

2023 DISCOVERY CAMPS PARENT GUIDEBOOK



WELCOME!

Our team is excited to offer Summer Camp programs to your family. 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!

Included in this guidebook you will find information on a wide variety of topics including health and safety, packing lists, daily schedules, and advancement opportunities. **Please 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 your camp date approaches 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: camping@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 LEADERSHIP.

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.

How will the days be structured? *(exact schedule varies by location)*

8:00 am	Early Camper drop off (requires sign-up ahead of time)
9:00 am	Camper Drop Off
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 Camper Pick Up (requires sign-up ahead of time)

Activities

All aspects of the program have been designed to be appropriate for elementary school age youth and staff will adapt specific games and activities to fit the specific age groups and ability levels. 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, bird feeders
- Crafts
- STEM
- Archery

Consistency Across Camp Locations

Discovery Day Camp is offered at four metro camp locations over twelve sessions and delivering a consistent program across all locations is our priority. Our staff have been trained using same curriculum and will be provided the same materials/equipment. We want to make sure that all campers that attend camp this summer get the same high-quality program. Consistency is key, however each of our properties have unique options such as climbing, different water features, and fitness courses for your camper to experience. We expect and welcome campers to attend more than one session!

DAILY PACKING LIST

Please make sure your child(ren) are prepared with everything that they need for the day. We are going to spend most of our day outdoors weather permitting. **Dressing in layers is recommended** since temperatures are typically cooler in the morning and warmer in the afternoon. Please also make sure that campers **wear closed toe shoes** so that they can safely run in.

- Completed Health History Form** – Parts A + B (*part C doctor signature is NOT required*)
https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_ABC.pdf
- Lunch** – we will not be able to guarantee refrigeration at each site. Please plan accordingly.
- Snack** – we will have a rest/snack time built into the schedule each day. Please choose a nut free option.
- White T-Shirt** – for tie dying, please pack on the first day in case their group is scheduled to do that activity right away. We also offer preorder white shirts that will be on site for campers who preordered.
- Water bottle**
- Spray Sunscreen** – please apply sunscreen prior to arriving at camp, staff can assist with reapplication as 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
- Swimsuit** (You will be informed prior to camp which day campers will need a swimsuit)
- Optional Items** –hat, sunglasses,

We do not recommend sending your camper with a trading cards, cell phones 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

CAMPER DROP OFF

Arriving on Site

Prior to the start date of your session, you will be contacted by the site leader (via email) to tell you what your camper group assignment will be.

Drop off can begin at 9:00 am. If you arrive earlier than that, you might be asked to wait in your car until staff are ready to start the check in process. Look for signage and staff to direct you to the proper drop off point for your camper(s).

Campers will be given a wristband on the first day (replacements can be given later in the week if they come off while at home). This will visually let staff know what group campers are supposed to be with during the week.

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 and would like to, go back into your registration and add early drop off. Early drop off can start at 8am and will follow all the same procedures above.

CAMPER PICK UP

Pick up begins at 4:00 pm. If you need to pick up your camper early for any reason, please notify staff at check in 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.

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 procedures as regular pick up.

BUSSING

Bussing must be selected at time of registration and has an additional fee. This option is limited to certain camp locations, view our website for more details.

For locations offering bussing, specific time and location will be communicated prior to the start of camp by your site leader. Parents/Guardians must remain with their child at drop off until they have gotten onto the bus each day, and promptly picked up at the designated pickup time.

GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

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. Groups will be identified by an animal character (example could be the Koala Group). The group names and animal image will correlate to signage at the drop off location so you know where to go each morning. Camp will provide designated “free times” where campers will have the opportunity to interact with youth outside of their assigned group.

If you have a request to keep certain campers together, please notify us at least 2 weeks prior to the start of camp and we will do our best to accommodate each request.

CAMPER BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

We know that camp is a great place for youth to learn and practice proper social behavior with others. Activities are designed to encourage teamwork, communication, and community and conflict can sometimes be a part of that learning process. Our staff are trained to facilitate and mediate these learning moments. However, it is important for our campers to respect each other and follow safety guidelines set by their site leader. In the unfortunate circumstance that we are unable to get a camper to listen and follow rules, we will notify you and ask that you pick your child up at camp. We cannot put the safety of other campers and staff at risk.

Our first response will be to make sure that everyone is safe. Once safety is established, we will explain the rules again to campers. If the camper is repeatedly breaking rules and not changing behavior, we will have to remove the camper from their small group and contact the parent for pick up. In the event behavior becomes reasonably unmanageable by camp leadership, camp reserves the right to send a child home for the remainder of the week.

Examples of behavior that may result in a camper being sent home for the remainder or the day or week:

- Physical Aggression towards staff or other participants
- Explicit or derogatory language
- Refusal to follow safety instructions
- Refusal to take medications
- Refusing to remain with assigned group

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

EMERGENCY CONTACT AT CAMP

Each location Camp will have a lead staff member on site all week when campers are present. 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 and they will help relay messages.

Camping Customer Service (Monday-Friday 8-5)

Phone: 612-261-2303

Email: camping@northernstar.org

Kendra Burbank (Base Camp Location)

Phone: 612-261-2471

Email: keburbank@northernstar.org

Victoria Hurley (All Other Camp Locations)

Phone: 612-261-2452

Email: vhurley@northernstar.org

WEATHER POLICY & CANCELLATIONS

Cancellation & Refund Policy

Full payment is required at the time of registration. No partial or prorated fees will be issued for partial camp attendance or missed days. Fees paid will be forfeited if registration is canceled. Exceptions will only be made for family or medical emergencies. If notified prior to the start of camp, fees can be transferred to another Discover Day Camp session during the same calendar year.

Requests to transfer should be sent directly to our customer service team at camping@northernstar.org or 612-261-2303.

Weather Policy

All our sites have indoor space available in case of inclement weather. We may remain outdoors in light rain events which is why it is 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.

CAMP INVENTION



Camp Invention[®]

NEW IN 2023! Camp Invention is a week long program (5 days) that's open to all youth in Kindergarten through 6th grade. A nationally acclaimed STEM summer camp that turns curious kids into innovative thinkers. Available at Base Camp DDC location. This year's all-new program inspires confidence as campers collaborate in creative problem-solving challenges led by qualified staff to bring their biggest and best ideas to life!

How will the days be structured?

This program will follow a similar schedule and format to our Discovery Day Camp program at Base Camp, with a focus on STEM programming. With the unique opportunity to utilize the Leadership Center for a lean into STEM, your child will come home with new and exciting ideas!

Drop Off & Pick Up

Drop off and pick up, as well as before and after care options will be the same as all other Discovery Day Programs. For drop off and pickup information please refer to page 6. Both Camp Invention and Discovery Day Camp will drop off in the Team Building Center at Base Camp.

DISCOVERY ADVENTURE CAMP ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Discovery Adventure Camp is the next step in our discovery program for 6th -12th graders. In this combination camp, participants will get the chance to prepare for the overnight experience at Day Camp and then get two nights at overnight camp.

DISCOVERY ADVENTURE CAMP OVERNIGHT PACKING LIST (Day 3-5)

Clothes:

- Underwear
- Pair of Socks
- Long Pants (required for Horseback Riding)
- Shorts
- T-Shirts
- Sweatshirt, fleece or sweater
- Swimsuit
- Towel
- Light Jacket
- Hat
- Pajamas
- Watch
- Hiking Boots
- Sunglasses
- Rain Gear/Poncho

Gear:

- Flashlight
- Pencil & Notebook
- Water Bottles
- Deodorant

- Sunscreen
- Bug Repellent
- Prescription medication (in original container)
- Wallet/Spending Money
- Backpack
- Playing Cards
- Camp Chair

Tenting:

- Sleeping Bag
- Foam Pad
- Pillow

Toiletry Kit: *We recommend packing these into a shoe box size plastic tote.*

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Wash Cloth
- Comb/Brush
- Hand Mirror

DROP OFF & PICKUP PROCEDURES

CAMPER DROP OFF FOR TOMAHAWK

Arriving at Base Camp on Wednesday

Drop off can begin at 9:00 am. Campers should be ready to board the bus and leave for camp upon arrival.

Arriving for Pick Up

Campers will arrive back at Base Camp at 5 PM on Friday. Plan on being there right at 5 Pm to pick up your camper. There will be no Late Pick up on Friday. In the event a bus is delayed returning to base camp, parents will be notified via email/phone.

Parent Meeting

There will be an optional parent meeting at pick up on Tuesday evening to review packing lists and ask any additional questions of camp leadership.

HOW WILL THE DAYS BE STRUCTURED AT OVERNIGHT CAMP?

Schedule Outline Each Day (exact schedule may vary)

8:00 am	Breakfast
8:45 am	First Activity
10:30 am	Second Activity
12:30 am	Lunch
12:30 pm	Afternoon Activities
2:00 pm	Third Activity
4:00 pm	Fourth Activity
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	5th Activity
9:00 pm	Campsite time
10:00 pm	Lights Out



Activities

All aspects of the program have been designed to be appropriate for middle school age youth and staff will be able to adapt specific games and activities to fit the age and ability level of youth they are working with. You can expect the following at each session:

- Team Building Games
- Outdoor Skills – Orienteering, fire building, survival skills
- Horseback Riding
- Boating
- Swimming
- Climbing
- Archery

Dietary Needs & Meals

Tomahawk will provide meals starting with dinner on Wednesday through lunch on Friday. Please pack a bag lunch and snacks for travel time on Wednesday. Dietary needs should be noted in your reservation.

We can accommodate dietary restrictions for

- Vegetarian/Vegan meals
- Gluten free
- Dairy free
- Nut free