



**Tallahassee
Museum**
TREE TO TREE ADVENTURES

Camp Handbook and FAQ

Welcome to the Tallahassee Museum Camp Program!

We are proud of the number of campers that return 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. You will receive an email 48 hours before the start of camp to let you know any updated information. It is critical that you read these emails to ensure you know your child's classroom location and have access to all forms you may need.

This Handbook is a reference for you and your child and 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 Behavior 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 must be completed online.

PLEASE inform us if you need to cancel a reservation 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. Campers are registered on a first-come, first-served basis. If the camp is sold out, email registrations@tallahasseemuseum.org to get on the waiting list.

Fees

Kindergarten – 5th Grade: \$60 member/ \$65 nonmember per day

Extended care: \$10 per day

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. \$10 per day.

Parents will be charged \$1 per minute for every minute after 5:30pm.

Refunds

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 partial 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.

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.

Illness

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

- All campers will be taken to the restrooms prior to and after all 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 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.

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 if picking up after 4pm. 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, parents 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 side gates at the admission's building. If you are facing the Museum front doors, follow the sidewalk to the right 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.

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 quiet time. Books are recommended for this time.

Weather

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.

If it is too hot or too cold, campers will not be outside for extended periods of time.

At check-in and check-out times during inclement weather, campers will be located in their classrooms. **Be sure to ask the admissions clerk where your child's camp group is currently located.**

Necessary Items to Bring

Campers should be prepared for changing weather conditions each day. **They are required to wear closed-toed shoes.** (Campers may be sent home if they come without closed-toed shoes.) Campers should bring daily: sunscreen, insect repellent, **refillable water bottle and two snacks.** 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. 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. 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.

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.

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> no more than 48 hours prior to the date of camp. 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******

Contacts

Registration information: Registrar: 850-575-8684 ext. 136;
registrations@tallahasseeemuseum.org

Camp Logistics and Activities: Director of Programs: Allison Ashcroft:
850-575-8684 ext. 116; aashcroft@tallahasseeemuseum.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.



Behavior 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 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, staff, Museum guests, and animals.**

If a camp staff person encounters behavioral issues with any participant, he/she will first attempt to resolve the problem with the camper, if this fails, the Museum's Director of Programs will be consulted, followed by the parents. There is a 5-Point Discipline Policy. If a camper is immediately dismissed or gets **3 Written Warnings** during day camp or summer, he/she will be dismissed from the program. They are welcome to return to the Museum with their parent/guardian or school, but they are unable to attend 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 notified at pick-up and sign the form.
4. 2nd Written Warning - Parent/Guardian will be called to speak with their camper and sign the form at pick-up.
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 and will NOT be eligible to return during the camp season.

Immediate Dismissal

1. Any child who runs away/elopes from the staff/group will be removed from the program for the remainder of the program. If staff cannot convince the child to return to the group, the police will be called. The staff is not permitted to chase after children or leave the site.
2. Any child who harms another camper, staff, or museum guest will be removed (physical and/or verbal abuse). Including but not limited to: hitting, kicking, biting, spitting, and throwing objects.
3. Any child who abuses or harms a Museum animal. Including but not limited to: hitting, kicking, biting, spitting, and throwing objects.

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. No refund will be issued.

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 Director of Programs. A child whose parents/guardians 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.

No refund will be provided if you or your child is removed from camp.

By signing up your camper(s) for camp, you are agreeing to the Behavior Policy.

Camper's Name: _____

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.**

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.