

DISCOVERY CAMP FAQ

What should my child bring to camp?

- A non-refrigerated lunch, morning snack, and afternoon snack.
- A water bottle.

Please leave money, toys, electronic games, and valuables at home.

What should my child wear to camp?

Comfortable play clothes for indoors and outdoors and comfortable, safe shoes (not flip flops). Any special requirements for outdoor nature camps will be listed on the itineraries available at the beginning of June.

Where do I drop off my child?

Please bring your child(ren) inside the museum's main entrance (74 Main Street, Bangor) and sign them in with one of our educators. Please be sure on the first day to meet our educators, ask questions, and check that we have your Medical & Permission form and all emergency contact information. Please do not leave your child unattended and please do not leave without confirming that we have all the information we need.

Where do I pick up my child?

Please come into the museum to pick your child up. If you do not see the educator you signed your child in with please ask the Admission Desk staff for help. You or a designated caregiver must sign your child out each day.

Can someone else drop off my child?

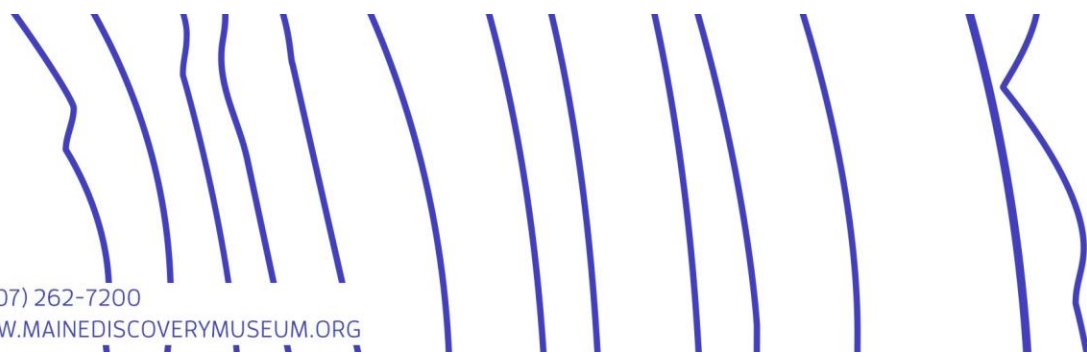
Yes. We assume that you know who drops off your child.

Can someone else pick up my child?

We must have a signed, dated note from you with the person's name. If the camp staff is not familiar with that person, they will ask to see picture ID. For the sake of your child's safety, we cannot accept changes in pick up made over the phone.

What if my child has trouble with separation at drop off?

For many first-time campers the first morning can be a new and overwhelming experience. Our camp educator and museum staff will address your child's worries with compassion, patience, care, and a few proven strategies like introducing them to their new camp friends or engaging them in an activity. If you're



worried your little one might suffer from a touch of separation anxiety, please let us know. We have some tips to make the transition easier for everyone.

What if my child becomes ill during camp?

Camp staff and the camp director will evaluate the situation and contact parents to advise on how to proceed. Please be sure to review our Stay Home policy.

Stay Home if Unwell: If your child has any symptoms consistent with the flu (influenza), COVID, RSV or any other highly contagious diseases, please keep your child home. If anyone living in the household is ill with the flu (influenza), COVID, RSV, or any other highly contagious diseases please keep your child at home. If your child presents symptoms consistent with the flu (influenza), COVID, RSV, or any other highly contagious diseases the museum reserves the right to send them home immediately. If you kindly let us know in advance that your child is sick and keep them at home, we will work with you to credit your payment toward future camps or membership. If you send your child to camp unwell, we will send them home, and we do not guarantee a payment credit. Symptoms include fever (Temperature greater than 100 F), cough, chills, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue (tiredness), vomiting, and diarrhea.

If your child feels ill during the camp day, they will be allowed to rest in a supervised quiet area until they are either ready to return to camp or are picked up. **Please make sure we have a current, working emergency contact.** If, for example, a relative listed as an emergency contact lives 2 hours away, that's not a good option. Children may not attend camp with a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to camp. Children **MUST** stay home for at least 24 hours after vomiting.

What if my child misses me during camp?

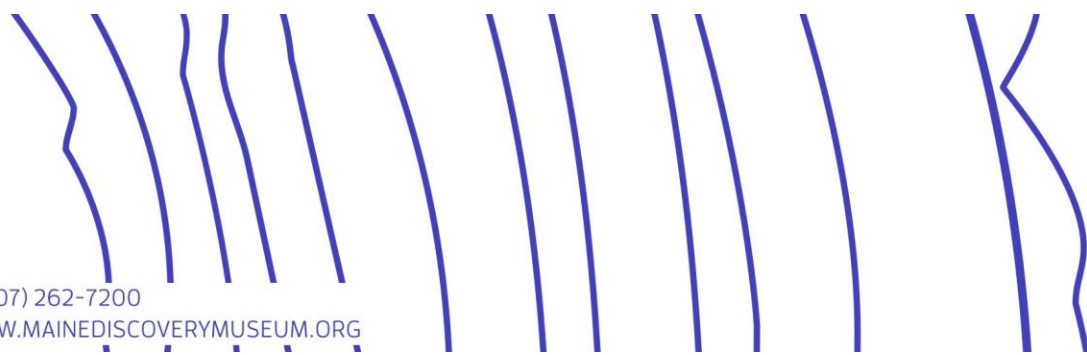
We take your child's concerns seriously. Campers will be comforted and reassured. Camp staff will re-direct them to activities or a staff person will spend some one-on-one time until the child has calmed down. We may call you to involve you in resolving the situation.

What if my child gets thirsty?

Please send a refillable water bottle. Water is **ALWAYS** available to your child. We will remind children to stop for water breaks and have several group water stops throughout the day.

What should I pack for lunch/snacks?

Pack non-refrigerated meals and snacks. Please do not pack anything containing peanuts or peanut products. Please do not send anything that needs to be reheated.



What if my child needs the restroom?

Each day, staffers remind campers where the bathrooms are. A staff person walks the child to the bathroom, waits outside, and then walks the child back to rejoin the activity. Camp staff will remind younger children to visit the bathrooms before and after meal breaks and check for washed hands before each meal.

How many children are in camp?

There can be up to 12 campers in level 1 (ages 5-7), and up to 15 in level 2 (ages 8-12).

What is the camper/staff ratio?

There are two full-time camp educators in each camp. Camp educators are supported by additional staff including educational interns, full-time education staff, visitor experience staff, and volunteers, depending on the total number of campers. Our camper to staff ratio is aligned with ACA recommendations. Our full-time educators are Trudi Plummer (Director of Education) and Jada Robinson (Camp Coordinator).

Are the staff qualified?

Our camp/education staff are carefully vetted and selected based on education, professional development, and experience. Most of our camp Educators have degrees in, or are working towards a degree in, the education field. Our education staff is carefully trained and supervised by our Director of Education, Trudi Plummer.

Do you require a background check on camp staff?

Yes, we do. We also require finger printing for all our educators.

Does camp leave the museum or go outside?

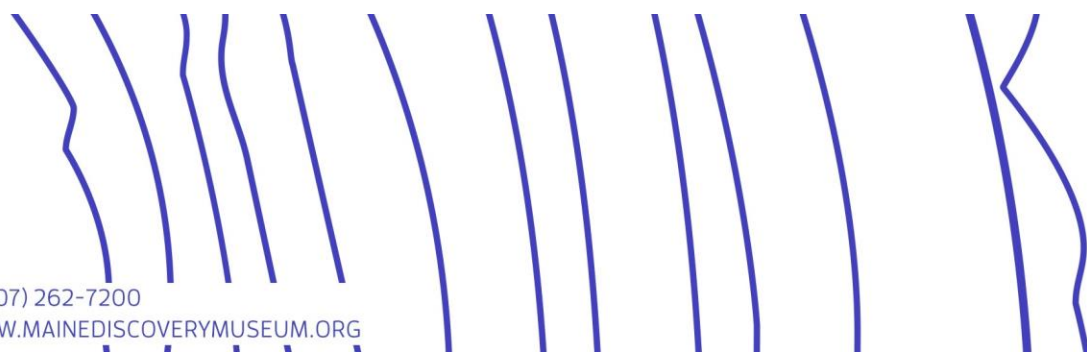
Campers occasionally walk to the park for lunch. Field Trip permission forms will be sent home if travel beyond the park is planned.

Are there nap times?

No, like school we do not schedule nap times. Quiet time is scheduled after lunch, during this time children can rest while listening to stories, or quietly play educational games.

Can I join my child during the day or during lunch?

Parents are always welcome to visit during the camp day. If you wish to visit, or your child requires your assistance, lunchtime is a great time to join us. Lunchtime is also a great time for children to interact with each other, share stories, play together, and form new friendships.

**My child wants to stay with his/her sibling:**

If the siblings are enrolled in different level camps, they will have plenty of time during meals and free play to interact. Keep in mind that these short separations will help both children grow in confidence and independence.

What if my child needs medication?

We do not administer medication, but we will remind your child to take their medicine. All teachers can utilize Epi pens. If your child needs assistance taking medicine or assistance with personal hygiene needs, we ask that you or a caregiver take care of your child's special needs as required.

How do you handle behavior problems?

In any new situation with a new group of unfamiliar faces, children might act out. If the behavior causes a disruption, makes other children uncomfortable, or puts anyone in any danger we will contact you. In all cases we will deal with behavior problems in the most patient, kind, and compassionate but firm way possible.

Is my child ever left alone?

Your child is always under the supervision and in the presence of museum staff.

What if my child needs to come in later or leave early?

No problem! Just make sure to inform your teachers at the time of sign-in or sign-out.

What if we miss a day of camp?

We will try our best to let your child catch up on projects.

My child has special needs.

In the interest of providing the best possible experience for all campers we require that you discuss any special needs, dietary requirements, behavioral issues, or any other issues with our Director of Education (Trudi Plummer) or Camp Coordinator (Jada Robinson) **before** you sign up for camp. MDM does not provide one-on-one staff but invite one-on-one staff to come to camp with their clients. We will make every reasonable attempt to work with you within the parameters of our abilities to create a successful and enjoyable experience for all our campers. We rely on you to openly communicate about any issues or concerns.

Sample Discovery Camp Day

Drop-off: 8:30am–9am

- Morning sign-in
- Supervised free play on the first floor

Morning Meeting: 9:00am (or once all campers have been signed in)

Morning Lessons/Projects: 9:15am

- First learning adventure of the day; this may include a science demonstration, lab, building project, art activity or a visit from an expert guest.

Morning Snack: 10:00am

Supervised Free Play: 10:30am

Morning Lessons/Projects: 11:00am

Lunch: 12:00pm

Quiet Story Time, Team Building, and Play: 12:30pm

Afternoon Lessons/Projects: 1:00pm

Afternoon Snack: 3:00pm

End of Camp Day: 3:15pm–4:00pm

- Clean-up
- Supervised Play
- Parent Pick up/Sign-out