

## **Discovery Camps at The Health Museum**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

#### **COVID-19 Safety Measures**

The Health Museum follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC's) guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html> The guidance describes specific prevention activities for schools & child care programs. Camp activities and programs will be limiting interactions in large group settings, including limiting class sizes to ten campers with two staff, and adding creative ways to increase the physical space between staff and campers. Camp instructors and staff will be encouraging and reinforcing physical distancing when possible and health etiquette including handwashing routines.

Please see our Health & Illness policy for more information. We request that if the camper or anyone that they are routinely in close contact with (immediate family, nanny, friends, etc.) are diagnosed with COVID-19 to please inform the Senior Program Manager, Kennethia Rideaux at 713-337-8458 or [camps@thehealthmuseum.org](mailto:camps@thehealthmuseum.org) immediately.

#### **When does registration open for Summer Discovery Camps?**

Summer Camp registration opens online no later than the first week of March.

#### **How do I register my child(ren) for camp?**

Registration is completed online. Registrations are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. The cutoff time for registrations for an upcoming week is the Friday before at 5:00 p.m. However, depending on capacity at the end of the registration period, walk-ups may be accepted the Monday morning of the camp day. Please call-in advance to see if there is space at 713-337-8458.

#### **Do members get a camp registration discount?**

Yes, with a Family membership and above, you get a \$25 discount off of your child(ren)'s camp registration(s) per week. Not a member, not to worry! You can add a membership to your camp registration. We encourage you to visit

<https://www.thehealthmuseum.org/content-page/membership> for more membership information. You must be a member and be logged in to your online membership to receive the member discount on camp registrations. This discount only applies to camp registration.

### **Do you offer before-care/after-care?**

Yes! Before-care is available starting at 7:30 a.m., for a charge of \$50/week.

After-care is available starting at 3:30 p.m., for a charge of \$75/week, and operates until 5:30 p.m. In after care, campers can participate in fun activities including crafts, board games and watching educational videos.

### **What does a typical day at camp look like?**

Campers will be engaged in the theme of the week through several hands-on activities and labs, and special experiences in the museum exhibits. Campers will also receive one snack a day and have time for a lunch break. All activities follow inquiry-based learning methods that engage campers in science by asking questions and having them discover the answers. These types of activities may include labs, dissections, experiments in the classroom or outdoors, crafts, drawings, and teamwork. Please see sample schedule.

### **What does my child need to bring to camp each day?**

Campers should wear shorts or jeans and comfortable closed toe shoes. All campers should also bring a sweater or a jacket as the museum tends to be chilly. Please place the camper's name on the tag of any jackets or sweaters. Please note that campers may use materials like clay, glue, paint or may participate in outdoor activities so clothes can get dirty, wet, or messy.

All campers are required to bring a large spill-proof water bottle clearly labeled with camper name. Bottle must be taken home each day to clean and refill then returned with camper each morning.

Please note that camp classes/activities may take place outdoors or involve outdoor activities. Please remember to prepare campers with hats, insect repellent, reusable water bottles and sunscreen to protect against the hot Houston sun.

### **Do you allow campers to bring their own toys or electronics?**

We suggest that campers leave personal items, especially electronics and toys, at home. In efforts to prevent virus transmission we kindly ask campers that they do not share any toys or belongings. If camp staff determines that the presence of these items

is disruptive to the class, they may be confiscated and held until the end of the day. The Health Museum makes every reasonable attempt to safeguard campers' possessions. However, the museum will not be held responsible for the loss, destruction, or theft of any personal items (i.e., clothing, book bags or purses, toys, games, electronic devices, cellphones, or money) your child may bring to camp.

**What is the camp check-in process?**

Camp check in takes place from 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., at the front Guests' Service Desk. For safety reasons, a parent / guardian must accompany their child(ren) to the camp check-in every morning and sign them in. Campers are not allowed to sign themselves in.

On Monday Mornings – the first day of each weekly session – it is recommended that campers arrive between 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. This allows the camper to meet camp staff and parents to double check emergency contact information and the name of those listed as authorization for release information. Parents will be given a hanging car tag with their child's name. This tag is to be placed on the rearview mirror at check-out. Campers will be escorted by camp staff to camper's designated classroom to place their backpacks in the classroom.

**What is the pick-up process?**

Camp pick-up takes place from 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the carpool lane on the LaBranch Street side of the museum. A car tag for camper pickup will be issued the first day of camp. For safety reasons, campers will only be released to the parent/guardian with the car hang tag and or individual(s) listed on your original registration form. Additionally, all individuals must present a photo ID every time they come to pick up a child. Once the ID has been verified, your child(ren) will be brought to you. Museum staff WILL NOT allow anyone not listed on the form to pick up a child unless specific written instructions have been provided by a parent/guardian in advance

### **What if I need to pick-up my child early?**

In the event that a camper will need to be picked up early, please proceed to the visitor services desk. Provide the visitor services associate your child's name and camp. Visitor Services will then contact the camp program who will bring your child to you for sign-out. All individuals must present a photo ID and be listed in the child's authorized for pick-up list for pick-up. Please note that due to additional guidelines relating to COVID-19, we request that all parents/caregivers wear a self-provided cloth face covering during pick-up while in our museum entrance. We appreciate your patience in advance.

### **What is your behavior policy for campers?**

Good behavior is a key component to a successful summer camp experience. In an effort to provide all campers with a safe and fun filled camp experience, it is important that all campers exhibit proper behavior and self-control. Campers are expected to respect their instructors, staff, and fellow campers at all times. Inappropriate, disruptive, and/or violent behavior while at camp will not be tolerated. Examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to hitting, fighting, name calling, foul language, arguing, reckless endangerment, disrespectful actions, and stealing.

The Health Museum reserves the right, upon notification of parents, to dismiss any student during any sessions for conduct that is deemed detrimental to the well-being of other students, staff, or to the overall operation of the camp. No refund/credit will be issued if your child is dismissed.

### **My child has certain allergies, how do I ensure that the camp program is aware?**

We ask that all parents who have children with allergies complete an Allergy Care Plan which will be included with your Registration Confirmation. The Allergy Care Plan allows parents to detail the types of allergies, steps to prevent reactions from occurring, signs to help identify when a reaction is occurring, and the course of action to take. The Allergy Care Plan will be reviewed with the instructor and teaching aide, and kept in the class binder, which always stays with the class.

### **Is food provided at camp?**

Lunch is not included at this time. We will provide a blend of snack options that are nut-free. Campers may bring their own snacks from home. Snacks will vary, so please be sure to list any food allergies on your child(ren)'s camp registration form(s).

All classes have a 30-minute lunch break each day. Campers must bring a non-perishable lunch each day that does not require refrigeration or a microwave. Please place each camper's name on his or her lunch box/bag so that it is easily identifiable. Campers with specific dietary needs or food allergies are encouraged to notify The Health Museum in their registration form and/or bring their own snacks. We aim to be a nut-free camp and ask all campers to be considerate of other campers' possible food allergies.

### **What is your restroom policy?**

There will be set opportunities, for example after snack and lunch, for campers to use the restroom. However, they will be able to use the restroom whenever needed.

### **In case of an emergency, who do I contact?**

If you need to reach camp staff or your child during the day, please call 713-337-8458 or 713-521-1515 X138 for an immediate answer. The person at the extension will help get you in contact with the appropriate camp staff.

### **Who do I contact if I'm having a problem situation with camp?**

Please notify Kennethia Rideaux, Senior Program Manager, at 713-337-8458 or [krideaux@thehealthmuseum.org](mailto:krideaux@thehealthmuseum.org), if your child is having a problem at camp. We want your child to have an enjoyable and rewarding summer. With your help, we can ensure that all campers are at ease and comfortable.

The Health Museum reserves the right, upon notification of parents, to dismiss any student during any session for conduct that is deemed detrimental to the well-being of other students, staff, or to the overall operation of the camp.

### **What happens in the event of an emergency at the museum?**

The museum and thus the camp has an emergency action plan that is part of the safety training for all staff. This training includes what to do in the event of a fire, severe weather, a missing child/parent, and more. All camp instructors, staff, and volunteers will complete this training prior to the first week of camp and be refreshed as needed.

In case of an emergency, the priority will be the safety of all the campers. Once the camper(s) are safe, and the Emergency Action Plan procedure is followed, parents will be notified as quickly as possible using the emergency contact information provided for each camper at registration.

In the event of a medical emergency, museum staff will contact emergency medical personnel and will then contact the child's parent or guardian. Based on the medical personnel's assessment, your child may be transported to a local hospital to receive further medical attention.

### **What happens in the event of a hurricane or tropical storm?**

In the event that Harris County is placed under Tropical Storm or Hurricane warnings, parents will be notified via email or phone whether camp sessions will be cancelled.

### **How do you store the camper's medication?**

We do not store any medication at the camp. Museum staff are not able to administer any medication to campers, please do not send medication with your child. If a child is required to carry an epi-pen, a copy of the prescription will need to be provided to the museum, and the child will be responsible to bring and take home their epi-pen daily.

### **Mandatory Forms**

A confirmation packet, with mandatory forms to be completed, will be sent to parent/guardian to the email on file (1) week prior to the start of camp. All forms need to be completed and turned in by the first day of camp or emailed to [camps@thehealthmuseum.org](mailto:camps@thehealthmuseum.org).

### **Are photos of the children taken during camp?**

By signing your child up for camp, you authorize The Health Museum to photograph and/or videotape your child for publicity purposes. Please note that these materials will not be sold or loaned and will be used only to promote The Health Museum education programs. If you do not want your child to be photographed for marketing purposes, please note it on the registration form.

### **What is your cancellation policy?**

THM reserves the right to combine or cancel classes that have not met the minimum enrollment. If THM cancels a class, payment will be fully refunded. For special circumstances, a 75% credit or refund will be granted for written requests made 14 or more days before the first day of the camp session. A 50% credit or refund will be granted for written requests made 13 or more days prior to the first day of the camp session. No refunds will be granted on or after the first day of the camp session. Contact Summer Discovery Camps, Monday - Friday, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at (713) 337-8458. All requests must be in writing electronically to [camps@thehealthmuseum.org](mailto:camps@thehealthmuseum.org).