



Summer Camp Parent Handbook 2019

Hello and welcome to Great Explorations 2019 Summer Camp! We are very excited you and your child have chosen to spend a part of your summer with us. Our most important priorities are your child's safety and providing a quality experience.

With new themes and activities each week, we will strive to make this summer a memorable one for both you and your child! At Great Explorations our mission is to stimulate learning through creativity, play and exploration. Throughout the summer, we will provide campers with opportunities for learning and exploration in a relaxed, fun and playful environment.

New this year our summer camp will be a licensed program; this means our safety measures are reviewed throughout the year and we follow all of the Pinellas County Licensing Board standards for care. This also means our classrooms will always be locked and written notification is needed if your child will be absent. More details about licensing requirements in the handbook below. Please review and contact us if you have questions about this camp program.

We're very much looking forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones this summer! Thank you again for choosing Great Explorations Summer Camp - "where creativity comes to life"!

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Table of Content

- I. Injuries at Camp
- II. Illness Policy
- III. Medication Policy
- IV. Emergency Closing Procedures
- V. Evacuation
- VI. Sign In and Out
- VII. Discipline Policy
- VIII. Outside Toys
- IX. Appropriate Attire
- X. Communication Board
- XI. Field Trips
- XII. Age-Specific Information
- XIII. Lunches and Snacks
- XIV. Gift Shop
- XV. Movies at Camp
- XVI. Adult to Camper Ratios
- XVII. Parent Communication

Injuries at Camp

While we take great care in ensuring that camp children are safe, children at play may have accidents. Great Explorations Summer Camp has the following procedures in the event of an injury:

- An accident report will be filled out for children who have been injured at camp. The original form should be signed by the parent and left with the Camp Counselor.
- In most cases, parents will not need to remove their child and will be informed of the incident at pick up.
- Should an injury occur which requires medical attention; the parents will be notified immediately. If necessary, Camp Staff will contact EMS.

Illness Policy

At Camp, we use our best judgment to determine when children are ill. Please remember that we are not pediatricians and are not permitted to diagnose; we use our best judgement based on symptoms.

If the following occur, parents should keep their child at home or remove their child as soon as possible from camp:

- A temperature over 100 degrees or
- Any other factor indicating illness.

If a child complains of feeling ill, has a fever, or shows symptoms of illness parents will be notified that they must remove their child from camp for the remainder of the day. Children who were sent home must be vomit, diarrhea, and fever-free for 24 hours without medication prior to re-entry.

Medication Policy

If your child requires medication during the camp day, please speak with the Director regarding necessary paperwork and instruction for administration of medication prior to beginning camp. The Director and Counselors will administer epi-pens and inhalers in case of emergency. Epi-pens, medication and inhalers require signed documentation before they will be accepted.

Emergency Closing Procedures

Great Explorations Educational Programs follow the Pinellas County Licensing Board's policies for closing of our Camp Programs. When possible, parents will be alerted about Camp closing at pick-up the day prior. If an unexpected Emergency Closing occurs due to severe weather, parents can find out by calling the Great Explorations main phone line (727.821.8992). An automated recording will alert parents if Summer Camp programs are closed. Please note that the museum may stay open for guests accompanying their children even when camp has closed.

Evacuations

In the unlikely event that emergency personnel require evacuation of Great Explorations Children's Museum, a sign will be posted on the doors of the museum and a member of the camp team will contact guardians by phone.

Sign-In & Out *Important new policies*

Sign-In:

- 1) Before 10:00 a.m., parents enter the museum through the lobby doors labeled "Emergency Exit Only". After 10:00 a.m. parents will enter the museum through the Gift Shop entrance.
- 2) Parents must accompany their child to drop off lunch and personal items in the museum camp classroom before signing their child in with the Camp Counselor.
- 3) Our team **MUST** be notified via email if your child will be absent on any day of camp OR if they will be arriving after 10am per licensing guidelines. Please email afterschool@greatex.org or notify a team member the day prior to an absence or late arrival.

Sign Out:

- 1) Parents enter the museum through the Gift Shop entrance of the museum before 4:30 or through the lobby doors labeled "Emergency Exit Only" from 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- 2) If you are picking up before 4:30, please use the phone located near the museum entrance to call the classroom phone. The extensions for the classrooms will be indicated on the sign next to the phone. Make the gift shop staff aware of the purpose for your visit and confirm the location of your child's group before entering the museum.
- 3) Any adult picking up a camper **MUST** show a picture I.D. and be on the pick-up list for the child. No Exceptions. Parents can add names to the child's pick-up list during morning drop-off any day of the week.

Late Pick Up:

- 1) For any camper picked up after 5:30 p.m., we reserve the right to charge \$5.00 for every minute after 5:30. The camper will not be allowed to return to camp until the late pick-up fee is paid.

Discipline Policy

Our Camp discipline policy follows the practice of "social learning through guidance". Camp Counselors and the Director view negative behaviors as opportunities to teach children constructive and effective ways to cope and work with others. Our goal is to teach responsibility through conflict resolution.

Camp Counselors will abide by the following procedures for handling discipline:

- Camp Counselor will give personal verbal correction and re-direct the child into an appropriate behavior at the first incident.
- If the behavior does not resolve, the Camp Counselor will talk with the child outside of the classroom or away from the group. The Camp Director will be notified, as will the parent/guardian at pick-up.
- If the same misbehavior continues the Camp Counselor will notify the Camp Director, who will remove the child from the activity for a limited amount of time. The Camp Director will speak with the child and return the child to their group once the child appears calm and able to participate safely with peers. The Camp Counselor will fill out a Behavioral Concern Form, which will be given to the parent/guardian at pick-up. The form must be returned when the child returns to camp.
- If the attitude and actions of the child have not shown improvement and the misbehavior, disruption, or disrespect continues, the Camp Director will be notified immediately and the child will be dismissed from camp for the remainder of the day, week, or possibly for the summer.
- We want your child to be successful here. Please detail anything we can do to help your child on the Camp Enrollment forms.

Great Explorations Summer Camp reserves the right to withdraw a child at any time should extreme behavior occur, or should the Camp Director determine that the environment is not appropriate for the child's needs. No refunds will be given for missed camp days regardless of circumstance.

Outside Toys

During after-care classroom play (3:30-4:15) the use of personal toys is allowed at Great Explorations Summer Camp. Before 3:30 toys are to be put away with the child's personal belongings. Toys will be held until pick-up and given to the child's guardian if a child is found playing with toys from home during programming hours of 7:30-3:30.

Tablet use is allowed during the after-care hours of 3:45-4:15. If staff determine that a child is playing a game which is not appropriate for the camp setting (including games with violence), the child will be asked to put their tablet away and choose another activity.

Please note we are unable to lock up personal items throughout the day. If you choose to send your child to camp with toys, money, or electronics you do so at your own risk. Children do not have the opportunity to make purchases while at Great Explorations camp. Great Explorations is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.

Appropriate Attire

Parents should send their child in play clothes since spills and messes during art projects may occur. We make every attempt to protect children's clothes from being ruined, however, occasionally paint and other products may find their way onto clothes and may be difficult to remove. Camp cannot accept responsibility for damage done by art supplies or other camp activities.

To ensure the safety of all students, we require all children to wear close-toed, rubber-soled shoes. Sandals, flip flops, boots, slippers and dress shoes are not appropriate attire for our camp.

Communication Board

Great Explorations Summer Camp will utilize a "Communication Board" to notify parents of important camp information. The Communication Board will be located in the lobby between the Museum Gift Shop entrance and the "Emergency Exit Only" double doors. It will be used to notify parents of the location of camp groups throughout the day. Parents should check this board daily as it will include reminders of which day(s) of the week campers need to wear their camp T-shirt. It is the responsibility of the parents to read the Communication Board and dress their children in their camp shirts on the appropriate days.

Field Trips

"Field Trip days" include any day the children leave the museum using bus or van transportation. Camp T-shirts are required for all field trips involving bus transportation. Unless otherwise noted on the Camp Communication board and museum website, children should wear their camp T-shirts every Wednesday.

Should you need to reach camp staff immediately or during a field trip please call the Camp Cell Phone: 727.831.1150. Please leave a message if there is no answer and we will return your call as quickly as possible.

Age Specific Information

- Campers will be grouped according to grade level and in most cases children from two consecutive grades will be grouped together.
 - Children entering Kindergarten will have a short "rest time" daily; please send your Kindergarten aged child to camp with a towel to lie on during rest time. Stories will be read, music played, or quiet activities will be available during this time.

Lunches and Snacks

Parents are required to pack two snacks, a lunch, and a bottle of water for their child every day. Please pack your child's lunch in a box including an ice pack as no fridge is available. We encourage healthy eating choices and recommend fruits or vegetables for snack. If you wish to pack your child juice or milk in addition to a water bottle you may do so, however no soft drinks are allowed. You will have the option to purchase pizza for your child each Friday over the summer. Forms will be sent home at the beginning of every week and need to be returned by the end of the day each Thursday if you would like to purchase pizza for your child. Please speak with a member of the camp team if you would like to pay in advance for pizza each week your child is in attendance.

Gift Shop

Campers will not be allowed to go into the gift shop for beverage or merchandise purchases. All snacks and drinks must be provided by the parents. Please do not send your child to camp with money as there is no place for them to spend it during the camp day.

Movies at Camp

Educational movies may be used throughout the week in order to present material to campers in a fun and diverse way. "Magic School Bus" or a similar movie or show pertaining to each week's theme may be shown on Friday afternoons. Additionally, "G" or mild PG-rated movies may be used if outdoor time is repeatedly canceled due to inclement weather. Movies will be appropriate for all ages attending the program.

Camp Ratios

Great Explorations maintains a ratio of 1 staff member to every 13 children. During off-site trips, including park visits, the ratio will be 1:10. At times, a counselor will be in the classroom with more than 13 children, but never more than 22 children. This happens in situations when one counselor is taking a child to the restroom, preparing materials for an activity, or on break. Florida Licensing requires ratios of 1:25 for elementary aged children.

Parent Communication

Should you have questions or concerns at any time please contact the Curriculum Lead. The Curriculum Lead (Westin Mitcham) will be available at drop-off each morning and before 3:30pm via 727.831.1150 or afterschool@greatex.org. The Curriculum Lead will support groups daily and attend all off-site field trips. The Director can be reached Monday – Friday by phone at: 727.821.8992 x226, or by email at: LLeavine@greatex.org.

During before-care, after-care, and field trips please utilize the camp cell phone if you need to reach a member of the camp team: 727.831.1150.

Please save these numbers to your phone, as we will utilize them to contact you if needed while your child is at camp.

Museum phone: 727.821.8992

Camp Cell Phone: 727.831.1150

Please email: afterschool@greatex.org if your child will be late or absent.