



PEGGY NOTEBAERT NATURE MUSEUM

CAMP



SUMMER CAMP

ORIENTATION PACKET

Welcome to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Summer Camp! With the croak of a crow and the hiss of a turtle, the splash of a puddle and the rush of a breeze, summer camp is ready to start! Our camp team is getting ready to welcome your camper into a world of nature, science, discovery, and wonder!

Please read and discuss this packet with your camper before camp.

Note: This document will be updated periodically and is subject to change.



Garrett—Camp Director
[\(camps@naturemuseum.org\)](mailto:camps@naturemuseum.org)

Dropping Off and Picking Up



When it comes time to drop-off or pick-up your camper, you can head to the **North Lawn** (that's the big lawn just North of the museum) and look for your respective group. The map on the next page will have further details, but generally you can look for anyone in a stylish, green camp shirt and they will point you in the right direction.

Drop-off takes place each morning (Monday through Friday) from:

8:50-9:10

If you are dropping off later than that, please inform us by email (see page 6) and in that case you'll enter through the lobby and inform the front desk that you are dropping off and which group your camper is in.

Please do not leave your camper until you are told to do so by a member of the camp team

Pick-up takes place each afternoon from:

2:50-3:10

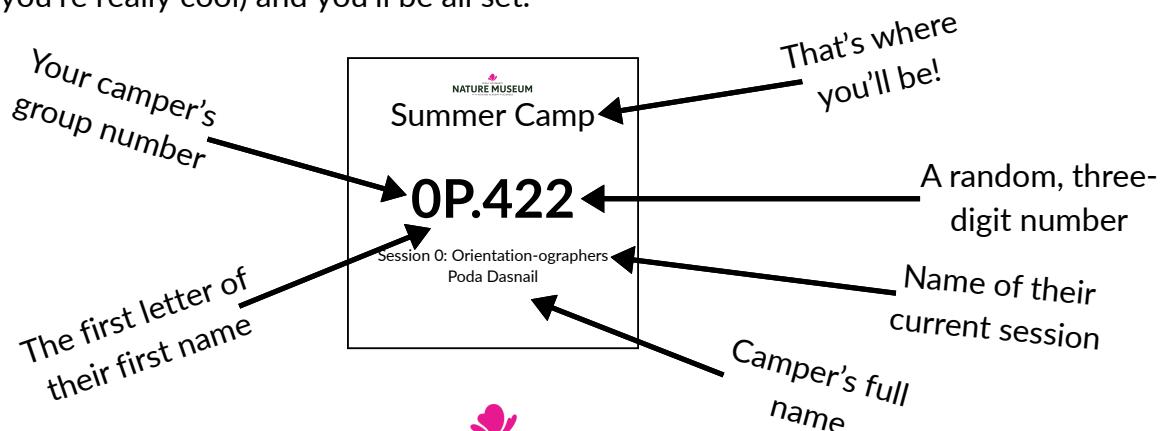
If you are going to be late picking up, please inform us by email as well and please note that while we can accommodate under reasonable circumstances, we are not always able to house your camper past the regular hours.

If your camper is attending aftercare, you will pick them up in the lobby (if it's after 4:00 you will need to buzz in at the front using the silver security buzzer located by the front doors).

Camper Codes

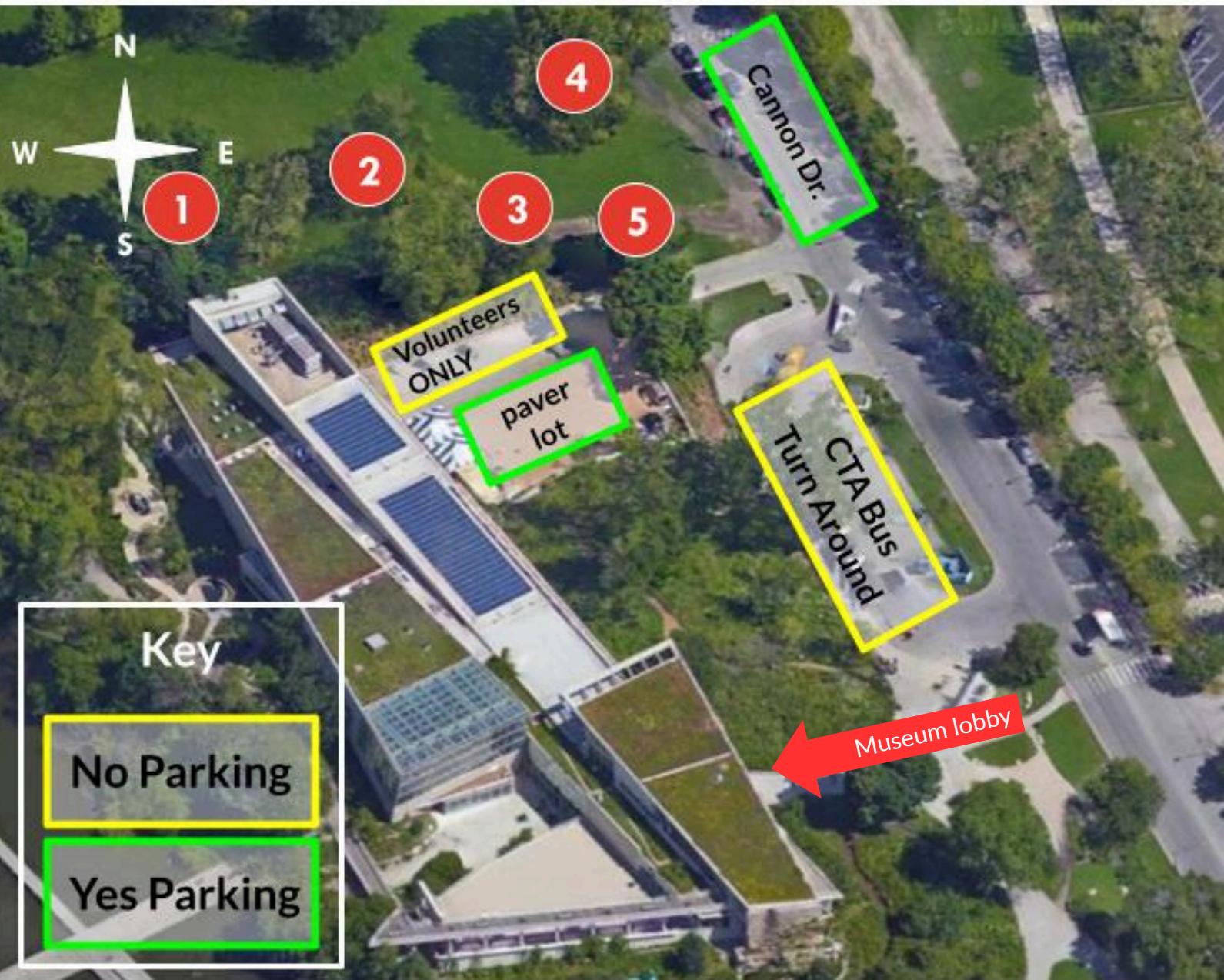
When you come to drop-off or pick-up your camper, you will also need to bring your **Camper Code**. This is a special code created by us that is unique to your camper and meant to insure that they are being dropped off or picked up by the correct people. You will receive your campers unique code prior to their session (check your email) and if they attend multiple sessions they will receive a different code for each.

When you reach your camper's group, they will ask for the code in order to be able to either take or give away your camper. You can show it on a phone, print it out, or recite it from memory (if you're really cool) and you'll be all set.



Drop-off and Pick-up Map

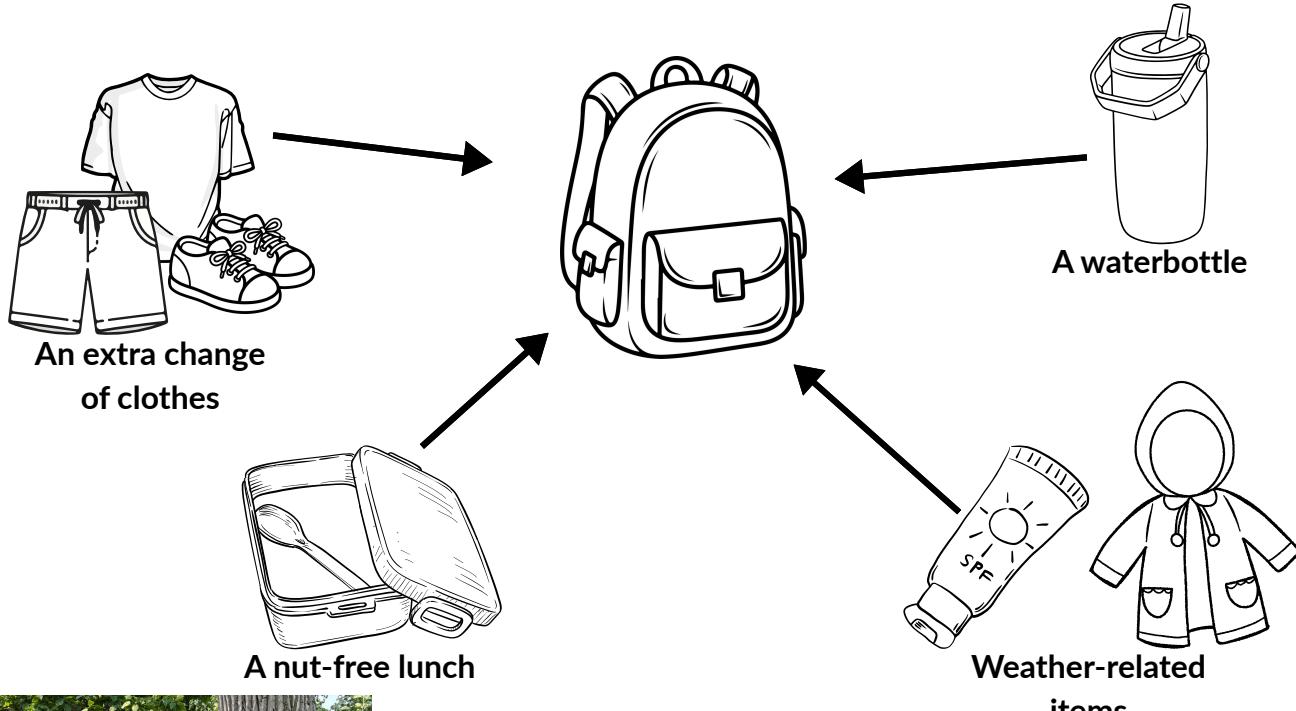
Refer to this map when looking for your campers group. In the event of inclement weather, we will be in the lobby instead.



What to Bring

Your camper is in for a full day of camp and we want them to be ready for it when they arrive. Here is a list of must-haves for your camper to bring with them:

And remember to label your camper's things!



Keep in mind that we are a nature camp and thus will be spending a lot of time outside, getting our hands dirty and our knees skinned, so make sure to send them dressed appropriately and with nothing they wouldn't mind getting scuffed or mussed.

What Not to Bring

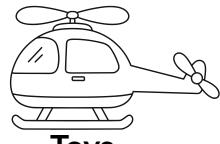
There are also things that we ask your camper leave at home:



Electronic devices



Valuables



Toys

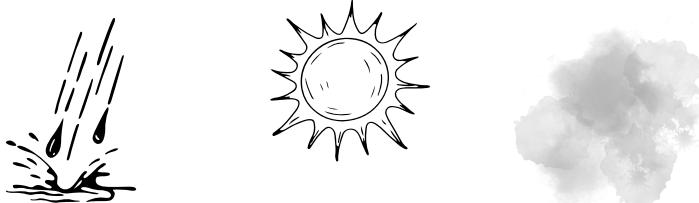
If your camper has a particular comfort item, please let us know so we can make a plan to accommodate them, but be aware that if having that item causes other issues we may have to ask that it be kept home.



Weather Guidelines

Weather in Chicago can be unpredictable and, while here at camp we want to prioritize outdoor play and exploration, there are certain weather conditions that will have us switch to indoor activities. These can include:

- Severe thunder and lightning
- Extreme heat
- Dangerous air quality warnings



When it comes to rain, regular heat and humidity, our policy is to put on a raincoat, lather on the sunscreen, drink plenty of water, and brave the elements!



Water Wednesdays

Every Wednesday, camp becomes Chicago's most popular water park! We have extended outdoor playtime, we bust out the hose and the kiddie pools and we get set to get wet!

In accordance with this, we ask that each camper be sent with an extra change of clothes so they can splash and splash and then change afterwards. There is no actual swimming (the pools are quite shallow) and there is always an option to stay dry for those who want it.

For our 8-9 year old campers, we get to take a little stroll down to Fullerton Beach for a day of sun and sand! Older campers are encouraged to bring/wear their swim gear as they will likely go in the water (we go off of local lifeguards guidance in the event of high winds).

Field Trips

In addition to their beachside excursions, our 8-9 campers get to go on a field trip as part of their session! These are off-campus, taking a classic yellow school bus to one of two different adventures:



Our session 3 campers will paddle canoes down the Chicago River!



Our session 4 campers will visit the Wild Mile to learn about conservation!

Health and Wellness

The Nature Museum Summer Camp Director, Assistant Director, Head Counselors are trained by the Red Cross in CPR and First Aid, in the administration of EpiPens, and to recognize the signs of a severe allergic reaction.

For injuries or for illness, camp staff will notify the primary guardian, followed by the secondary guardian if applicable, and then the emergency contact (in the order listed on the registration form) until a contact is notified. Other camper updates will be shared with the authorized pick-up person at the end of the camp day.

If your camper is feeling unwell or exhibiting symptoms of fever or other illness, please do not bring them to camp. This helps us ensure that we do further the spread of anything through camp and keeps us all healthier.



Please be sure to note any allergies, medications or medical conditions on your camper's registration form. If your camper has an EpiPen, provide the details of their emergency action plan on the registration form.

If your camper is taking medication during camp, add it on the registration form and send the medication in the original container. Nature Museum Summer Camp staff members are able to remind campers to take medications but are unable to dispense medications of any kind (with the exception of prescribed EpiPens). Any medications brought to camp must be taken home at the end of the day; the Nature Museum cannot keep or store medications overnight.



Behavior Policy

One of the goals of our camps is to create a space that welcomes all and can be a home for anyone. We abide by a set of simple rules (staff, campers, and parents alike):

1. Be Responsible
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Safe and Be Kind

We understand that our campers are still learning (as are we all) and we will always work to find ways to ensure that everyone can find a place here at camp.

That being said, there are some behaviors that will merit stronger considerations. These include:

- Anything that would make another camper or member of our camp team feel unsafe or unwelcome at camp.
- Choices that put themselves or others at risk of harm
- Damaging or otherwise harming the specimens or other property of the museum and its collections.

Responses to this can include a temporary break from activities, a phone call home, needing to be picked up early, and (if we feel we are unable to safely have them here) an early ending of their time at camp.

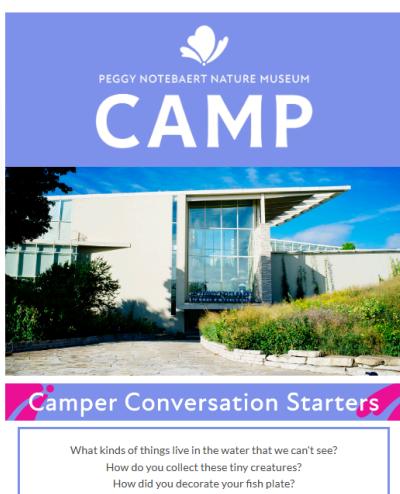
Communication

Our main line of communication at camp is via our email:

camps@naturemuseum.org



This is always the fastest and most reliable way to reach us as we are always on the move and cannot be at our phone all the time when camp is in session. Use this email to let us know if you need to drop-off late, if your camper is feeling unwell, or anything else that can help us make camp the wonderful place that it is.



You will also be receiving a daily newsletter; our **Camper Pages!**

These are chock-full of info about your camper's day including (but, not limited to):

- Conversation starters to help your camper share what they've learned or done!
- Summaries of all camp activities from the day!
- Photos of your campers having a blast!
- Important information about upcoming camp events!

Be sure to check them out to stay connected to the world of camp!



Camp Open House

As a way to welcome new and old camp families, we will be hosting an open house the week before camp starts on:

Thursday, June 18th
4:00 - 5:00
At the museum's South Gallery

This is an opportunity to meet the camp staff, get to know other camp families, play some games, and get just a taste of what camp is all about!

We hope to see you there, otherwise we'll see you at camp!

