Learning Garden entrance, and present their issued pick-up pass to the staff member at the gate.
- If the Caregiver picking up the Camper does not have the pass provided, then they will need to show a photo ID and be listed on the Emergency Medical and Release Form.
- The person who booked the camps may make changes to the approved pick-up list at any time by calling Guest Sales at 704.372.6261 x300.

Late Arrival / Early Pick-Up Requests

- Late arrivals will need to be pre-arranged with Camp management (numbers below). Caregivers must remain outside of the Museum until the Camper can be greeted and screened by staff.
- Early pick-ups will need to be pre-arranged with Camp management (numbers below). Early pick-up will be unavailable beginning at 3:30 p.m. for full-day Camp and at 11:30 a.m. for half-day Camp so that staff may begin preparing for regular dismissal.

Late Pick-Up Fees

- Pick-up for non-extended day campers goes from 3:45 – 4:00 p.m.
- All Campers must be picked up on time. Any Camper picked up at 4:15 p.m. or later will be subject to a $50 late pick-up fee. Consistent late picks-are grounds for dismissal from the Summer Camp program.

Extended Care and Lunch Bunch
Extended Care and Lunch Bunch options will be offered provided health conditions at the time are suitable. You can register for these programs now and will be notified 2 weeks prior if we are no longer able to accommodate them.

- Extended Care covers 1 hour prior to the start of regular Camp and 1 hour after the conclusion of regular Camp.
- All Campers must be picked up on time. Any Camper picked up at 5:15 p.m. or later will be subject to a $50 late pick-up fee. Consistent late pick-ups are grounds for dismissal from the Summer Camp program.

Contact Numbers:

- Discovery Place Science: 704-619-4062
- Discovery Place Nature: 704-619-0576
- Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville: 704-619-1658
**Health & Safety**

As leaders in science education, the team at Discovery Place follows guidance and recommendations from public health officials when determining Covid-19 safety measures for our Summer Camp programs. Below is a list of measures that we have used in the past to ensure the safety of our campers and staff. Please note that we may adhere to any and all of these guidelines at any time during the 2022 Summer Camp programs. Updated information will be provided following enrollment and as we get closer to the start of Summer Camps.

**Health Screenings**

- Children and adults should be checked for symptoms at home, upon arrival at summer camp and throughout the day. The presence of any of the symptoms generally suggests a person has an infectious illness and should not attend camp, regardless of whether the illness is COVID-19. Ask staff and parents/caregivers to be alert and stay home if they or anyone else in the household is showing any signs of illness or they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Parents/Guardians will be asked a series of questions regarding their Campers’ health and potential COVID-19 exposure. Depending on the results of the screening, your Camper may not be allowed to participate in Camp.
- If a Camper fails to pass the health screening, or is sent home due to illness, that Camper (and any participating siblings) will not be allowed to return until:
  - They have been fever free for over 24 hours, without fever reducers.
  - Present with a negative Covid test, or have a note from their doctor
- All Campers age 2 and older are required to wear a face mask or cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth while at Camp. No exceptions, medical or otherwise. Staff members will also be wearing masks.
- Face shields may be worn in addition to a face covering however will not be permitted in place of a face covering. Discovery Place will not provide masks to those who forget to bring one, and that Camper will not be permitted inside the Museum.

**Limiting Exposure**

- Each Camp will have its own dedicated space and contact with those outside of Camp will be minimized.
- The members of each Camp, both the Campers and the staff, will remain the same all week, to the extent this is feasible.
- Lunch and snack times will be held within the individual classrooms.
- To limit the number of communal items being used, each Camper will be provided with an individual kit that only he or she will use throughout the week. These kits may include a pair of scissors, crayons, markers, glue sticks, etc.
• Areas being used for multiple Camp groups, like exhibition spaces, will be scheduled to prevent group overlap and will be thoroughly cleaned between each use.
• Water fountains will not be available for use by Campers. They will have access to water bottle filling stations.
• Parents/Guardians will not be permitted to stop in during the Camp Day.
• Direct touching of animals has been suspended at this time. When possible, Campers will be provided with animal meet-and-greets from a distance or via virtual programming.
• If a Camper is sent home with a temperature of 100.4 or higher, all Campers in that class will be notified. The identity of the Camper will be kept confidential for privacy protection.
• In the event that Discovery Place becomes aware of a potential COVID-19 exposure at Summer Camp, families with a Camper at the impacted site will be notified as soon as possible. The identity of the Camper will be kept confidential for privacy protection.

Cleaning Protocols
• Throughout the day, classrooms will be cleaned regularly, including before Campers arrive, after each Camp activity, and before and after snack times and lunch. Among other things, cleaning will include disinfecting of surfaces such as door handles, tables and sinks within each classroom.
• Bathrooms will be cleaned throughout the day in between class use. Bathrooms are being restricted by Camp class to minimize exposure to other groups.
• Classrooms and other Camp spaces will be deep cleaned between uses (end of day and in between half-day Camps).
• All cleaning products meet local and national guidance regarding treating COVID-19.

Hygiene Protocols
• Campers will be required to wash their hands upon entering their classrooms, before and after consuming food, before and after activities, as part of all bathroom breaks and upon re-entering the classroom from another area of the Museum.
• All classrooms will have sinks within the room.
• Campers who show signs of illness (and any participating siblings) will be immediately removed from their group and kept in a safe space under adult supervision. Parents will be contacted to come and pick them up. They will not be allowed to return until they meet the NCHHS health guidance for day camps found [here](#).

Staff Protocols
• Summer Camp staff are required to wear masks while working with Campers at our Museums.
• Summer Camp staff will undergo daily health screenings. Staff who do not pass the screening will not be allowed inside.
• Summer Camp Staff that display signs of illness will be sent home and not allowed to return until they meet the NCHHS health guidance for day camps found [here](#).
• Summer Camp staff will keep cleaning and handwashing logs.
Refunds and Cancellations

Our goal is to provide a safe and educational Summer Camp experience in which families can feel comfortable sending their children. However, we understand that comfort levels can change along with the ever-changing environment and that may result in some families wanting to cancel their original Camp plans.

- Programs with low enrollment are subject to cancellation. Discovery Place will make this determination 3 weeks prior to the start of a session.

- If a Camp is cancelled due to low enrollment, you will be notified and given the opportunity to select another Camp or receive a refund.

- If you wish to cancel registration, you must give 3 weeks’ notice prior to the start of Camp for a refund, minus cancellation fee ($50 for full day Camps, $35 for half-day Camps).

- Any cancellation less than 3 weeks prior to the start of Camp will not be refunded. Camp registrations may be rescheduled up to 2 times and will be charged a $20 fee per transfer.

- Refunds will not be offered for missed days and cannot be applied to future dates.

For additional questions, please call 704.372.6261 x300 or email camps@discoveryplace.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child come into contact with other children? With visitors to the Museum? Are you following social distancing recommendations?

We have made several adjustments to the camp experience in order to minimize contact including staggered, contactless drop-offs at assigned locations, minimal contact with anyone outside of their camp class, and social distancing where possible.

Will my child be required to wear a mask?

Yes, All campers age 2 and older are required to wear a face mask or cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth while at Camp. No exceptions, medical or otherwise. Staff members will also be wearing masks. Face shields may be worn in addition to a face covering, however will not be permitted in place of a face covering. Discovery Place will not provide masks to those who forget to bring one, and that Camper will not be permitted inside the Museum.

What are your cleaning practices? What about hand washing?

In addition to daily deep cleaning, classrooms will be cleaned regularly, including before Campers arrive, after each Camp activity, and before and after snack times and lunch. Among other things, cleaning will include disinfecting of surfaces such as door handles, tables and sinks within each classroom.

Campers will be required to wash their hands upon entering their classrooms, before and after consuming food, before and after activities, as part of all bathroom breaks and upon re-entering the classroom from another area of the Museum. All classrooms will have sinks within the room.

What can I do to prepare my child for camp?

Just like you might prepare your child for any new experience, we recommend talking to them beforehand about why they, and their friends in Camp, need to wear face masks and regularly wash their hands.
**How are you screening staff and campers?**
Daily health screenings will be required for both Campers and staff. These screenings include health questions as well as an Emergency & Medical Release Form required to be submitted the Friday prior to their first day of Camp.

My child has a compromised immune system or other health issues. Is it safe to send them to Camp? While our goal is to make Summer Camp safe and enjoyable for all, we realize you may have specific health concerns. Please contact your Camp Director to discuss your specific concerns.

**Will you be providing Extended Care?**
Extended Care and Lunch Bunch options will be offered provided health conditions at the time are suitable. You can register for these programs now and will be notified 2 weeks prior if we are no longer able to accommodate them.

**How will you communicate policy changes?**
Our procedures and protocols may change as the conditions around COVID-19 change. Updates to our policy will be communicated via our website and pre-camp email from the Camp Manager.

**What if I need to drop off my child late or pick-up early?**
Any need for a late drop-off or early pick-up must be pre-arranged with Camp management. See phone numbers listed under the Drop-Off/Pick-Up Section above.