



## **PlayLab Jr. Explorer Camps 2026**

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What camps are being offered by the PlayLab?**

In 2026, the *Crown Family PlayLab* is offering a rotating set of morning, half-day camps from June-August. These sessions include:

- Insect Adventure Camp (3-4 year olds & 5-6 year olds)
- Fossil Finder Camp (3-4 year olds & 5-6 year olds)
- T.rex Rangers Camp (3-4 year olds & 5-6 year olds)

Check our website to see a listing of what sessions are currently available. You can find that information here:

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/playlab-programs>

#### **What are camp hours?**

Each camp will take place across two morning sessions on Monday/Wednesdays or Tuesday/Thursdays from 9:30am-12:00pm. Check-in for camp will begin at 9:00am.

#### **What ages can participate?**

Camps are split into two age groups. There are four camp offerings for 3-4 year olds, and four camp offerings for 5-6 year olds.

#### **Can I register my child for a program if they're outside the listed age range?**

Our programs are designed for a specific age group to make sure activities are developmentally appropriate and to ensure a safe and successful experience. For this reason, children need to be enrolled in a program that

matches their age. We are happy to assist you with finding a program that best fits your child.

### **Does a caregiver need to be in attendance at camp?**

Yes! This is **not** a drop-off program. One caregiver who is at least 18 years of age will need to be present with every 1-3 children registered for camp.

### **Can a younger sibling attend camp with the caregiver?**

These programs are designed for 3-6 year olds and their caregivers. Children not of walking age (typically 18 months and younger) are welcome to attend with their sibling and caregiver at no extra charge. However, children of walking age (typically 18-35 months) are not permitted to attend camp alongside the registered child.

Please reach out to the PlayLab team at [playlabevents@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:playlabevents@fieldmuseum.org) if you have questions about siblings participating in PlayLab Programs.

### **What are the minimum and maximum attendance thresholds?**

PlayLab Jr. Explorer Camps can host up to **12 children** per session. However, each camp needs approximately 5 sign-ups in order for the session to run. If less than 5 children are registered, the camp session will be subject to cancellation. If a camp session is canceled, refunds or transfers to another camp session will be administered.

### **How does the waitlist work?**

If the session you want is sold out, you can join the waitlist on CampDoc. If a spot becomes available, you will receive an email from CampDoc letting you know. Once you accept the position, your account will be charged a balance. Once you pay, you will secure your camper's spot in that session. Spots become available as cancellations occur; we cannot guarantee that your child will be offered a spot in camp.

### **When does registration close for camp?**

Registration will close either when all spots are filled or **1 week (5 business days)** prior to the start of the camp session. However, if the camp has not reached its minimum sign-up requirements, we will notify current registrants 1 week before camp and keep registration open until 3 days

before camp commences. This registration extension is intended to boost sign-ups for the session.

### **Who teaches each camp?**

The Field Museum's Education & Public Programs staff will operate, run and facilitate each camp session. Each camp will be facilitated in conjunction with the Early Childhood Programs Educator and/or PlayLab Program Assistants.

### **Does the program provide snacks or lunch?**

Each day of camp will offer a light snack for campers, including goldfish crackers, pretzels, popcorn and/or a fruit cup. However, please be sure to eat breakfast before arriving. Children and their caregivers are also encouraged to pack a lunch to eat in museum cafeterias or outside on the front terrace after camp concludes.

### **How and where do I check-in for camp?**

Campers and their caregivers will check-in at the Museum's East Entrance. Check-in for camp will begin at 9:00am.

**Please Note:** Upon registering and leading up to your camp session, you will receive email notifications with helpful logistical information, like how and where to check-in.

### **Where can I park?**

The Field Museum is not able to offer free parking for PlayLab Program participants. Individuals participating in PlayLab Programs are asked to manage their own parking needs. All Museum Campus parking lots are owned by the Chicago Parks District and managed by Standard Parking. For in-depth parking questions, please contact (312) 235-7701.

We encourage caregivers to research parking before traveling to the Museum. There are plenty of garages outside Grant Park that offer accessible parking. If you'd like to park close to the Museum, the Soldier Field North Garage or the East Museum Lot will be the two closest options. Costs associated with both lots are listed below:

**Soldier Field North Garage**

\$27 for up to 4 hours, \$32 for up to 12 hours. The North Garage (accessible via the main entrance on Museum Campus Drive) is open from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. Parked cars can leave after closing hours, but overnight parking is not allowed. You can learn more about parking at the Soldier Field North Garage [here](#).

**East Museum Lot**

\$32 for up to 12 hours. The East Museum Lot (located on the east side of the Field Museum) is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, and is accessible via the main entrance on Museum Campus Drive. Parked cars can leave after closing hours, but overnight parking is not allowed.

**Street Parking on Solidarity Drive**

Street parking is available along Solidarity Drive. The metered rate is generally \$2.50/hour, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Rates vary and are subject to closure by the City of Chicago.

**Please Note:** Rates and availability of parking at Soldier Field are subject to change without notice, particularly on days with Chicago Bears home games and Chicago Fire home matches. Please see details and options at [Soldier Field Parking](#). Other events at Soldier Field and Huntington Bank Pavilion at Northerly Island can affect traffic, parking availability, and rates.

**Can I purchase tickets in-person or over the phone?**

Tickets are available online only.

**Can I purchase multiple tickets for the same camp?**

Yes, you can register up to 3 children for a single camp session. A caregiver is required to be in attendance with every 1-3 children registered.

**Are there scholarships available?**

Yes, financial assistance in the form of 50% OFF scholarships is offered to a limited number of eligible families. Scholarship applications are open from **January 5 to March 4, 2026**. The Scholarship Application Form must be submitted by a parent or legal guardian and can be found [here](#).

## What is your cancellation policy?

Cancellations received more than **60 days before** the start of the camp session are eligible for a full refund. Cancellations received **15–60 days before** the start of the camp session will receive a 50% refund. Cancellations made **within 15 days of the first day** of the registered camp session are nonrefundable.

Cancellations can be requested via CampDoc, which will be processed by Camp Staff. Unfortunately, no exceptions can be made in the case of illness, but we are happy to move your camper to another week in the 2026 season pending availability. Event traffic patterns, including due to Lollapalooza, are outside of Field Museum control, and when able Camp Staff will share resources to assist in finding alternative routes. Partial refunds are not available for missed days of camp.

All ticket purchases are subject to current federal, state, and institutional COVID-19 policies.

Any cancellations or failure to comply with those policies will not be refundable.

**Refund Policy Exception:** If your session is canceled by the Museum (most likely due to low registration), you will be given the option to transfer your purchase to another PlayLab Program of financial equivalency or receive a full refund.

## I have more questions. How can I get in touch?

Please email [playlabevents@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:playlabevents@fieldmuseum.org) with any questions or additional information you need to communicate.