



Franklin Park Conservatory
and Botanical Gardens



CONSERVATORY SUMMER CAMP FAQ

Thank you for considering Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens Summer Camps!
We are excited to share the upcoming summer with you and your family! Below you will find answers to frequently asked questions.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR ALL THINGS CONSERVATORY SUMMER CAMP?

Katie Thorpe, the Camp and Scouts Program Educator | 614.715.8030 | summercamp@fpconservatory.org

REGISTRATION & REFUNDS

WHEN CAN I REGISTER FOR CAMP?

Conservatory Member Registration

Ages 3 & 4 Morning Camp (Half Day)	Monday, January 13, 11am
Ages 4 & 5 Afternoon Camp (Half Day)	Monday, January 13, 11am
Ages 5 & 6 Camp (Full Day)	Tuesday, January 14, 11am
Ages 7 & 8 Camp (Full Day)	Wednesday, January 15, 11am

Non-member registration

Monday, January 20, 11am

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR CAMP?

Register at fpconservatory.org/education-programs/camps/

CAN I REGISTER FOR MULTIPLE CAMPS AT ONCE?

Yes, you are able to register for multiple Camps and multiple campers at once. If you register multiple children at once, be specific and clear about each child's needs. For example, if a child has a medication they require but the other does not, indicate the medical needs of that child by placing their name in front of or after the need. Please be aware the registration process will time out after 15 minutes.

HOW MUCH DOES CAMP COST?

3–4 Camp Morning Session	\$135 members/\$155 non-members
3–4 Camp Afternoon Session	\$125 members/\$145 non-members
Full Day Camp (5–8 year olds)	\$275 members/\$295 non-members

ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?

Yes, the online scholarship form will be live December 9–13, 2024. We offer a very limited amount of 80% off scholarships for Access Level Members. We will process and prioritize applications on a first-come, first-serve basis.

CAN I SIGN UP MY YOUNGER KID FOR THE SAME PROGRAM THAT MY OLDER KID IS IN?

The camp programs are designed with specific developmental levels in mind. Activities and programs are curated to the ages in the description. Some activities may not be appropriate for other ages.

We highly recommend that younger children attend the program that is appropriate for their developmental and behavioral skills.

Please note, that once camp has begun, campers can not be reassigned to a different age camp due to registration priority given to those who have registered and to keep with strict camper to camp counselor ratios.

WHAT IS THE CANCELLATION POLICY FOR CAMPS?

Cancellations at least a month (30 days) before the camp week will receive an 80% refund.

Cancellations less than a month (29 days) but more than two weeks (14 days) will receive a 50% refund.

Cancellations made less than two weeks before the camp week starts are not eligible for a refund.

WHEN CAN I REGISTER IF I'M ON A WAITLIST?

Registration is not guaranteed for individuals on the waitlist. When cancellations occur, the first person on the waitlist will get a chance to register for the open spot. Cancellations are more likely to occur closer to summertime. Upon a cancellation, the first name on the waitlist will be contacted by Camp staff. After being contacted, waitlist individuals will have a limited amount of time to register for the open camp spot before the offer will be extended to the next name on the waitlist.



WHAT ARE THE CAMP TO COUNSELOR RATIOS?

Ages 3 & 4 Camp	1 Counselor to 6 Campers
Ages 4 & 5 Camp	1 Counselor to 6 Campers
Ages 5 & 6 Camp	1 Counselor to 10 Campers
Ages 7 & 8 Camp	1 Counselor to 10 Campers

MY CHILD HAS SPECIAL NEEDS, MAY THEY ATTEND CAMP?

Yes, everyone is welcome and we aim to create an inclusive camp environment! However, our counselors are not specifically certified to work with campers who have special needs and may have limited experience doing so. Additionally, camp activities may be overstimulating or developmentally challenging for some children. We do our best to accommodate all campers' needs, but if you suspect your child may have challenges successfully participating in camp, please reach out to discuss options with us.

WHAT DO CAMPERS DO AT CAMP?

Generally, camp activities consist of active, outdoor play, crafts, visiting the gardens, and team-building games. Each camp will also have a specific theme with activities tailored to that topic.

WHAT DOES CAMP COMMUNICATION LOOK LIKE THIS YEAR?

New this year, Camp Newsletters will be sent to the primary guardian's email. Camp Newsletters will include information about how to prepare for camp, camp songs, and camp reminders.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROGRAMS?

Each week focuses on themes specific to the Conservatory, like gardening, art, and insects. While each Camp falls under an overarching theme of the week, the activities, crafts, and games are specific to the ages of the campers.

HOW LONG DOES THE CAMP RUN?

All Camps are a week long, Monday through Friday.
Pre-K camps are half-day in either the morning or afternoon.
Full Day Camps (Ages 5–8) run
Monday–Thursday, 9am–4pm and Fridays, 9am–3pm.

WILL CAMPERS VISIT THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN AND CONSERVATORY?

Weather permitting, yes! Each camp, regardless of age, will spend time in the Children's Garden. Each camp will also spend time in the Conservatory.

DO CAMPERS NEED TO BRING SACK LUNCHES?

Yes, If the camper is in a full-day program.
Please be aware that lunches will not be refrigerated or heated up.
Parents may also be asked to send only peanut and/or tree nut-free food.
A snack will also be provided for all campers.

WHERE WILL CAMPERS EAT LUNCH?

Full-day campers will eat on the back porch of The Wells Barn unless there is inclement weather.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY CAMPER HAS A FOOD ALLERGY OR SPECIAL DIET?

Please list all allergies and/or special diets on the registration form. Please be clear about the severity of allergies; epi-pen, anaphylactic, airborne, etc. Camp staff will take individualized steps for each allergy and special diet.

HOW ARE MEDICATIONS HANDLED?

There will not be a camp nurse and counselors are not trained to dispense medication. Please give medication to campers before or after camp.

Emergency medications (inhaler/epi-pen) should be sent with the camper. If deemed responsible by parents/guardians, campers will hold on to their own emergency medication (inhaler/epi-pen).

If parents request, counselors will keep the camper's emergency medication with them throughout the day.

HOW DO I KNOW MY CHILD IS READY FOR CAMP?

All campers need to be able to go to the bathroom by themselves. 5-8 year olds need to be able to change for water activities and put on sunblock by themselves. It is best if campers experience a day away from parents/guardians before attending summer camp.

WHY IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HALF-DAY AND FULL-DAY CAMPS FOR 5 YEAR OLDS?

The half day camps are designed for younger children who have not attended a full-day program before. Those children who have attended a full-day program, like kindergarten or daycare, will have developed skills to participate in a full-day camp.

If your child has not attended a full-day program or would thrive in a program with a smaller ratio, the half-day camps would be appropriate.