

Field Explorer Summer Camp FAQ And Policies



CAMP INFORMATION

What are camp hours?

All Field Explorer Summer Camps are one week sessions. Camp hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Drop off is from 8:30am-9:00am and pick up is at 3:00pm. All campers must be picked up before 3:15pm.

What is the child-teacher ratio?

Each camp of 14 or more campers has 1 instructor and 2 teaching assistants (TAs) with them throughout the day. Support is also provided by the Manager of Camp Programs and other members of the Field Explorers Camp Team who spend time with the campers during the week.

Who teaches the programs?

Instructors are classroom teachers, education professionals, or museum staff. Most TAs are college students majoring in education or a related science discipline. All undergo camp-specific training before the camp season begins.

What are your COVID-19 policies?

If your camper feels sick, they should stay at home; Contact Camp staff for possible rescheduling. Campers who test positive for COVID-19, but do not show any symptoms, may return to camp after 5 days of isolation. Campers showing symptoms of COVID-19, may return to camp five days after a positive test or onset of symptoms (whichever is later) if their symptoms are improving and they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Currently, masks are optional for campers unless they have tested positive for COVID-19 or been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 10 days; however, masks may be required during behind-the-scenes visits, depending on their guidelines. The Field Museum is not requiring proof of vaccination for campers.

These protocols may be updated from time to time in accordance with guidance from the CDC, state and local health departments, governmental public health and safety orders, Museum policy, and evolving best practice. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. By visiting The Field Museum you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.

REGISTRATION

Can I purchase tickets in person or over the phone?

Tickets are only available online through our registration service, CampDoc.

Can I purchase multiple tickets for the same camp?

Yes. On CampDoc, create profiles for each camper you would like to register.

Can I request that my child be grouped with friends or relatives?

Campers registered for the same topic within the same grade band are usually in the same group and will be together throughout that week of camp.

Is financial assistance available?

Yes. Please learn more about our financial assistance options on our website.

What is your cancellation policy?

Cancellations must be received more than 60 days before the start of the camp session to receive full refund. Cancellations received 15 to 60 days before the start of the camp session will receive a 50% refund. Cancellations made within 15 days of the first day of your registered camp session will not receive a refund.

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.

If my schedule changes and we cannot attend camp, what are my options?

There are no refunds after 10 days before the start of your camper's session, but we are happy to move your camper to another week in the 2026 season pending availability. Tickets are non-transferable to different departments or beyond 2026 Field Explorer Summer Camp.

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.

How will you collect my camper's information?

In order to improve the collection and management of personal information, the Field Museum is partnering with CampDoc.com. CampDoc is a secure and easy-to-use web-based solution for managing registration, health and contact information. Only Museum Camps administrative staff and instructors will have access to camper health information, and the CampDoc.com site is secure, encrypted, and password protected. Once your registration is complete, you will receive an email from noreply@campdoc.com. Please add this email to your contacts so it doesn't go to your spam folder. Your completed registration on CampDoc is due two weeks before your camp begins. Changes and additions to your Trusted Contacts list can be made up to a week before your camp.

CAMP GROUPS AND TOPICS

Can we sign up for more than one week of Field Explorer Summer Camp?

Absolutely! Every grade band for grades K-6 has two camp themes to choose from this summer. Grades 7-8 has one theme to explore.

What are the age requirements?

Our youngest campers will enter Kindergarten in fall of the next school year. The oldest campers will enter 8th grade. Field Explorers follows the Chicago Public Schools birthday guidelines, so any camper who will turn 5 by September 1, 2026 AND will be entering Kindergarten in the fall may register for camp.

For children six and under we also offer a shorter camp for younger audiences within our Crown Family Playlab. See the [PlayLab](#) website for more information.

We request you place your child in the grade band they will be entering in the Fall, for academic reasons as well as social. To talk about your child's placement, please contact us explorercamp@fieldmuseum.org.

How do I know if my child is ready for Field Explorers?

Campers are able to:

- Take care of all restroom needs without assistance.
- Enjoy a very busy, active day without a nap.
- Follow instructions given by Instructors and Teaching Assistants.
- Practice classroom behaviors like waiting turns, raising hands, and separating from parents and caregivers.
- Respect the personal space of others and stay with their group at all times.

What if my child has developmental or medical needs that require support in a classroom setting?

We collect this information during registration. If you have additional concerns or questions, please reach out to us at explorercamp@fieldmuseum.org before registering!

CAMP DAY

Does Field Explorers provide lunch?

No. You need to send your camper with a **nut-free lunch and snack** that does not need refrigeration or heating up. An insulated lunchbox works well! Should you forget your child's lunch, please call the camp hotline (312-655-7200) or email explorercamp@fieldmuseum.org when you return with it.

Field Explorers is a **peanut and tree nut free** program. For the safety of all participants, lunches and snacks cannot include any peanut or tree nut products. Please share this information with anyone who might pack your camper's lunch.

What do I need to send with my child each day?

- Peanut and tree nut free lunch and snack
- Backpack
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen or sunblock that the camper can self-apply
- Comfortable clothing that can get messy
- Close-toed shoes (Open toed shoes and Crocs are NOT permitted in camp)
- Optional: A spare change of clothes and underwear (this is especially helpful for younger campers!)
- Optional: Lightweight jacket, sun hat, rain gear, sweatshirt (the museum may be cold inside)

For grades K-6, we recommend that campers do not bring electronics or valuables of any kind. If your child needs to bring a cell phone, please keep it powered off and in their bag throughout the day. If an electronic device is needed for a medical or developmental need, please indicate this during registration.

For Grades 7-8, electronic devices are allowed. However, we will be using these for camp activities and purposes or during lunch only, and not for other purposes during camp. The Field Museum and its staff are not responsible for electronics or valuable items.

Will my child be spending any time outside?

Yes, lots! Campers will spend time outside on the museum campus during sign in each morning and sign out in the afternoon. We have lunch (weather permitting) and some activities outside on the museum campus as well. Some of this time is unstructured and serves as physical and brain breaks. Some of this time is part of the curriculum—for example, scavenger hunts, observing and collecting, sketching, etc. Curriculum outside and inside focuses on inquiry-based, sensory learning that builds observation skills and community.

Why would a camp staff member call me during camp?

Camp admin will call:

- If your child is sick or hurt at camp and needs to go home.
- If your child experiences a serious allergic reaction that requires medical care.
- If your child is having a severe behavioral incident. Please inform us of behavioral management practices you successfully employ at home so we can reinforce these methods at camp, if needed.
- If your child experiences emotional distress for more than 30 minutes. At that point we will call you for assistance and make a plan.
- If you are more than 15 minutes late to 3:00pm pick up, and we have not heard from you. See our late policy below.

Why would my child be dismissed from camp?

If any of the below occur, Camp admin will record the event and call you to pick up your child. These will result in immediate dismissal without refund.

- Harassment or threats of any nature (including bullying)
- Serious injury to campers, staff member, or museum property
- Repeatedly leaving their camp group without adult supervision
- Consistent, severe disruption of camp

- Possession of drugs, alcohol, and/or weapons

CHECK IN AND CHECK OUT

Do you offer before or after-care?

At this time we do not offer before or after-care.

How do I check-in and check-out my camper?

Check-in begins at 8:30am. Check-out is at 3:00pm, and campers must be picked up by 3:15pm. Both are at the East Entrance of the Field Museum. An adult must be present to check-in and out a camper every day. Campers cannot be dropped off from the car or sent out to a car. To check-out a camper, an adult (18 or older) must be on a camper's Trusted Contacts list AND have a valid photo ID every day. There are no exceptions to this policy. You can request changes or additions to your Trusted Contacts list on your camper's CampDoc profile until a week before your camp session starts.

More detailed information about pick up and drop off, including maps, will be emailed to you a week before your camp. Museum Campus has many visitors and events during the summer, and traffic can be unpredictable. We encourage camp families to use public transit to minimize traffic and to avoid having to wait in the pick up line.

Do you offer drop off or pick up at other times?

To arrange an early pick up for your child, email explorercamp@fieldmuseum.org the day before. Early pick up is from 11:30am-12:00pm during lunch. The camp team does not have capacity to bring campers in and out of the building throughout the day at other times. We do not offer after-care.

What is your policy on late pick up?

If you are running late, please call the camp line or email to let us know. If we haven't heard from you and you are 15 minutes late, we will call you. If you are 15 minutes late or more, you will be charged \$20 for every 15 minutes you are late.

How can I get in touch? I have more questions about Field Explorers.

Please email explorercamp@fieldmuseum.org with any questions or additional information you need to communicate. During camp, please use email for all non-urgent communications. For urgent communications, please call us at 312-665-7200. These lines are monitored by a Camp staff member during business hours.