thenat | SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



Frequently Asked Questions

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When does summer camp go on sale?

Summer camp goes on sale on March 5, 2018 for Museum members and March 12, 2018 to the public.

When does summer camp start?

Camps begin the week of June 18 and will run through the week of August 13. All camps are Monday–Friday. There is no camp the week of July 2nd due to the 4th of July holiday.

What are the camp hours?

We offer half-day camps for Pre-K/Kindergarten. These camps run from 9 AM to 12 PM. We offer full-day camps for incoming 1st through 10th graders. These camps run from 9 AM to 4 PM.

Do you have full-day camps for Pre-K/Kinder? Or half-day camps for 1st - 10th grade?

We do not offer any full-day camps for Pre-K/Kindergarten. We only offer half-day camps from 9 AM to 12 PM. Our camps for grades 1 through 10 are full-day only.

Do you have camps for 11th/12th graders?

We do not offer camps for 11th/12th graders as our summer camp volunteer program begins at 16 years old. If your child is interested in volunteering for summer camp, please apply here.

How much do camps cost?

Half-day camps are $200 for the general public, and $175 for San Diego Natural History Museum family members (who also receive early registration). Full-day camps for 1st through 10th grade are $320-$350 for the general public, and $295-325 for Museum family members. Annual family memberships to the Museum are $79 and will guarantee $25 off your camper's registration!

Are there scholarships?

Yes. Due to a generous donation from the Robert and Helen E. Grant Foundation, The Nat is pleased to offer scholarship opportunities for 1st through 10th grade this year. The application can be found on our website.

What is the scholarship application process?

Applications will be accepted through the summer on a first-come, first-served basis. Submission of an application does not guarantee receipt of scholarship or attendance to a particular camp. Families will be notified whether they have been awarded a scholarship within two weeks of submission of an application.

What does the scholarship cover?

Each scholarship will reduce the cost of camp to $25. It will also cover snack and lunch for your camper. Transportation is not included. The $25 registration fee is non-refundable.

Why are the 6th through 10th grade camp more expensive?

There is a higher supply cost for these campers. We will also have additional Museum staff joining us for those weeks to add their expertise to the subject matter.

How old do you have to be to attend camp at The Nat?

Campers must be between the ages of 4 and 15 years old to attend camp.

What grade level camp should I enroll my child in?

Our camps are designed for the upcoming grade level. Children in Pre-K/Kindergarten camps must be 4 years old at the start of camp and/or entering Kindergarten. Children in 1st through 10th grade camps should enroll in camp with their upcoming grade level (the grade they will be in during the 2018-2019 school year). To ensure a high quality experience, it is important that all participants are with their same-aged peers.

Tell me more about the summer camp T-shirts.

Summer camp T-shirts are included with each camp registration. T-shirts will be distributed during drop-off on the first day of camp each week. The shirts come in Youth sizes XS (2-4), S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16), and XL (18-20). The Youth XL is close in size to an Adult S. Adult sizes S, M, L and XL will also be available.

Why is camp at The Nat nut-free?

We have experienced a continual rise in moderate to severe nut allergies. We decided to institute a nut-free policy in our camps for the safety and well-being of all campers and staff. We appreciate your attention to providing nut-free alternatives.

My child has an allergy/medical condition. How does The Nat handle medical issues?

First and foremost, let us know. Please note all allergies, intolerances, and medical issues upon registration. If medication is necessary at camp, please indicate the directions on your form as well as in the bag with the medication the week of camp. We've had many cases of nut allergies, dairy allergies, asthma, etc. over the years and we have First Aid/CPR-certified staff. As noted above, we have instituted a nut-free policy for camp. However, with other food allergies, we will keep the children separate and hands washed if snacks may pose an issue (e.g. John is allergic to dairy and Susie brought a yogurt). If your child's allergy is not limited to ingestion, please let us know as well in case a craft or art project may require a volunteer's assistance (e.g., gluten in a dough).

Is there a lunch or snack provided?

Lunches and snacks are not provided. Morning campers need to bring a snack to camp every day. Full-day campers need to bring a snack and lunch each day. Please send a beverage with your child as well. Water will be available in the classrooms. Please label your camper's lunch and drink containers.

Where do I register my child for camp?

Register in person, online, or by calling 877.946.7797. **Register soon, camps fill up quickly!**

What information do I need to register my child for camp?

You will need to complete all registration information (such as medical history and emergency contact information) at the time of purchase for each camp.

How do I register online?

Click Register underneath the camp description, then click Register after you've selected your quantity. Please use your camper's information under "Camper: Youth." Uncheck the box that says, "Use this as my billing information" under "Camper: Youth." After completing the registration information, add your camp to the cart. At this point, you can add additional camps for the same child or for a different child to your basket by clicking

"Camps" at the top of the cart page. For more tips on registering for multiple camps or campers, please refer to our registration instructions.

How do I receive my Membership discount online?

Please click **"Sign In"** at the top of the order screen to log into your San Diego Natural History Museum member account. The discount will not apply until you've signed in and added the "MEMBER – Youth" item to your cart after completing the registration questions. To become a Museum member, click the "Membership" link at the top of the page. New members will receive benefits when both items are in the cart.

NOTE: Existing members must be registered with the Museum's ticketing system to receive their benefits. If you have not registered, click Register in the top right corner to create your account.

What does my child need to bring?

Please provide a snack and drink for your child each day. Each camp takes a snack break. If your child is participating in a full-day camp, please pack a sack lunch as well. Campers should wear comfortable play clothes that can get dirty and wear closed-toe shoes (NO sandals). We recommend hats and a jacket or sweatshirt on cool days. We highly recommend sunscreen be applied each day before you arrive at the Museum.

How can I make sure my child is in camp with a friend/sibling that is also attending?

If these children are in the same grade range, they will be in camp together if they are signed up for *the same camp during the same week*. Check with each other before you register (*"Which camp and week are you doing?"*). You can also let us know by authorizing the other camper's parent(s) for pick-up or letting us know when you register in person/by phone or by replying to your confirmation email when registering online. If the children are in different grade ranges, they will need to be in separate camps.

Will my child meet a real scientist?

As our scientists are often in the field, any visits are pending availability. Scientists enjoy spending time with the campers and make every effort to work visits into their schedule.

Will my child have time to play and explore outside?

All camps will spend some time outside during the day.

What is the instructor to camper ratio?

The instructor to camper ratio is approximately 1:5. Each camp has one adult instructor, one camp assistant, and two or three camp aides. Our camp assistants are college age and our camp aides are 11th and 12th grade high school students. The Museum's Education staff provides additional supervision and support when the camps leave the classroom and visit the Museum, explore Balboa Park, visit to the Zoo, or take a nature hike.

Is camp staff required to have a back ground check?

Yes, all instructors and volunteers working with children at the San Diego Natural History Museum have completed a background check.

What if we need to cancel our camp?

There is a $10 cancellation fee per camper per camp. You will receive a refund for the remaining balance. Cancellations must be made with at least seven days' notice prior to the start of camp. Please contact the Museum by phone at 877.946.7797 or by email at customerservice@sdnhm.org to cancel your camp. When emailing, please include your name, your child's name, the name and date of the camp, and the reason for your cancellation.

No refunds will be given for cancellations made within seven days of your camp's start date. A full refund will be given for any camp canceled by the Museum. Please allow up to 30 days for processing.

What if my child is sick or can't make it to camp?

Please contact Customer Service by phone at 877.946.7797 or by email at customerservice@sdnhm.org as soon as possible. If you know in advance that your child will be missing a day of camp later in the week, you can also let us know in person at drop off or pick up. There are no refunds due to illness.

What if I am running late to pick up or drop of my camper?

Please notify Customer Service by phone at 877.946.7797 as soon as you are able to do so. If you arrive later than 10 minutes after the program starts/ends, please report to the North Entrance (near the fig tree) to pick up/drop off your child. During drop off, the doors to the Museum will be locked. Please call to let us know you've arrived.

NOTE: if you are more than 15 minutes late, a $10 late pickup fee will be assessed.

What if I need to pick up my child early from camp?

Please contact the Museum by phone at 877.946.7797 or by email at customerservice@sdnhm.org, or let your child's instructor know at drop off, if you need to pick your child up early and make arrangements for your pick-up.

What if I need someone else to pick up my child?

You may authorize any adult (aged 18+) to pick-up your child during registration. Please be sure to add the person's name as listed on their ID and the phone number they can be reached at during camp hours. A photo ID will be requested upon pick-up every day. If your camper is carpooling with another camper, please make sure to add that camper's parent(s) when registering. If your plans change during the week, please authorize the new person at drop off with your instructor or call the Education Department at 619.255.0347 or Customer Service at 877.946.7797 to notify us of who will be picking up your child that day. We will not release a child to someone who is not listed (**this includes parents**).

Can my high schooler sign in/out my younger camper?

All campers must be signed in and signed out by an adult 18 years or older each day. As a reminder, those signing out will need to be authorized in advance and will need to present a valid ID at pick-up.

Where do I park?

Parking is free in Balboa Park. You may park in any of the lots at any time or on the street after 9 AM. Parking usually isn't difficult in the morning, but we recommend allocating extra time for any traffic or parking difficulties. You will only need to park on the first day of camp for check-in. For the remainder of camp, you will drop off and pick up your child at the turn around at the south end of the lot on the east side of the Museum.

Do you have a photo policy?

The San Diego Natural History Museum reserves the right to photograph program participants for publicity purposes. By entering the Museum facility and/or participating in a Museum activity or event, you consent and authorize without restriction or compensation to the possible use of you and your accompanying group's image for future media or marketing. You will be asked to initial your agreement to this policy upon registration. You may opt-out of this policy by not initialing.

Do you have an electronics policy?

The San Diego Natural History Museum has a no cell phone and a no electronics use policy while campers are engaged in our camp program. We believe that their usage can interfere with and disrupt the campers overall experience of our program.

Electronics include, but are not limited to: cell phones, laptops, tablets, hand-held game devices, e-readers, and iPods/MP3 players. We appreciate the desire for parents and guardians to be in contact with their camper, but we will not allow use of personal electronics while camp is in session. Cell phones and other electronics are expensive and can get stolen or lost. We recommend leaving these devices at home. **The Nat is not responsible for the loss or damage to your camper's electronic equipment.**

Some camps, primarily 6th through 10th grade, will incorporate electronics into the curriculum. Museum-issued electronics will be utilized for these activities under staff supervision.