



Arboretum Nature Camp

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do parents stay with their children at camp?

A: Arboretum Nature Camp is intended for independent child participations. Parents do not accompany their children beyond dropping them off in the morning and picking them up at the end of the day.

Q: Can parents choose to stay with their children at camp?

A: We do not allow parents to stay with their children once they are dropped off. We encourage those interested in a parent/child experience to explore our Acorns & Oaks program.

Q: What is the cost of Arboretum Nature Camp?

A: Members: \$400 per week; Non-Members: \$430 per week

Q: Do you offer a sibling discount?

A: We do not offer a sibling discount at this time.

Q: What are the hours of Arboretum Nature Camp?

A: The camp day is from 9am-5pm. Drop-off is from 9-9:15am and pick-up is from 4:45-5pm.

Q: Can I drop off my child later than 9:15am and pick up my child earlier than 4:45pm?

A: As a general rule, we do not allow regular drop-off and pick-up outside of the designated times, as it is disruptive to the curriculum. If your child has a standing commitment that requires them to consistently be dropped off late or picked up early, we recommend attending a different camp that offers flexible attendance times. We are able to accommodate occasional changes in schedule, however these must be discussed and arranged with the Camp Director in advance. If we are not in the classroom at the drop-off or pick-up time, families are required to meet the group where they are in the garden.

Q: Do you offer extended care in the morning or evening?

A: We do not currently offer extended care outside the hours of camp.

Q: What is the age requirement for camp?

A: Most of our camps require children to be at least 5 years old by the first day of camp, and no older than 10 years old.

Q: Do you offer any camps for younger children?

A: Yes! We offer one week of camp exclusively for 4 year olds, called "Little Sprouts."

Q: Can my 11 year old still join?

A: Occasionally former Arboretum campers who have "aged out" of the program request to return for one more year. We allow this on a case by case basis, provided families understand the curriculum will not be adapted to accommodate older children.

Q: Can my 4 year old attend if they are mature for their age, or close to being 5 years old?

A: All campers must be 5 years old by the first day of their camp week, no exceptions.

Q: What does a typical camp day look like?

A: Arboretum Nature Camp combines playful explorations of the garden with counselor facilitated projects. We start our day with a "Garden Adventure" wherein we explore different parts of the Arboretum with loosely guided explorations and self-directed outdoor play, nature journaling, and more. We do two hands-on projects related to the theme of the camp each day, and break for snacks and lunch in between.

Q: Does the Arboretum provide snacks or lunch?

A: We do not. Campers are responsible for bringing their own snacks and lunches.

Q: Is camp held indoors or outdoors?

A: The majority of the camp day takes place outdoors, however we do use a classroom as our base, and some projects are conducted inside the classroom. While indoors, all windows and doors remain open with a ceiling fan running.

Q: How many children are in one camp week?

A: Currently due to COVID restrictions, we have a maximum of 24 children each camp week. This allows campers to remain at least three feet apart from one another while inside the classroom.

Q: Are campers required to wear masks? --UPDATED****

A: No, campers are no longer required to wear masks, per LA County Department of Public Health guidance. Masks are optional for all campers, parents, and staff. If you would like your child to wear a mask, please ensure they have one every day and understand it is their responsibility to wear it. In the event the public health situation takes a turn for the worse and the County once again requires masks at summer camps, we will update our policy and require them for all campers, parents, and staff.

Q: Are staff and volunteers background checked?

A: Yes. All camp staff are background checked and experienced educators; All volunteers are background checked.

Q: Are staff vaccinated against Covid-19?

A: Yes. It is required of all camp staff.

Q: Are campers grouped by age?

A: The camp group of 24 children remains together throughout the day for a mixed-age bonding experience.

Q: What is your staff to child ratio?

A: For most camp weeks, we have one staff to a maximum of eight children. During our "Little Sprouts" camp, which is exclusively for 4 year olds, we have a ratio of one staff to every six children.

Q: Can my special-needs child attend camp with a one-on-one aide?

A: Yes- Please notify us of this need at the time of registration. All aides are required to be Live Scanned by the Arboretum's chosen provider, which must be paid for by the family or aide themselves. The fee is \$20, paid directly to the provider at the time of service.

Q: What should my child bring to camp?

A: Food, water bottles, appropriate shoes and clothing, sunscreen and hats if needed, extra change of clothes, extra face masks.

Q: Can my child bring outside toys and belongings to camp?

A: We do not allow outside toys or belongings at camp. If your child has a security/comfort item, please discuss this with the Camp Director in advance.

Q: Does the Arboretum administer camper medication?

A: Arboretum camp staff do not administer medication, as we do not have trained doctors, nurses, or medica on staff. Guardians are responsible for administering all camper medication.

Q: Are staff First-Aid/CPR trained?

A: Yes. All camp staff are First-Aid/CPR trained by the start of camp.

Q: Are there standards of behavior that are required to attend camp?

A: Yes. Please review the Camp Code of Conduct [HERE](#).

Q: What should I expect after I register?

A: You will receive a confirmation receipt via email reflecting the weeks you registered for. Approximately one week prior to the start of each camp week you are registered for, you will receive an email containing detailed information on where to go and what to expect during the camp week, as well as required paperwork that you will need to bring with you the first day of camp. You do not need to submit new paperwork for each additional week of camp, one set of paperwork will be kept for the entire summer.

Q: What should I do if the camp week I am interested in is sold out? Do you have a wait list?

A: We do not have a wait list for summer camp. If and when we receive cancelations, we will open the available spaces on the website. If the camp you are interested in is sold out, please check the website daily to see if new spots have opened up.

Q: What is your refund policy?

A: Cancellations made up to two weeks in advance of session start dates will qualify for a full refund. Cancellations made less than two weeks in advance will only qualify for a refund if the space can be filled by someone on the wait list. The Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation reserves the right to cancel a class due to low enrollment or other circumstances which would make the class non-viable. If the Arboretum cancels a class, registrants will be offered a full refund. In the event any weeks are required to close due to public health concerns or mandates, refunds will be provided for the canceled dates.