



## Welcome to The Morton Arboretum's 2021 Summer Science Camp!

**Updated: 6/15/2021 Please note this letter may be subject to change and will be emailed to you the week before camp. Please check that email for updates.**

### Important Forms to Return

- The [Camp Form](#). **This form must be completed for children to attend camp.**
- If your child will be bringing an Epipen, inhaler, or other medication to camp, you and your child's pediatrician must complete the [Medication Authorization Form](#). Medication must be in an original container with pharmacy instructions and you may only bring enough medication for one day of camp at a time.

### Daily Drop-Off and Pick-Up

- Drop off and pick up for camp will be in Parking Lot 21.
  - Drop-Off
    - Upon arrival to parking lot 21, please follow signs to proceed to the drop-off/pick-up area.
    - We ask that drivers remain seated in their vehicles during drop-offs to limit the amount of people gathered at the start of the camp day.
    - Camp staff will greet your vehicle, and ask the parent/guardian/authorized driver about the current health of the campers in their vehicle. If campers are feeling unwell, they will be asked to return home and not attend camp that day.
    - Campers will be escorted to their camp's assigned area, by staff leading or assisting with their program.
    - We ask that masks are on during drop off and pick up.
    - Please be sure to apply sunscreen and bug spray at home, before leaving for camp.
    - Camp staff will be available for vehicle check-in at 8:45 A.M. for morning sessions and 12:20 P.M. for afternoon sessions.
  - Pick-Up:
    - Upon arrival, please follow signs to the drop-off/pick-up area.
    - Parents will remain in their vehicles, and camp staff will greet them.
    - Present a photo ID for pick-up. For your child's safety, an authorized adult must sign your child out daily, from their vehicle.
    - We ask that masks are on during drop off and pick up.
    - Please pick up your child promptly at the end of the program. If you are delayed, please call 630.719.4890. Parents/guardians who pick up their children 15 minutes late will be assessed a fee of \$15 per child and an additional \$1 per minute thereafter. Dogs and other pets are not allowed on Arboretum grounds, even in your vehicle.
- Camp will not be cancelled due to rain. Camp is held outdoors, rain or shine. In case of extreme weather, children will participate in indoor activities at the Thornhill Education Center. Campers will be required to wear face masks when indoors at the Thornhill Education Center.

### Late Arrivals, Early Pick-Up, and Absences

- To take full advantage of our camp experience, it is recommended that children attend camp each day, arrive on time, and not leave early.

- If you arrive more than 15 minutes late, please park in P21 and call 630-719-4890 to be connected with your camp.
- If your child will miss a day of camp, email or call Krista Phelps by 9:00 A.M. at [kphelps@mortonarb.org](mailto:kphelps@mortonarb.org) or 630.719.4890

### Other Notes regarding changes to the Summer Science Camp program in response to State of Illinois guidelines:

- Camp group sizes have been modified to comply with recommendations from the State of Illinois department of health and human services.
- Cleaning and sanitation procedures for indoor spaces and camp supplies have been updated to include daily sanitation.
- **NEW updated 6/15/2021: The American Camp Association (ACA) recently released new guidance for day camps in response to Phase 5 of Restore Illinois. This new guidance allows for some adjustments to our current mask policies for summer science camps. Campers will be required to wear masks when indoors and during more crowded periods of the day (drop off and pick up). However, they will not be required to wear masks when hiking, playing games or exploring outdoors. Instructors will continue to encourage social distancing when seated or eating lunch, and masks may be required within public settings of the arboretum that tend to be more crowded (i.e The Children’s Garden). Summer Science camps at The Morton Arboretum are also supportive of campers who choose to continue to wear masks in all settings. Camper safety is of the utmost importance within our programs, and the driving force behind this policy adjustment, which follows new CDC guidance. For questions please contact Meghan Wiesbrock, Manager of School and Camp Programs ([mwiesbrock@mortonarb.org](mailto:mwiesbrock@mortonarb.org)). Mask requirements will be updated with CDC guidelines for camp.**
- If a camper feels unwell during camp, parents will be contacted for pick-up.
- Daily wellness screenings for camp staff will also be implemented.

### Daily Notes:

- Dress your child for outdoor play and apply sunscreen then insect repellent at home. Camp is primarily outdoors and clothing will get wet or dirty.
- Wear sturdy, closed-toed, walking shoes.
- Do not bring personal materials such as: cell phones, electronic devices, fishing poles, binoculars, toys, books, etc. to camp. Camp is not responsible for lost or damage to personal items brought to camp.
- For lunch and snack, do not pack items that require refrigeration.
- At the end of the camp week, you will receive an evaluation of the science camp experience. Please take the time to complete this evaluation with your child. Your thoughts are very important to us.
- We recommend that parents check children after camp for any “hitchhikers” that may have come home after a day of camp. Ticks and other insects are a reality of summer days outside. We recommend doing a complete check of your child from head to toe for ticks or other critters they may have picked up while at camp.
- Friday is Popsicle Day!!! We provide a popsicle for every child in our day camps. Please inform us if your child cannot eat popsicles. The ingredient label is to the right. In addition, some camps may have small snacks related to the activities they are doing during the day. Please make sure your camp instructor is aware of any dietary concerns for your child.



## Daily Supplies

- Face mask**
- Backpack
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Snacks (2 or more)
- Lunch (for full day)
- Hat
- Insect repellent (Deet recommended)
- Raingear (weather dependent)
- An extra long-sleeve shirt and pants in a backpack to protect from bugs or sun (optional).

## Safety and First Aid

- All camp managers, camp coordinators, camp instructors, and supervised play leaders are certified in CPR and First Aid.
- If any minor first aid is administered during camp, parents/guardians will be notified at the end of the camp day. Parents will be asked to sign a First Aid Card acknowledging that this conversation occurred.
- If a camper has an illness or injury that requires more than minor first aid, camp coordinators or camp supervisor will call parents immediately to discuss the situation.

## Questions or Additional Information

- Please feel free to contact Krista Phelps, Camp & Scout Supervisor, at (630) 719-4890.

## **Behavior Agreement: Review with your child before camp**

Summer Science Camp should be a positive and memorable experience for every child. In order to achieve this we ask that you begin by knowing the expectations for behavior at camp. Each Camp Instructor will also remind the campers of the rules at the beginning of each camp week.

### Summer Science Camp Rules:

1. Children will follow directions given by Arboretum staff.
2. Children will treat other children and staff with respect; profanity, bullying, name-calling, or other hurtful verbal behavior will not be tolerated.
3. Children will keep their hands and feet to themselves; acts of physical aggression towards staff or participants will not be tolerated.
4. Rules and procedures regarding the possession and use of medications will be strictly enforced. Summer Science Camp Consequences:

The disciplinary steps set forth below are merely guides for action to be taken when camp rules are violated. These steps are discretionary at the sole determination of The Morton Arboretum and the Arboretum reserves the right to take any level of disciplinary action it deems appropriate under the circumstances, including but not limited to, moving a child to another camp session or dismissing a child from a camp session without a refund.

1. Verbal Warning: If a child does not follow rules, the instructor will restate the rules and re-clarify the expectations. If a second warning is required, parents will be notified (at pick-up time or by phone) of the incident.
2. Time Out: If the child continues to not follow rules, they will be removed from the other campers and must speak with the Camp Coordinator (who will restate the rule and re-clarify the expectations). Parents will be notified of the incident (at pick-up or by phone).
3. Parent Involvement: Continued incidents will warrant sending the child to the camp coordinator's or manager's office to call their parent/guardian to explain and discuss the situation. If the issue is resolved and agreed upon by all three parties the child will be allowed to rejoin the group. If the issue

is not resolved the parent/guardian will be asked to pick-up their child (Step 4).

4. Removal from Program: Any further rule breaking will cause the parent/guardian to be contacted and asked to pick their child up. The child will not be permitted to return to camp for the remainder of the week and a refund will not be given.