



Camp Handbook and FAQ

Welcome to the Tallahassee Museum Camp Program!

The Tallahassee Museum is a 52 acre outdoor museum with Florida native animals and Florida historic buildings. We are proud of the number of campers who return each summer to join us in our program. If you are a returning camp parent, welcome back! If you are a new camp parent, welcome and thank you for providing us the opportunity to share the Tallahassee Museum camp experience with your child.

We are committed to providing your child with a rewarding and memorable camp experience. Our camp administrators have been working diligently throughout the year to provide a safe and enriching program for campers. Each week you, or the person registering the child for camp, will receive emails with updates. It is critical you read these emails to ensure you know your child's classroom location, receive the weekly letter indicating the week's itinerary, and have access to all forms you may need.

This Handbook is a reference for you and your child, and it should answer the bulk of your camp questions. Your child's safety is our top priority, so we ask that you review all camp rules, as well as the Discipline Policy, with your child prior to coming to camp. Our commitment remains steadfast to provide a safe and enriching camp for your child. Again, welcome to camp and we look forward to all of the memorable adventures ahead with your child!

Camp Policies and Procedures

Registration

All camp registration will be done online.

Campers are registered on a first-come, first-served basis. Please register your camper for the grade they will be going into for the 2026-2027 school year. If the camp is sold out, email registrations@tallahasseemuseum.org to get on the waiting list.

Camp Hours

Camp hours are from **9:00am-4:00pm**. Campers may be dropped off starting at 8:45am and picked up as late as 4:15pm. If you drop off earlier or pick up later, then you will be charged \$10 for that day.

Extended care: children may be dropped off as early as 7:45am and must be picked up by 5:30pm. Parents will be charged \$1 per minute for every minute after 5:30pm. Extended care is \$50 for the week, or \$10 per day.

Fees

Rising 1st Grade: \$240 member/\$250 nonmember

Rising 2nd Grade: \$240 member/\$250 nonmember

Rising 3rd Grade: \$290 member/\$300 nonmember

Campers go on field trips twice a week

(some weeks will have an up-charged based on the length of the field trip, which is noted in the description)

Rising 4th – 5th Grade: \$290 member/\$300 nonmember

Campers go on field trips twice a week

(some weeks will have an up-charged based on the length of the field trip, which is noted in the description)

Jr. CIT (6th – 8th Grade): \$90 member/\$100 nonmember

(Jr. CITs will be in class with 1st and 2nd graders; they are there to assist the teacher, but they are still considered a camper.)

*All Jr CITs must provide a letter of intent and a reference letter to the Director of Programs, Allison Ashcroft, at aashcroft@tallahasseemuseum.org before they are considered to participate

CIT (9th-12th grade): must complete the online volunteer form

(Volunteers assisting with 1st and 2nd graders)

Extended care: Extended care is \$50 for the week, or \$10 per day.

*****New Package Option***** You can purchase the entire summer at once for a discounted rate.

Refunds

PLEASE inform us if you need to cancel a registration so others may take advantage of our programs. If you need to transfer a child from one camp to another, you will be charged a \$25 transfer fee. You may email registrations@tallahasseemuseum.org

Full refunds will only be issued if:

- If you need to cancel and we are notified 2 weeks before the start date of the camp your child is registered for.
- If you need to cancel within the two weeks, but we are provided a doctor's note letting us know your child cannot participate.

A 50% refund will be issued if you need to cancel within the 2 weeks before the start date of the camp your child is registered for.

No refund will be issued if you need to cancel within 72 hours of the start date of the camp your child is registered for.

Sign-in/ Sign-out

Parents, guardians, or approved persons must escort their child to the playground or designated classroom each day and must go to the playground or classroom to pick up their child. This requires you to accompany your child into the Museum and to the location of his/her camp group. Dropping off children at the Museum without checking-in is unacceptable and will result in termination of registration without refund. In the afternoon, adults will check in with the admissions clerk to locate their child's camp group. Our staff will do their best to remember faces of people dropping off and picking up children, however if they do not recognize a face, **they will request the government issued photo ID of any person picking up a child.** That ID must correspond with the approved names for pick-up on the child's registration form. If you are arriving during extended hours, you will need to enter the Museum through the left side gate at the admission's building. If you are facing the Museum front doors, follow the sidewalk to the left around the building. To exit, you will be facing the backdoors of the admissions building. Again, walk to the right following the sidewalk out of the Museum.

Staff

All camp teachers are experienced educators; most of them are teachers within the local counties, are studying to become a teacher, or have a background in science or history. All camp staff have current Level 2 Federal background screens. We will have CPR and First Aid certified staff on site at all times. We operate on a ratio of 1:9 and 1:13 teacher/child.

Structure

Campers will be grouped according to the grade rising at of the first day of camp. Mondays will begin with an orientation, so campers may meet fellow campers in their group and their teachers. Throughout the week lessons on the particular camp theme will be taught. Special programs may be assigned, as well as guest speakers. 3rd-7th grade camps will go on field trips twice a week. Each day's lesson offers a healthy balance of indoor and outdoor activities. We will utilize all 52 acres of the Museum property, as well as the adjacent U.S. Forestry property south of the Museum. On the Friday prior to your camp, you will receive an email that contains the parent letter for the week. It will give you the itinerary for the week, as well as list any specific items you need to pack each day.

Activities

The Tallahassee Museum is 52 acres of historic buildings, wildlife habitats, nature trails, chain lakes, exhibit buildings and a ropes course; with upland pine, hardwood hammock, and cypress swamp ecosystems. Campers will experience the many ways in which we may interpret and understand the Museum. In addition to experiencing the most unique classroom setting in the area, campers will also meet specialists in the areas of study for each camp theme. Campers will stay busy enjoying activities and making new friends!

Each day campers will have the opportunity for 30 minutes of quite time, unless on a field trip. During this time campers will have the opportunity to knock out some summer reading! If they have a summer book list, they are encouraged to bring a book from that list to read during quite time. Our teachers will designate some time to help students who may have trouble reading during this time.

Weather

This is primarily an outdoor camp. If there is thunder and lightning our first priority is to keep the children in a safe location. Museum policy does not allow outdoor activities in times of thunder. Our staff will keep an eye on the weather if storms are in the forecast. During inclement weather alternative activities will be provided. At check-in and check-out times during inclement weather, campers will be located in their classrooms. Campers will be inside if the heat index is over 100°F.

Illness

We are dedicated to providing a safe environment for your child this summer.

- All campers will be taken to the restrooms prior to snacks and lunch to wash hands with soap and water.
- Anyone with a fever will not be allowed to remain at camp. A child's temp is considered elevated at 100.4.
- Any camper who becomes ill at camp will be isolated from other campers and parents/guardians will be called to come pick them up immediately.
- Campers may only return to camp as long as they have no fever or symptoms for at least 24 hours.

Necessary Items to Bring

They are required to wear closed-toed shoes. (Campers will be sent home if they come without closed-toed shoes.) Campers should bring daily: sunscreen, insect repellent, **refillable water bottle and two snacks.** Campers should be prepared for changing weather conditions each day. If the forecast calls for rain, please send a rain poncho or rain jacket. They may also bring a book to read during quiet time or, for 3rd-5th graders, during the drive for field trips.

Parents/Guardians will receive an email before every camp outlining any additional items campers may need to bring.

Possessions/Electronics

We do not recommend that your child bring electronic devices to camp. If they do, they will be asked to keep them put away until the camp teacher gives permission of their use. We ask that your child does not bring toys that may become lost or damaged or may be distracting to others. The Museum holds no responsibility for any items that are damaged, lost, or stolen.

Lunch

Campers are welcome to bring their own lunch to camp. The Museum's Trail Break Café offers a lunch program for campers when they are on grounds, not on field trip days. Lunch order forms are downloadable from our website and will also be included in the emails sent to you the week prior. You will need to have payment for lunch to submit with the form. If you require change, it will be given to your child at lunchtime to bring home to you. It is best to have exact change.

Please do not give your child additional money for the Café. Teachers are not responsible for money given nor is there time provided for the campers to go to the café or the museum store.

Snack

Please provide your child with two snacks each day. Campers will have one snack in the morning and one snack in the afternoon. These cannot be purchased from the café or museum store. Do not give your child money for snacks.

T-Shirts

T-shirts can be purchased the first day of camp.

Tree to Tree Adventures

Children must be at least 41" tall. You will receive an email to pay for Tree to Tree.

Waivers **must be filled out online** at <https://treetotree.ezwaiver.com>.

Children 41" – 60" tall may use the TREEmendous Adventures Course, \$20 per child.

Children at least 54" tall may use the Canopy Crossing Course, \$30 per child.

******Fees are in addition to camp fee******

Field Trips

3rd grade will go on field trips on Tuesday and Thursday.

4th - 5th grade will go on field trips on Wednesday and Friday.

These camps are limited to 13 campers. 2 teachers will be present at all times during these field trips. Campers will travel in a 15-passenger van. These field trips will be anywhere from 30 minutes-2 hours away from the museum. It will include going to local beaches, state parks, and unique vendors. It is imperative you show up on time. Lunch will not be provided during field trips. A list of necessary items will be provided in an email the Friday before camp. Campers must be able to listen and follow directions to go on these field trips.

*1st and 2nd grade will stay onsite for all of camp. They will have two water days during the week. More information will be provided the Friday before camp starts.

Contacts

Registration information:

Registrar

850-575-8684 ext. 136; registrations@tallahasseemuseum.org

Camp Logistics and Activities:

Director of Programs: Allison Ashcroft: 850-575-8684 ext. 116

aashcroft@tallahasseemuseum.org

Camp Group Locations

On the Friday before your camp, you will receive an email indicating your child's camp classroom. The email will also include a copy of this map which you should familiarize yourself with so that you know where to go upon drop-off and pick-up.



CAMP DISCIPLINARY POLICY

Thank you for enrolling your child in the Tallahassee Museum Camp Program. It is our intention to provide your child with a safe and secure environment. We attempt to create a warm, comfortable, and fun atmosphere that will make your child look forward to coming to camp each day. In order to ensure the quality of this program and safety of the campers, each participant must follow program rules.

Campers are encouraged to practice those social skills that allow them to resolve conflicts and meet their needs without the use of harmful or destructive behaviors. When disciplinary situations occur that require intervention, an adult provides the child with clear explanations as to why specific behavior is inappropriate. They then help him/her find alternative behavior that fits within the camp guidelines of appropriate behavior. These guidelines revolve around concerns for the **safety of all members in camp**.

Behavior Problems

If a camp staff person encounters behavior problems with any participant, he/she will first attempt to resolve the problem with the camper, if this fails, the Museum's Vice President of Programs will be consulted, followed by the parents. There is a strict 5-Point Discipline Policy pertaining to behavior that risks the safety of any camper. If a camper gets **3 Written Warnings** during the summer for the same offense, he/she will be dismissed from the program. Every parent/guardian is required to read the following information to his/her camper and sign and return the Discipline Policy Form to camp.

5-Point Policy

1. Verbal Warning
2. Time Out/Activity Privilege Withheld. (Parent/Guardian will be notified at time of pick-up.)
3. 1st Written Warning (Parent/Guardian will be contacted and notified of the behavior. Parents may choose to speak to the child to help mitigate the situation.)
4. 2nd Written Warning (Parent/Guardian will be contacted to pick up their camper immediately).
5. 3rd Written Warning (Parent/Guardian will be contacted to pick up their camper immediately and the child will be removed from the camp program session.)

Immediate Dismissal

1. Any child who runs away from the staff will be removed from the program for the remainder of the program. If staff cannot convince the child to return, the police will be called. The staff is not permitted to chase after children or leave the site.
2. Any child who harms his/herself or another will be removed (physical and/or verbal abuse).
3. Any child who abuses staff will be removed.

Physical Violence is not tolerated in this program. The Tallahassee Museum reserves the right to dismiss a participant whose behavior endangers the safety of themselves or others.

Code of Conduct-Parent

Parents are expected to follow the program rules and treat the staff with respect. All program and/or staff issues, comments or concerns should be directed to the Vice President of Programs. A child whose parents verbally abuse staff will be removed from the program. This includes sarcasm, criticism, yelling, screaming and/or negative comments directed at staff and/or other parents. The police will be called to remove any parent who appears out of control.

*I have discussed the rules and consequences of the **Discipline Policy** with my camper and they understand what is expected from them at camp.*

Camper's Name (Print) Camper's Signature

Parent/guardian Signature

Date

Child's Name _____

Camp Level

Written Warning #1 Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Description of Incident:

Action Taken:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Written Warning #2 Date: _____ **Teacher:** _____

Description of Incident:

Action Taken:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Written Warning #3 Date: _____ Teacher: _____

Description of Incident:

Action Taken:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Camp Parents and Guardians:

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR
I.D. EVERY DAY**

For everyone's safety, valid government
issued identification is required for
persons picking up a camper.

Summer Camp staff will do their best to learn names and faces quickly, however, with the large number of different parents and children each week it is challenging.

Your cooperation is appreciated.