CURIOSITY CAMPS 2024 INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Welcome to Curiosity Camps at the Rochester Museum & Science Center! We’re so glad you’re here! We’ve got an awesome summer lined up for you, filled with messy, unbelievable experiments, tinkering and testing, and learning led by fun! Check out this document for everything you need to know about Curiosity Camps this summer, and please reach out to Camp Administration if you have any questions!

Interested in our COVID-19 safety protocols? We’ll be following all CDC, state, and local guidelines regarding social distancing, masking, and sanitizing surfaces, spaces, and supplies used during the program. For detailed procedures and policies, please visit our website at rmsc.org/camps.

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR

- Please send your camper with a snack, lunch, and drink/water bottle. Please note that refrigeration is not available.
  - Curiosity Camps is a nut-free program (no peanuts or tree nuts of any kind). Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our families safe and healthy.
- Campers are encouraged to wear closed-toed shoes and comfortable clothing that can get messy.
- The RMSC is not responsible for the loss, destruction, or theft of any personal items (including clothing, book bags, purses, toys, games, electronic devices, cell phones, money, etc.) that your child may bring to camp. We highly encourage your camper to keep valuables and other personal items at home.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

For all camps taking place on the museum campus, drop-off and pick-up take place in the Eisenhart Auditorium (not the main building) located on the RMSC campus at 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607.

Please be prompt so that all camps can start at their scheduled times! All campers must be accompanied by an adult each morning and signed in at their camp’s table.

Your camper will only be released to the authorized contacts listed during registration and on the camp sign-in sheet. Authorized pick-ups must present a photo ID every time they come to pick up a camper.
Please review the procedures below as they apply to your camper(s):

3-4 and 4-5 Mini Camps

- Drop-off between 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM. Pick-up at 1 PM.
- Please note that Extended Care is not available for Mini Campers.

Almost Camps

- Drop-off between 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM. Campers arriving before 8:45 AM will need to register for Before Care.
- Pick-up at 2:30 PM. After Care is not available for Almost Camps. All Almost Campers must be picked up at 2:30 PM.

Full Day Camps

- Drop-off between 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM. Campers arriving before 8:45 AM will need to register for Before Care.
- Pick up between 3:45 PM - 4:15 PM. Campers who are not picked up by 4:15 PM will be placed in After Care, and families will be charged accordingly.

Early Pick-Ups

- In the event your camper needs to be picked up early, please write the early pick-up time on that day’s sign-in sheet and notify a member of Camp Administration.
- Please note that early pick-ups between 3:30 - 3:45 PM are not always possible as groups are transitioning from their classrooms to dismissal.
- In the event of an emergency, reach us using the following numbers:
  - Curiosity Camps office: (585) 271-4552 ext. 601
  - Curiosity Camps mobile: (585) 727-3258
  - RMSC Guest Services: (585) 271-4320

EXTENDED CARE

Need extra time before and after the camp day? Join us for extra science fun with unstructured exploration in small group settings. Save when you sign up for the whole week!

- Before Care (available for Almost and Full Day Campers): $7/day or $30/week
- After Care (available for Full Day Campers): $7/day or $30/week
- Extended Care Combo (Before Care and After Care for Full Day Campers): $50/week
Please note that Extended Care is not available for Mini Campers. After Care is not available for Almost Campers.

Late Pick-Up Procedures

1. Campers that have not been picked up by 4:15 PM will be enrolled in After Care and charged accordingly.
2. Campers that have not been picked up by 5:30 PM will be charged a $10 late fee.
3. Campers that have not been picked up by 5:45 will be charged a $25 late fee.
4. If a camper has not been picked up by 6 PM and we are unable to reach an authorized pick-up adult, the Rochester Police Department will be notified.

EMERGENCY AND WEATHER POLICY

In the event that the RMSC closes due to inclement weather or any other emergency, Curiosity Camps will be canceled for the day. Closings will be listed on 13 WHAM TV and 1180 WHAM radio, and you will be notified. If the RMSC closes, refunds for that day will be given.

REFUNDS

To plan appropriately for staff and supplies and to maintain a safe, healthy environment, it is critical for us to accurately anticipate enrollment and attendance. Please note that all camp registration fees include a $75 non-refundable deposit.

The following details our policies regarding cancellations, withdrawals, and absences:

Cancellation Policy
Camps that do not meet minimum enrollment requirements are subject to cancellation. If your registered camp is canceled due to enrollment requirements, you will be issued a full refund or credit towards a future registration or transferred to another camp that week.

If the RMSC and/or Curiosity Camps is closed due to COVID-19, we will issue you a refund or credit towards a future registration.

Refund Policy
All camp registration fees include a $75 non-refundable deposit.

- Withdrawals that occur more than 10 days before the start of camp will receive a full refund (minus the $75 non-refundable deposit).
Withdrawals that occur less than 10 days before the start of camp will not receive a refund.

An example! This year’s February Break camp is Monday, February 19 - Friday, February 23. In order to receive a full refund (minus the $75 non-refundable deposit), withdrawals must be made on or before February 9. Withdrawals made on or after February 10 will not receive a refund.

Absence Policy
Fees will not be pro-rated or refunded for any missed days of a camp session due to absence. Absences cannot be made up by having your child attend another camp on a different day.

COVID-19 Policy
If a camp participant is sent home because they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, they must meet one of the criteria below before they are allowed to return to Curiosity Camps:

- They have received a negative COVID-19 test (documentation required).
- They have been cleared to return by their pediatrician (documentation required).

Campers who are unable to attend camp due to a COVID-19 quarantine are eligible for a 50% refund (minus the non-refundable deposit). Documentation required.

HEALTH INFORMATION: ALLERGIES, MEDICATION, AND EXTRA SUPPORT

Curiosity Camps strives to provide an accessible and safe environment for all campers. If your camper has a medical condition, severe allergies, dietary restrictions, or a disability, please note this information during registration. Camp Administration may contact you if there are questions or concerns regarding the successful accommodation of your camper.

Disabilities and Extra Support
Curiosity Camps strives to provide an accessible and safe environment for all campers. If your camper has a disability or needs extra support, please let us know during registration and provide details/suggestions on how we can assist your child in having the best possible experience with us.

Please note that RMSC Curiosity Camps cannot provide 1:1 aides. Campers will be in groups of approximately 20 campers, with a staff to camper ratio of approximately 1:5. If your camper has a 1:1 aide or receives extra support during the school year, please contact Camp Administration before registering for more information about the structure of our camp program.

Allergies
If your camper has an allergy, let us know during registration (make sure to tell us what they’re allergic to). Medications needed in an emergency (e.g. inhalers, EpiPens, Benadryl, etc.) are kept with the
camper’s instructor at all times during the day. See below for instructions on how to send your camper with medicine.

Please note that Curiosity Camps is a nut-free program (no peanuts or tree nuts of any kind). Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our families safe and healthy.

Medication at Camp
If your camper will need to take any medication (including EpiPens and inhalers) at camp, it must be brought to camp in the original container and be accompanied by a signed note from the camper’s parent/guardian that includes the following:

Permission for Camp Administration to supervise the self-administration of the medication
Details explaining usage, dosage, and timing for the medication.

This note must accompany the medication to camp and be reviewed with a Camp Administrator; please do not send in advance.

Vaccinations
As of 2019, all campers must be vaccinated (Dtap/DTP/Tdap, Hepatitis B, MMR, IPV/POV, chickenpox, MenACWY (starting at age 11-12), Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate, PCV). Please note that New York State Law does not allow for religious exemptions. Contact Camp Administration if your camper has a medical exemption.

CAMPER BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

To provide all campers and staff with a positive and safe camp experience, all campers must exhibit proper behavior and self-control and act respectfully at all times. Behaviors that are not tolerated at camp include but are not limited to the following: name-calling, bullying, fighting, foul language, reckless endangerment, unsafe use of equipment, leaving the group without permission, physical violence or fighting of any kind, stealing or damaging property, and other disrespectful actions.

As necessary, Curiosity Camps will take the following action steps to manage behavior incidents and/or chronic behaviors as problems arise and progress.

1. Camp Staff will address inappropriate behaviors and will redirect the camper to more appropriate behavior. Concerns will be shared with the caregivers of the camper(s) involved during pick-up at the end of the day.

2. If inappropriate behavior continues and is affecting the experience of other campers, the camper will be referred to Camp Administration. Camp Administration will contact caregivers to inform them of inappropriate behaviors and discuss possible solutions. The camper and their caregiver
may be asked to review and sign a safety contract outlining behaviors that cannot continue and alternative behaviors that are encouraged. A sample safety contract is linked here.

3. If the inappropriate behavior continues, caregivers will be contacted to pick up the camper immediately, and the camper will be suspended for the remainder of the day (and possibly week) that they are scheduled. Depending on the severity of the behavior, the camper may be dismissed from continuing camp programs at the RMSC without refund.

4. RMSC Curiosity Camp has a zero-tolerance policy for physical violence, leaving the group without permission, and behaviors involving the endangering of self, staff, other campers, or any other individuals. These behaviors will result in disciplinary action—which may include immediate dismissal from the camp program.

Regardless of previous concerns or action steps taken, Camp Administration reserves the right to immediately dismiss a camper from current and future camp sessions at any point for conduct that is deemed detrimental to the well-being of other campers and staff or the overall operation of the camp. Refunds will not be given (for current or future camp sessions) if campers are dismissed from Curiosity Camp programs due to behavioral reasons.