

Summer Camp FAQs

1. What are the goals of the Summer Camp program?

Our goals are simple. We strive to have a fun and educational summer in a safe and nurturing environment.

2. How are the children split into groups?

The children are split into four groups based on age, with some exceptions. Group A is designated for children ages 4 and 5; Group B for children 5 and 6; Group C for children 6 - 8; Group D is for children 8 and older.

3. How large is your staff and what are your expectations of them?

Our staff consists of fourteen full time counselors. Our ratio traveling is 1:7 and at the pool is 1:5. A list of staff members in each group will be provided to you at the start of camp. The expectations of the staff are that we stress safety first and foremost; we are appropriate in our conversation and interactions with the children; we interact with the children constantly; we are consistent with them; and we create a fun, active camp for them.

4. What time should I have my child at Camp each day?

Children should be dropped off no later than 9:00 a.m. Typically, we begin our preparation to leave for our morning field trip a bit before 9:00 a.m. If you are running late, please call the Center to see if you will need to drop your child off at the field trip location.

5. Where in the building will Summer Camp be based?

The rooms that will house Summer Camp include the Lemur classroom and the gym. Each child will be assigned either a place in the Lemur/Summer Camp main room to place their backpack and belongings. When picking up your child, they will be either in the Lemur/Summer Camp room, in the gym, or outside on the large playground. Please be sure your group leader knows you are picking up your child!

6. What should my child bring to Camp?

- Backpack: (1) appropriate size for your child, (2) no wheels, (3) no "home toys" please!
- Non-perishable lunch: (1) with utensils if needed, (2) fits in backpack, (3) no eggs, nuts, or peanuts!
- Water bottle
- Swimsuit, plastic bag for wet swimsuit (optional)
- Towel – must fit in backpack
- Sunscreen
- Ann Arbor swimming pass
- Any field-trip-specific items (socks for bowling, warm clothes for ice skating, etc.)

7. How will I know what each day's activities are? What happens if a group's plans for the day change?

Each group leader creates a schedule of activities before summer camp begins. A calendar of these activities will be available on your first day of camp. If a scheduled activity or field trip needs to be changed, counselors will inform Center administration as soon as possible. Parents will then be notified by email of the changes. There will also be notes regarding schedule changes by the sign in/out sheets.

8. What do you offer in terms of snack during the day?

We will offer a morning snack at 8:00 a.m. as well as an afternoon snack at 4:00 p.m.

9. What should my child bring for lunch?

Wednesday will be pizza day at Summer Camp – families will not need to bring a lunch on Wednesdays. The other days, campers should bring a non-perishable sack lunch that DOES NOT contain peanuts, tree nuts, or eggs. A list of lunch ideas is available on our website. Please note that there will not be a way to warm items in lunches. There are other days when lunch will be provided on the field trip (i.e. trip to Cottage Inn, cookout day, etc.) that will be highlighted on the calendar schedule for your child's group.

10. How does swimming work, in terms of safety?

All of the children will be provided with colored t-shirts labeled “UMHS CCC” to swim in. Colors coincide with their group. This helps the staff in spotting all of our children in the pool. Staff will also be in the water with the children, interacting with them. Staff will be spread out in and around the pool when there are children participating in activities outside the water. There are also lifeguards in all areas of the pool at all times. In general, children are limited to the areas of the pool that are appropriate for their level of swimming ability. Children who are swimmers are allowed to take the deep end test if they choose. If they pass the test they will be allowed to swim in the deep end of the pool, but only when accompanied by a staff member. If a child needs to use the restroom at the pool, or on any field trip, a staff member will accompany him/her.

11. Can we get in contact with you during the day, and how do early pick-ups work?

Each group will have a cell phone that will enable us to be contacted when possible. If you need to get in touch with us, simply call the Child Care Center, and they will either pass along a message or let us know how to contact you. We will work to accommodate you when late drop offs or early pick-ups are necessary for you.

12. What happens in the case of inclement weather?

Our schedules are flexible. If we are faced with bad weather we often will come up with alternative activities for the day. Previous alternatives have included swimming at Mack’s indoor pool, theme days at the Center, bowling, going to a movie, or another indoor activity for the afternoon. We will notify parents by email if group plans change throughout the day. Center administration monitors weather at all times and will notify groups in plenty of time so that they can seek shelter while traveling, if needed. If you have any questions, please call the Center.

13. Will reading be a part of your program?

Yes!! Each group has a weekly field trip to the Ann Arbor Public Library where the children will have full access to all the books they desire, as well as computers. We can bring information from the library regarding their summer reading program for anyone who is interested. Staff members read with the children both at the library and at the Center. There will be a variety of books available on shelves at the Center for the children to read at any time throughout each day.

14. How often will movies be offered as a choice for children?

We will watch movies over the course of the summer. However, they are used infrequently. We have accumulated a large number of children’s videos over the years, but will not use them on a regular basis. The videos will range from Disney movies to more educational films aimed at children. If you have any concerns please speak with a counselor.