

Parent Guidebook- 2021 Discovery Day Camp

Welcome!

Our team is so excited to be able to offer Summer Camp programs to your family this year! We know that the last year has been full of rapid change and uncertainty which can be especially difficult for kids. Summer Camp is a time for young people to build relationships, feel a part of a community, spend time outdoors and most importantly HAVE FUN! Last year we made the decision to keep our camps open and saw the positive impact it made on the campers, while keeping our programs COVID safe. We are excited to be able to offer Discovery Day camp again this year and keep some normalcy in your child's summer.

Included in this guidebook you will find information on a wide variety of topics including health + safety, packing lists, and daily schedules. **Please take a moment to review all the information included in this guidebook – there are a few items that will require action from you prior to your child arriving at camp.**

We will send additional information to you as we get closer to your camp date with more details regarding camper drop off and group assignments.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

We will see you soon!

Camp Northern Star Team

Email: cubcamping@northernstar.org

Phone: 612-261-2303



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Overview of Camp Program

Camp Northern Star Mission

From our camp staff to our volunteers, we are committed to discovering the principles of Scouting by delivering FUN experiences that build CHARACTER, CITIZENSHIP, FITNESS, and FAMILY.

Why Day Camps?

Camp Northern Star has been offering our community Discovery Day Camp program for several years to provide program and welcome non-scout members of our community into our camps.

Day Camp programs allow families to stay close to home, come together in smaller groups, and still experience many of the same activities that they would at a traditional resident camp program. We also continue to offer overnight, resident camp programs this summer and encourage you all to consider attending both if you can!

How will the days be structured?

We will again be keeping campers in small patrols throughout the week. Groups will be around 15 youth and will follow Minnesota Department of Health Guidelines. These group assignments will remain consistent throughout the entire week (*more information can be found on group assignments in later sections of this document*).

Schedule Outline Each Day

8:00 am	Early drop off (requires sign-up ahead of time)
9:00 am	Camper Drop Off & Health Screening
9:15 am	Morning Activities
11:45 am	Lunch (bring your own lunch)
12:30 pm	Afternoon Activities
2:00 pm	Snack/Rest Time
2:15 pm	Afternoon Activities Continued
4:00 pm	Camper Pick Up
5:00 pm	Late pick up (requires sign-up ahead of time)

Activities

All aspects of the program have been designed to be appropriate for elementary school & middle school aged youth and staff will be able to adapt specific games and activities to fit the specific age group and ability level of the kids they are working with. We have tried to find a mix of traditional camp activities as well as unique day camp activities! You can expect the following at each session:

- Team Building games
- Outdoor Skills – orienteering, fire building, survival skills
- Nature – plant and animal ID, nature hike, observation journals
- Crafts
- Scout Skills
- STEM
- Archery

Consistency at All Properties

We are offering Discovery Day Camp at four of our metro camp locations and eleven sessions and we prioritize consistency at all our sessions and locations. Our staff have all been trained on the same curriculum and will be provided the same materials/equipment. We want to make sure that all campers that attend a program this summer get the same high-quality program. Consistency is important however each of our properties have unique facilities such as climbing, different water features, and fitness courses that your camper will get to experience.

We expect that some campers might attend more than one session, and we absolutely welcome that!

Daily Packing List

Please make sure your child(ren) are prepared with everything that they might need for the day. We are going to spend most of our day outdoors unless it is unsafe to do so. **Dressing in layers is recommended** because temperatures will likely be cooler in the morning and then warm up in the afternoon. Please also make sure that campers **wear closed toe shoes** that they can safely run in.

- Completed Health History Form** – parts A + B (*part C with the doctor signature is NOT required for this program*)
https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf
- Day Camp participant waiver:**
https://scoutingevent.com/attachment/BSA250/document_15924136600_712.pdf
- Lunch** – Lunches can be refrigerated, if needed
- Snack** – we will have a rest/snack time built into the schedule each day. Please do not pack anything containing peanuts
- White T-Shirt** – *for tie dye, we recommend packing on the first day in case their group is scheduled to do that activity right away. For some sessions we will offer pre-order day camp shirts for tie dying –keep an eye out for a specific email about this opportunity*
- Face Mask** – *Will be required for anytime campers inside and when groups are unable to be socially distance. We will have a small number of disposable masks available for emergencies. We recommend you pack multiple masks for each day.*
- Water bottle**
- Spray Sun screen** – *please apply sunscreen prior to arriving at camp, staff can assist with reapplication if needed*
- Bug spray**
- Medications** ***please note these on your health history form and inform staff at drop off***
- Rain Jacket**
- Close toe tennis shoes** - please avoid sending your camper in sandals
- Swim Suit**
- Hand sanitizer** – we will have some on site, but recommended to have extra
- Optional Items** – hat, sunglasses

We do not recommend sending your camper with a cell phone or personal electronic devices, they will be asked to keep them in their backpack during the day if they have them.

We strongly recommend putting your campers name or initials on any personal items that they bring to camp each day.

Drop Off & Pick Up Procedures

Based on guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and other industry standards, we are going to have to strictly enforce procedures during camper drop off and pick up times. This is to ensure the safety of all participants, their families and our staff. Please review the procedures below – these will also be sent to you again a few days prior to your camp start date.

Camper Drop Off

Prior To Arriving on Site

We will complete daily health screenings outside, by patrol each morning at camp. These may be moved inside for inclement weather or early drop offs. Guardians and siblings or other children not staying onsite may come inside for these screenings but must be wearing face coverings when onsite at camp outdoor or indoors.

Daily Health Screening

****As part of the daily health screening, the parent or guardian will report their child's daily temperature. Please complete this measurement at home and report it upon arrival.**

The following questions will be asked in addition each day:

- Have you been in contact with anyone who you know has COVID-19 or is ill with a respiratory illness and has not been tested for COVID-19 in the last 14 days (2 weeks)?
- Have you or anyone you have been in close contact with been advised by public health to quarantine or self-isolate and not been released from that advice (usually 7days)?
- What is child's reported temperature?
- Does your child have any of the following new or worsening symptoms: Fever or chills - Cough - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing - Fatigue - Muscle or body aches - Headache - New loss of taste or smell - Sore throat - Congestion or runny nose - Nausea or vomiting - Diarrhea

Information collected in this screening will not be public and it will be kept secure. If you have questions about the process, please feel free to contact us.

Arriving on Site

Prior to the start date of your session, you will be contacted by the site camp director (via email) to tell you what your camper group assignment will be. **Drop off can begin at 9:00 am. We ask that campers who have not signed up for early drop off do not arrive before this time.**

Look for signage and staff to direct you to the proper drop off point for your camper(s).

You will be asked to designate who will be picking up your camper at the end of the day and provide contact information for that individual.

Early Drop off

To participate in early drop off you must register your camper for it. If you have not already registered your camper for it and would like to, you can go back to your registration and add early drop off. Early drop off can start

at 8am and will follow all drop off standards as regular drop off. If you wish to add this option once your camp session has started, please plan to pay the fee by cash or check at morning check in.

Camper Pick Up

Pick up can begin at 4:00 pm – if you need to pick up your camper early for some reason, please notify staff at drop off so we can make sure they are ready.

Arriving for Pick Up

Please return to the same area of the parking lot that you dropped your camper off in the morning. Look for staff to guide you to the camper pick-up area, it may be indoors if weather requires it, but will usually be an outdoor area. Adults and guests onsite to pick up campers should wear a face mask from the time they exit their car until they return back to it.

Late Pick Up

To participate in late pick up you must register your camper for it. If you have not already registered your camper for it and would like to, you can go back to your registration and add late pick up. Late pick up goes till 5:00 pm and will follow all pick up standards as regular pick up.

We appreciate your patience and understanding with this process – camper safety is our top priority and that begins with a structured drop off!

Social Distancing at Camp

Social Distancing has become common language over the last year – we will be following Minnesota Department of Health and industry standards to guide and enforce social distancing while at camp. It is widely agreed upon that maintaining a safe distance (roughly 6ft) from other people is one of the most effective ways to limit and stop the spread of COVID-19. This method is easier said than done with young children! Therefore, we are going to changing the structure and schedule of our camp programs as a way to maintain social distance while still allowing kids to have a fun camp experience.

Small Groups, Closed Groups

Following MDH guidelines, each camper will be put into a group with around 15 youth and 1 staff member. These groups will remain consistent throughout the entire week. Each staff member will do their best to encourage social distancing while in the small groups, but more importantly they will not be interacting with any other group in close proximity. This will limit the exposure of our campers to each other as well as to the staff making it easier to contract trace and isolate illness if necessary.

Siblings may not be placed in the same patrols; we will do our best to coordinate patrols by age group. We will also do our best to accommodate friend requests, but it may not always be possible due to safety guidelines. Please also tell us ahead of time if any non-family campers will be carpooling to and from camp. We will not be able to consider any friend or carpool group requests that are not sent to us at least one week prior to the start of your camp session.

Activity Changes

Many of our favorite camp memories probably include games and activities that put us in close contact with our peers. Our staff team has come up with many creative and innovative ways to still facilitate these important camp

moments while maintain safe distance and personal hygiene. We are using the following guidelines to shape our camp activities:

- Frequent hand washing
- Wearing face coverings when social distancing is harder to maintain
- No large group/multi group activities
- Setting and enforcing clear behavior expectations for campers

Group Assignments

As stated, small group assignments are critical to keeping campers and staff safe this summer.

How will I find out my campers group assignment? You will be notified (via email) by your site leader what group your camper(s) will be in.

If you have a request to keep certain campers together – please notify us at least one week prior to the start of camp and we will do our best to accommodate every request.

Camper Behavior Expectations

As people who work with young children every day, we know that camp is a great place for young people to learn and practice proper social behavior with others. Activities are designed to encourage teamwork, communication, and community and we know that conflict can sometimes be a part of that learning process! Our staff are trained in how to facilitate and mediate these learning moments – however this year, it is important for our campers to respect each other and follow safety guidelines set by their staff leader. In the unfortunate circumstance that we are having a hard time getting a camper to listen and follow rules, we will have to call you and ask you to pick you child up from camp. We cannot put the safety of other campers and staff at risk.

In any situation – our first response will be to make sure that everyone is safe. Once safety is established, we will then try to explain the rules again to campers. If the camper is repeatedly breaking rules and not trying to change behavior, we will then have to remove the camper from their small group and call the parent for pick up.

If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to reach out to us prior to the start of your camp session.

COVID-19 Response Plan

Through the processes and procedures outlined in this document, our goal is to minimize the risk of exposure of COVID-19 to the campers and staff. Some of the action steps we are taking include:

- Daily health screening of all participants and staff
- Maintaining safe social distance
- Keeping group sizes small
- Enhanced cleaning of shared equipment
- Staying outdoors as much as possible
- Requiring the use of facial coverings if social distancing is harder to maintain or indoors

Despite all of this, we will not be able to eliminate all risk to campers this summer. In the unfortunate circumstance that there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a camper or a staff member the following steps will be taken:

- All affected camp participants and staff will be notified as soon as possible
- All camp participants and staff from the same group of confirmed case will be encouraged to self-isolate for 7 days.

If you or your child is diagnosed with COVID-19 during or immediately following a camp session, please notify us by emailing mschultz@northernstar.org right away. We will then be able to assist in the contact tracing for other participants and staff that might have been exposed.

During the week of your session at camp, we encourage you to limit your activity and exposure outside of their time at camp.

Emergency Contact at Camp

Each site & Camp will have a lead staff member who will be on location all week while campers are there. Site specific contact information will be shared in an email prior to the start of camp (via email).

If you have an emergency and you are not able to get a hold of the site leader you can contact the Council office directly, they will help relay messages as quick as possible.

Camping Customer Service

Phone: 612-261-2303

Margaret Schultz (Discovery Day Camp director)

Phone: 612-261-2452

Weather Policy & Cancellations

Cancellation & Refund Policy

No partial or prorated fees will be issued for partial camp attendance/missed days unless they are due to COVID exposure. In the unfortunate circumstance that camps are forced to close this summer, families will be given a choice to credit all fees paid toward a future reservation or receive a full refund. We want to ensure that all families feel safe and comfortable sending their children to camp this summer. If a family decides to no longer attend camp due to health risk, we will refund all fees paid, less the 25-dollar cancellation fee, if the request is received by our office at least three weeks in advance of the start of their camp session. Requests outside of this timeframe will be evaluated individually.

Any request should be sent directly to our customer service team at cubcamping@northernstar.org

Weather Policy

Minnesota Department of Health and other agencies have determined that being outdoors whenever possible will help limit the risk of spreading COVID-19. For that reason, we will be keeping campers outside as much as possible while they are with us at camp. At all our sites we will have indoor space available in case it becomes unsafe to be outdoors (due to heat or storms). We will likely remain outdoors in light rain events so it will be important to pack a rain jacket with your camper.

If the forecast shows a high likelihood of severe weather during the day – we will contact families prior to drop off time if we decide to cancel activities for the day.

Storm Shelters

We've discussed this with our camp physicians and agreed that the imminent threat of a storm would take precedence over all else. When needed, we will use storm shelters as we have in the past. Social distancing is difficult in a storm shelter, so we advise all participants to wear a mask while in the shelter. A roster of participants in the shelter will be maintained for the purpose of contact tracing. Parents/guardians will be notified at pick up if campers had to spend time in a storm shelter.