



Camp Frequently Asked Questions



Spring Break and Summer Camp Registration Begins Feb. 2

What is the difference between Rec-PAC and Summer Camps?

Rec-PAC is a 6 week program held at approximately 42-45 elementary schools throughout the county. Rec-PAC offers a theme-based program. This info will be coming out in April through flyers at the schools and on our website (a separate Rec-PAC Q&A sheet will be given available in May). The Rec-PAC office will be open after May 1, phone number is 703-324-5514.

Spring Break and Summer Camps are various programs held at RECenters, parks, vendor locations, nature centers, historic sites and some schools during the spring break holiday and over summer. There are all types of camps offered throughout the county, both half-day and full-day offerings as well as some one and two day workshops. See our website or Parktakes

Is transportation included?

We do not offer transportation to and from home. However, our Adventure and Excursion camps include transportation from the camp meeting location to and from the various destinations. In addition, some camps use FCPS school buses to transport children to nearby schools for indoor gym use and/or for field trips.

Do you provide scholarships for camps?

There are no scholarships for camps. However, Rec-PAC does offer partial scholarships. Camps are not tax supported, so they operate based on the fees charged for the camp.

What about Camp Forms & Paperwork?

The main camp packet is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/campforms. These forms are required and must be submitted on the first day of camp. In the packet, is a list of the licensed programs requiring a copy of your child's immunization record (+ a physical record if attending more than 30 days), along with showing a copy of your child's birth certificate on the first day. Sites do not keep paperwork on file at the site year to year, so each year you will have to submit a new camp packet of forms. To expedite check in on the first day of camp, it is recommended you make copies of your completed forms for each camp week. For camps with additional waivers or specific itineraries, that information will be emailed to participants closer to the camp start date.

How do I get the \$8 savings?

By registering before **Feb 10 for Spring Break Camps** and **May 12 for Summer Camps**, you can save \$8 off listed price.

Who are the counselors and what are their qualifications?

Some counselors are teachers who work during the summer in camps. Many are college students majoring in education or recreation. All staff must be at least 18 yrs and have prior experience working with children. All have first aid and CPR certifications and go through reference and national criminal background checks and Child Protective Services check.

Are your camps licensed?

Some of our camps at RECenters and parks are licensed by the VA Department of Social Services, mostly the ones for children 3-5 yrs. School and vendor based camps do not require licensure, but follow many of the same procedures. Programs at RECenters and parks for school-agers supervised by county employees are exempt from licensure as well.

How are children grouped and what is the ratio?

Most camps group children by age. Check with the site programmer. Most of our camps maintain a 1:10 to 1:12 ratio for school-age children (state requires 1:18) and 1:8 or 1:10 for preschool age children (state requires 1:10).

Are lunches/snacks provided?

Lunches and snacks must be brought from home. Most sites do not have refrigeration, so please pack a non-perishable snack and lunch for your child. Lunches should be nutritious and prepared to be stored at room temperature. Drink and snack machines are available at some sites, but parents must make these purchases before camp...children are not permitted to use them during camp hours. We suggest packing your child's snack and lunch in a cooler for outdoor camps.

What is the Refund/transfer policy for camps?

- Cancellations and transfers may NOT be done through the internet. For operator assistance, call (703) 222-4664.
- If school's make-up days extend into the camp week, FCPA will automatically credit your Parktakes member account for camp days missed.
- There are no refunds for missed days due to changed work or vacation schedules, sick days, or other non-emergency reasons.

Up to 2 Weeks Prior to Camp

- Refunds and transfers must be requested **at least 14 days** prior to the camp session from which you are withdrawing. Transfers may only be done from one camp to another camp. Not from a camp to a class or Rec-PAC.
- All but \$25 will be returned for approved refunds per session. The \$25 fee is a processing fee that is withheld for cancellations.

Within 2 weeks of Camp Start Date

- Refunds are not permitted for those who register within 14 days prior to the start of a camp session.
- Transfers cannot be done within the 14 day period before the start of camp.
- Within the ten business days of the start of camp, refunds will only be given for medical emergencies with doctor's written verification as long as the verification is received BEFORE the camp begins.

Once Camp Begins

- If a medical emergency occurs during camp, a doctor's written verification will be needed within 24 hours for a pro-rated refund. Requests received after the camp session ends will not be granted.

What if my child needs medications administered?

FCCA strongly urges parents to administer medication at home. If any medication is to be taken by your child during camp, you must submit the Medication Authorization Form (which may require a physician's signature). This form may be obtained from our website at

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/campforms.

Medications will not be accepted at the site without proper authorization.

What camps or accommodations do you provide for children with special needs?

The Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services 703-324-5532 offers specialized programs for people with disabilities. However, the Park Authority can make special accommodations to facilitate mainstreaming children into our existing camps. Special arrangements can be made for assistance by contacting Access Services at 703-324-8563 at least 10 working days in advance.

What trips will Adventure Camp and Excursion Camp take?

The itineraries will be ready the first week in May. Call the site programmer for more info. In our Adventure Camps, professional outfitters are contracted to provide high quality instruction for each activity. On theme park days, campers are grouped and check in with staff periodically.

What are the Late Pick up fees?

There is a late fee of \$1.00 for every minute late a parent is when picking up a child.

What is Extended Care?

Extended Care is supervised care before and/or after camp for those children attending full day camps at that location. All RECenters, plus several parks and nature sites offer extended care. Sessions are offered weekly, therefore if a child is attending a two week camp, parents must register for both weeks of Extended Care to be covered for the camp term. There is also a drop-in option for those needing care at the last minute. Please refer to the Extended Care flyer regarding specifics.

Where do I take my child on the first day of camp?

Once you get to the camp location, there are usually signs instructing you where to go. You may also receive information in an email before camp begins with further details.

What about emergencies and weather related procedures?

Each site has an emergency plan available for review upon request. Camps will operate on code red days with modified activities and plenty of water and shade breaks. Some camps may be cancelled on rainy days, please see your camp director for more information. Weather information can also be obtained at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/campforms/heatpolicy16.pdf>

Who should I talk to for more site specific info?

You may wish to speak to the program director, manager or camp staff at the location of your child's camp. If you are unable to get issues handled at the site, you may contact Youth Services at 703-324-8571.

What is the Park Authority's tax I.D. number?

The tax ID number is 54-0787833. This number may be required for tax purposes and/or employer flexible spending reimbursements. Please check with your employer or tax advisor for qualifying programs.