



Camp Frequently Asked Questions

When does camp registration begin and how do I get the \$8 savings?

- **2022 camp registration begins Jan. 11, 2022** Register early and save \$8 on each session. See website for early incentive discount dates.

Do you provide scholarships for camps?

- There are no scholarships for camps. However, our summer [Rec-PAC](#) offers partial scholarships.

I do not live in Fairfax County, can my child enroll in your camps?

- We gladly welcome out-of-county residents to enroll children in our camps. There is a \$15 out-of-county fee added on to the price of camp.

What is your refund and transfer policy for camps?

- All **refunds and transfers** MUST be requested at least **14 days prior to the camp** session from which you are withdrawing. All approved refunds will incur a \$25 processing fee; there is no fee for approved transfers outside of the 14 days.
- Transfers may only be made from one camp to another camp; not from a camp to a class or Rec-PAC.
- Refunds and transfers are NOT permitted without 14 days' notice. Within 13 days of the start of camp, refunds are only given if the child has a medical emergency and a doctor's written verification is submitted **BEFORE** the camp begins.
- If a camper cannot finish camp once it begins due to a medical condition, a doctor's note is required within 24 hours for a pro-rated refund. Requests received after the camp session ends will not be granted.
- There are no refunds for missed days due to changed work or vacation schedules, sick days or other non-emergency reasons.

What is being done to keep children safe during COVID?

- Our programs follow guidelines developed by the CDC and the local health department in accordance with current governor's orders. We will continue to monitor and evaluate our procedures to ensure everyone's health and safety. Policies are subject to change depending on the current safety measures issued by the above references agencies.

What if my child completed kindergarten, but he/she is not yet 6 years old?

- In most cases, we cannot go by the grade level of the child, just the actual numerical age. However, in some cases, an exception to the age can be made if the child is turning six years old close to the start of camp or during the camp. The best way to inquire is to email the camps office at camps@fairfaxcounty.gov.

What forms will my child need on the first day?

- Complete camp forms which are included in the [Camp Parent Handbook](#). Make multiple copies as you will most likely need to submit a set of forms each week upon arrival at camp.
- Don't forget to include yourself on the Pick-Up Authorization as an individual authorized to sign your child out.
- For your child's safety, parents must sign campers in and out each day. An I.D. is required at pick-up. Please make sure your child's authorized individuals are aware of this requirement.
- Should your child need medication administered at camp, you must complete the [Medication Authorization Form](#).

How do I know which camps are licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services and require additional paperwork?

- Our "Kiddie" camps at RECenters (for preschool-aged children) are licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services, therefore requiring additional paperwork including an immunization record and, in some cases, a physical form (copies accepted). In addition, VA law requires proof of child's identity be shown upon arrival at some camps. Proof of identity may be a certified copy of a child's birth certificate, a birth registration card, a passport, a copy of placement agreement, or a VA public school report card.

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 are at least 18 years old, first aid and CPR certified, go through reference and national criminal background checks, are vetted through Child Protective Services and have been vaccinated for COVID-19.

How are children grouped; 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 and 1:8 or 1:10 for preschool age children.

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.

Will camps operate on inclement weather and code red days?

- Camps will operate on code red days. Campers engage in outdoor activities during the day and are given plenty of water and shade breaks. Most camps will operate on inclement weather days as well. When substantial rain is expected,

some outdoor camps may be canceled for the day. Please contact your camp director for more information. Weather information can also be obtained at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weather-closures>

Does my child's camp include swim time if it is held at a RECenter?

- Some RECenter camps may include a swim break. However, not all camps offer swim time. Pool use depends on scheduled closures for maintenance as well as other circumstances that require the pool to close.

Will my child's camp be bussed to another location?

- Some camps travel by FCPS school bus to a nearby school for use of their spacious gymnasiums and/or classrooms. FCPA partners with the schools to provide a safe environment which allows us to offer a larger variety of camp options. **NOT FOR 2022**
- Camps incorporating field trips will use school buses (smaller camps may use vans). **NOT FOR 2022**
- There is no transportation provided from children's homes to camp.

What is Extended Care? (NOT OFFERED FOR 2022)

- 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. There is also a drop-in option for those needing care at the last minute. Extended care may be refunded up until that week begins with no penalty.

Who should I talk to for more site-specific info?

- For site specific information, contact 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 difference between Rec-PAC and Summer Camps?

- Rec-PAC is a six-week program held at approximately 35-45 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. 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-day and two-day workshops. See our website or Parktakes

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 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 is the tax ID number for tax purposes/flexible spending reimbursements?

- 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.