

Discovery Place Summer Camp Procedures & Protocols

Effective for the 2021 Summer Camp season

Updated: December 21, 2020

Mission and Focus for Summer Camps

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. This year, we are excited to be able to once again provide these educational and fun Camps once again despite the challenges placed upon all of us due to COVID-19.

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 2021 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).

Please note: Our procedures and protocols may change as the conditions around COVID-19 change. We will send out an updated policy should changes occur.

Prior to the Week of Camp

There are several things registrants will need to do and be prepared for before the Camp week begins. These include:

- Mandatory electronic health forms must be filled out by the Friday before a Camper's first Camp of the season starts. This is an updated form with several new questions related to COVID-19.
- We will once again have Camper requirements in place to best protect all of our Campers and staff. These include:
 - All Campers must come to Camp with a face covering (gator style, cloth mask or bandana) each day. Discovery Place will not provide masks to those who forget to bring one.
 - Campers must bring lunch and snacks for the day, as no food options will be offered onsite.
 - Campers should bring a refillable water bottle with them. Water fountains will not be utilized by individuals at the Museums.



Summer Camp Drop-Off and Arrival

Drop-off times and locations

Campers will be assigned times and locations for drop-off at Summer Camp to allow for a staggered drop-off each day. More details about drop-off locations and other pertinent information for each Museum will be provided in a communication leading up to your specific week of Camp.

At Discovery Place Science, Campers should be dropped off as follows:

- Campers in Pre-K through grade 2 should be dropped off between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. Campers in grade 3 or higher should be dropped off between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m.
- For those with Campers in both age groups, the parent/guardian should choose which drop-off time they prefer.
- For afternoon Camps, drop-off takes place from 12:30 to 12:45 p.m. for Pre-K through grade 2 and from 12:45 to 1 p.m. for Campers in grade 3 or higher.

At Discovery Place Nature, Campers should be dropped off as follows:

- Campers in Pre-K through kindergarten should be dropped off between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. Campers in grades 1 and 2 should be dropped off between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m.
- For those with Campers in both age groups, the parent/guardian should choose which drop-off time they prefer.
- For afternoon Camps, drop-off takes place from 12:30 to 12:45 p.m. for Pre-K through kindergarten and from 12:45 to 1 p.m. for Campers in grades 1 and 2.

At Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville, campers should be dropped off as follows:

- Campers in Pre-K through kindergarten should be dropped off between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. Campers in grades 1 and 2 should be dropped off between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m.
- For those with Campers in both age groups, the parent/guardian should choose which drop-off time they prefer.
- For afternoon Camps, drop-off takes place from 12:30 to 12:45 p.m. for Pre-K through kindergarten and from 12:45 to 1 p.m. for Campers in grades 1 and 2.

Caregivers will need to contact Camp management to arrange late arrivals must remain outside of the Museum until the Camper can be greeted and screened.

Contact Numbers:

- Discovery Place Science – 704.619.4062
- Discovery Place Nature – 704.619.0576
- Discovery Place Kids-Huntersville – 704.619.1658

Health screenings



Upon arrival, Campers will be screened and parents/guardians will be asked questions regarding Camper health and potential COVID-19 exposure.

- Temperature checks of Campers will take place prior to entering the Museum. Those Campers who record temperatures of 100.4 degrees (F) or higher will not be allowed inside.
- Parents/Guardians will be asked a series of questions regarding their Camper's health. Depending on the results of the screening, your Camper may not be allowed to participate in Camp.
- If a child fails to pass a health screening and/or temperature reading, or is sent home due to illness, that Camper will not be allowed to return until they meet the NCHHS health guidance for day camps found [here](#).
- Siblings of Campers who fail to meet screening criteria will also be unable to participate until the affected Camper is free of symptoms for the prescribed windows of time.
- Campers are required to wear a face covering and will not be permitted inside without the mask being properly positioned on his/her face. Discovery Place will not provide masks to those who forget to bring one.

The Camp Day

Several procedures have been implemented and will take place throughout the Camp day and week. These focus greatly on limiting exposure, intensifying cleaning protocols and following hygiene best practices.

Limiting exposure

- Each Camp will have its own dedicated classroom and bathroom.
- Camps will practice social distancing of six feet as much as possible. Certain activities or care may make this unrealistic for the entirety of the Camp week. Contact 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.
- Theaters and planetarium spaces will not be used for Summer Camps.
- 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.



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 against 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 and staff who display signs of illness will be sent home. Campers who show signs of illness 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. Depending on the type of symptoms they may be required to self-quarantine for up to 14 days. If the camper is attending camp with siblings, those children will also be gathered for pick up.

Staff procedures and requirements

- All Summer Camp staff are required to wear masks while working with Campers at our Museums.
- Summer Camp will undergo daily temperature checks and health screenings. Staff who do not pass the check and/or screening will not be allowed inside.
- Summer Camp staff will keep cleaning and handwashing logs.

Summer Camp Pick-Up and Departure

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.

- Picking up a Camper will be a contactless process. Parents/Guardians will not be required to sign out their Camper. A pass will be provided to registrants that must be displayed in their vehicle at the time of pick-up.
- Any need for an early pick-up must be arranged in advance and can be done so by contacting Camp management at the site numbers provided 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 staff may begin readying for regular dismissal.



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Notifications

Discovery Place is committed to keeping families in the loop. If a child is sent home with a temperature of 100.4 or higher, all Campers in that class will be notified. 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.

Cancellations and Refunds

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 some people will not be ready to send their children to Camp. We are working to share as much information as possible with all Summer Camp registrants so they can be well informed when making their decisions. Registrants will be fully refunded if cancellation of a Camp is made within seven days of the start of the Camp. There are no refunds for Camps cancelled within seven days of the start of the Camp. For additional questions, please call 704.372.6261 x300 or KSinclair@discoveryplace.org.



Discovery Place Summer Camp 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, both Campers and staff will be required to wear face coverings (gator style or bandana). Discovery Place will not provide masks to those who forget to bring one.

What are your cleaning practices? What about hand washing?

In addition to daily deep cleanings, 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 a temperature check and health questions as well as an Emergency & Medical Release Form <link> required prior to the week of Camp.

My child has a compromised immune system or other health issue. 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?

In order to minimize contact, we will not be providing extended care at this time. We will reassess whether we can provide this offering as conditions change throughout the summer.



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How will you communicate policy changes?

Updates to our policy will be communicated via our website and pre-camp email from your Camp director.

What if I need to drop off child late or pick up early?

Any need for a late drop-off or early pick-up must be arranged in advance.

What about cancellations? Are you updating your cancellation policy?

Yes, registrants will be fully refunded if cancellation of a Camp is made within seven days of the start of the Camp.