



Parent's Guide

to summer adventure camp

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Camp Setting

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is an educational institution that promotes an understanding of the important relationships between people and plants. Founded in 1887 as the private estate of John and Lydia Morris, brother and sister, the Arboretum today is an interdisciplinary center that integrates art, science, and the humanities. It is the official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is accredited by the American Association of Museums.

The 92-acre public garden, located in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia, provides specialty garden areas that include the Rose Garden, Swan Pond, English Park, Asian gardens, meadows and woodlands. Our camp is intended to ignite a child's love of nature through outdoor exploration. Children will partake in hiking expeditions each day of camp no matter what the weekly theme may be. On rainy days, our campers play games, put on shows, and enjoy craft activities at the Hillcrest Building located by the Swan pond. Our camp is facilitated by highly skilled and professional educators who teach in local school districts. Yearly background checks and clearances are required for all Arboretum staff, contractors, and volunteers who work with children.

Drop off

Our camp day will begin and conclude at the Widener Visitor Center, which is accessed from the main entrance on Northwestern Avenue (See map on page 8). **Drop off begins at 9:00am and ends at 9:20.** Please park in the parking lot and walk your camper to the drop off area where our counselors will be waiting to greet and sign in your child. **Please do not drop your camper off before 9am.** If you arrive before 9am, parents must wait outside the Widener Building with their child until a counselor is present. If you know your child will be late, please call (215) 247-5777 ext. 127 and leave a message with your child's name and expected time of arrival.

Pick up

Campers may be picked up outside the Widener Visitor Center between the times of 3:15 to 3:30pm. During inclement weather, campers will wait for parents inside the Widener Visitor Center, or under the café tent. Campers will be permitted to leave only with **authorized adults** (as listed on the Registration Form). If you need to make changes to this list, please email Tiffany Stahl (tifstahl@upenn.edu) or call (215) 247-5777 and speak with an Arboretum staff member. Please be respectful to Counselors and Arboretum staff and retrieve your camper no later than 3:30 each day. Campers picked up after 3:30pm may be charged a \$20.00 fee.

Weather & Clothing

Camp is held **rain or shine**. Please dress children accordingly. In the case of inclement weather, activities will be modified and moved indoors. Washable play clothes, hats, camp t-shirts, and sneakers are best for walking and playing games. Flip Flops and sandals are **NOT** permitted. Water shoes are also appropriate to wear on weekly water days. Campers will also be given a camp T-shirt to help identify them as part of the Summer Adventure Program, and can be worn at their convenience. Please be sure that your child is covered with sunscreen and insect repellent before their arrival to camp. Campers may be asked to bring a towel and water shoes for one day of camp. Water Day gives campers the chance to splash in sprinklers and explore a creek in search of water creatures. Notes will be sent home with parents the day before Water Day.

What to Bring

Campers should bring a **bagged lunch (peanut free)**, a **peanut free snack**, and **refillable water leak proof bottle** marked with their name to camp each day. A backpack or small bag may be helpful in carrying these items. Be sure to label all items with child's name. Please do not bring toys, phones, cameras, electronic devices, money or valuables to camp. The fewer items that your child carries with them the better! **The Morris Arboretum is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.**

[PLEASE NOTE: With increasing dietary requirements and food allergies, the Morris Arboretum will no longer provide snacks to our campers. Food related activities may still be offered on a weekly basis.]

Camper Behavior

The camp environment is informal but structured. Campers will be informed of Arboretum rules and etiquette on the first day of camp. All of our campers are asked to respect each other, as well as the Arboretum plants and wildlife. Disruptive behavior affects the fun, safety, and overall quality of the camp experience in the group. In the event of repeated misbehavior, counselors will notify the parent/guardian and request that the camper be picked up or dismissed. **Camp staff may excuse a camper at any time for repeated disruptive or inappropriate behavior. Hitting or bullying will not tolerated what so ever. Summer camp should be fun for everyone!** No refunds will be given to campers dismissed.

Safety & Medical information

Summer Adventure Camp is an outdoor camp that includes some physical activity such as walks and running games. Please be aware that nature interpretation and hikes to different areas of the Morris Arboretum have hidden dangers (*including but not limited to*: risk of bee stings, poison ivy exposure, ankle sprains, and exposure to ticks and mosquitoes). Camp staff is trained in administering first aid and will contact authorized medical personnel in the case of an emergency.

Please fill out the medical and emergency contact information on the Registration Form completely and accurately and return within two weeks of registering on-line. In the event of a family emergency during camp hours, please contact (215) 247-5777 and speak with the operator, or see the Visitor's Service staff in the Gift Shop to get in touch with the camp counselors, who will be called on portable radios.

Sun, Mosquitoes & Ticks

If you choose for your child to use sunscreen and/or insect repellent, please apply it prior to camp. Counselors will apply as needed with permission (see Registration Form). Campers may walk through areas where ticks can be found. While ticks have not posed a problem in the past, it is suggested that tick checks be done when campers are home. Neem oil is a natural preventative that may also deter ticks.

Registration Policies

Space is limited. On-line registrations will be processed as they are received. A completed Registration Form, Parent Permission & Liability Form, must be submitted two weeks after an on-line registration has been completed in order to hold a camper's place in the program. Cancellations will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please email Tiffany Stahl (tifstahl@upenn.edu) to be placed on a waiting list. Cancellations occasionally occur.



Cancellation Policies

Refunds will be made if notification of cancellation is received at least 10 days prior to camp start date. A **\$50** processing fee will automatically be deducted from refund. **The Morris Arboretum reserves the right to cancel Summer Adventure Camp due to insufficient registrations. In this event, full refunds and notification will be given.**

Morris Arboretum Membership

Arboretum members receive a member discount on summer camp and a number of other great benefits. To learn more about becoming a member or renewing your membership, visit www.morrisarboretum.org or contact the Membership Office at (215) 247-5777 ext. 151 (Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm).

Frequently asked questions

- **Can my child be put on a waiting list if registration is full?**
Yes. If a camp week is indicated as full on the on-line registration page, please contact Tiffany Stahl (tifstahl@upenn.edu) to be placed on our waiting list. Openings will be filled on a first come first serve basis.
- **What should I do if my child cannot attend camp one day?**
If your child is sick or will be on vacation, please notify the camp counselors or call (215) 247-5777 ext. 127. Refunds will not be given for missed days. Please make sure that your child is fever free for 24-hours before sending them back to camp.
- **What happens if it rains?**
In the event of inclement weather, campers will be dropped off and picked up inside the Widener Building, or under the white tent behind the Widener Visitor Center. Gift shop staff will direct parents on rainy days. Camp activities will be held indoors at the Hillcrest Pavilion. Please dress your child accordingly.
- **Can I send my child home with another parent?**
Campers can be sent home with those listed on the Registration Form. Alternates can be arranged a head of time by calling (215) 247-5777 ext. 127, by emailing Tiffany Stahl (tifstahl@upenn.edu)
- **What happens if I am late dropping off or picking my child up?**
Drop off begins at 9:00am each day. If a camper will be late, please call (215) 247-5777 ext. 127 and leave a message with your child's name and expected time of arrival. Pick up begins at 3:15pm and ends at 3:30. Campers picked up after 3:30 will be charged a \$30.00 fee.
- **Can I stay at the Arboretum after I drop my child off?**
The Arboretum does not open to the public until 10:00am. Unfortunately, parents and family cannot stay on the grounds after a child is dropped off. The Arboretum closes Monday through Friday at 4:00pm.

Morris Arboretum map

