



**BOONSHOFT MUSEUM
OF DISCOVERY**

**2600 DEWEESE PKWY,
DAYTON, OH 45414**

CAMPER

HANDBOOK

SUMMER
CAMPS
AT THE BOONSHOFT

SUMMER CAMP 2026

Welcome Message

We are very excited to have your child joining us this 2026 camp season. This handbook will outline the rules and expectations so all campers have a safe, enjoyable, and memorable experience.

As a team of skilled and experienced educators, our commitment is to cultivate an environment that fosters creative problem-solving, boosts academic and social confidence, encourages cooperation, and ensures an enjoyable experience! The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery's Summer STEM Camps offer your child the chance to forge friendships and cultivate a deeper interest in science, technology, engineering, and math within a secure, inclusive, and engaging setting.

To make sure your child has the best experience this summer, please read through the following manual for policies and expectations. Thank you for choosing Summer STEM Camps at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery this summer! We look forward to seeing you and your child.

Your camp fee is final and nonrefundable. If you must transfer your child to a different camp, additional fees apply. Transfers for your child are only permitted to camps with open space and must be done at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the camp originally signed up for.

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Boonshoft Overview

The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery is a science and natural history museum located in Dayton, Ohio. It has a rich history and has been a popular educational and cultural institution in the region for many years. Here is a brief overview of the museum's history and mission:

- **Founding:** The Museum started in 1893 as part of the Dayton Public Library. In 1952, the Museum separated from the library and the Dayton Society of Natural History was formed. The Society opened the Dayton Museum of Natural History on Ridge Avenue in 1958. In 1996, the Museum merged with the Children's Museum of Dayton and in 1999, changed its name to the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in honor of generous contributions made by Oscar Boonshoft.
- **Growth:** Today, the Society continues its commitment to bring the wonders of the world to everyone in the Greater Dayton area -- the Boonshoft Museum is a children's museum, science center, natural history museum, planetarium, observatory, and zoo; we also operate SunWatch Village, an reconstructed Native American village that was occupied 800 years ago. We employ experts in numerous fields and serve as a scientific resource for our community.
- **Mission:** To create and provide **meaningful** and **entertaining** learning experiences for curious minds to engage with natural history, science, and nature while **honoring** and **preserving** collections for future generations.
- **Exhibits and Programs:** The museum features a wide range of interactive exhibits and programs, including displays on natural history, astronomy, anthropology, geology, and environmental science. It also has a planetarium and a small zoo with live animals.
- **Education and Outreach:** The museum is committed to educational outreach and serves as a resource for local schools and community organizations. It offers educational programs, workshops, and special events designed to inspire curiosity and a love of learning.
- **Ongoing Evolution:** The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery continues to evolve and adapt to the changing needs and interests of its community. It strives to make science accessible and engaging to a diverse audience, with a particular emphasis on fostering scientific literacy and critical thinking.

The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery has become a valuable asset to the Dayton area, providing a space for both children and adults to explore and learn about the wonders of the natural world and the sciences. It remains a dynamic institution dedicated to inspiring curiosity and promoting science education in the Miami Valley region.

Camp Overview

Summer camps at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery offer children and teenagers a unique and enriching educational experience. Here's a brief overview of why summer camps at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery are so important:

- **Science Education:** The summer camps provide a structured environment where young participants can engage in interactive and hands-on science activities. They have the opportunity to explore various scientific concepts and gain a deeper understanding of the natural world.
- **STEM Learning:** These camps focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects, helping campers develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and creative skills. The activities are designed to make STEM subjects fun and accessible.
- **Hands-On Exploration:** The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery is known for its interactive exhibits and live animal displays. Campers can explore the museum's diverse collections, including fossils, live animals, and space-related exhibits, fostering a love for learning and exploration.
- **Social Interaction:** Summer camps offer children a chance to make new friends with shared interests. They learn to collaborate and communicate with their peers while working on science projects and participating in group activities.
- **Nature and Environmental Awareness:** The museum's focus on natural history and environmental education helps campers develop an appreciation for the environment and learn about conservation efforts.
- **Fun and Enriching Experience:** The camps are designed to be both educational and enjoyable. Campers can engage in fun experiments, hands-on projects, and interactive demonstrations, creating positive memories of their summer experience.
- **Personal Growth:** Summer camps at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery encourage personal growth by promoting curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning. Campers often leave with increased confidence in their scientific abilities.

In summary, summer camps at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery provide an important opportunity for children and teenagers to engage in hands-on science education, STEM learning, and social interaction. These camps offer a fun and enriching experience that fosters curiosity, creativity, and personal growth, making them a valuable and impactful part of the museum's educational offerings.

Camp Information

Faculty and Staff

Our team is committed to continuing professional development in order to find the best practices in camp education and bring them to life.

Our dedicated and highly skilled staff at Boonshoft STEM Camps is committed to ensuring a safe, enriching, and memorable experience for your child. Our team includes a knowledgeable Camp Manager, caring Counselors, adept Educators, and an Inclusion Specialist who ensures that every child feels welcome and supported. We prioritize your child's well-being and provide a diverse range of educational and exciting activities. Our carefully selected specialists, counselor assistants, and volunteers contribute unique skills, fostering an environment where creativity and curiosity thrive. Our team is here to make your child's summer at Boonshoft STEM Camps a time of fun, growth, and lasting memories.

Camp Contact Information

Phone: (937) 275-7431 x116.

Email: summercamps@boonshoftmuseum.org

Website: <https://boonshoft.org/summer-camps/>

Address: Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, 2600 DeWeese Pkwy, Dayton, OH 45414

Camp Behavior Expectations

The Boonshoft believes in meeting children's social, emotional, and academic needs. The administration and camp staff work together to support the healthy, natural development of children.

We are unable to provide one-on-one care for your child. If your child is on an IEP or behavior plan, we would appreciate the opportunity to read it over so we can provide a positive experience for your child. However, there is no guarantee that we can accommodate a plan or provide modifications needed.

Expectations for all campers are to:

- Show respect to all people, their feelings, their ideas, and their property
- Participate in a large group setting
- Cooperate and be a good group member
- Stay with an education staff member at all times
- Follow all rules and staff instructions
- Self-regulate emotions
- Stay in camp rooms unless moving with the group
- Keep all hands, feet, and body parts to self

****Any repeated violations of these rules may result in your camper being sent home****

Any observation of the following is not tolerated and could result in being sent home:

- Bullying
- Hitting and choking others
- Inappropriate or lewd jokes or comments
- Swearing or inappropriate language

If a camper does not follow the rules, the following steps will be taken:

- We will speak to them to discuss the issue, identify the cause, and emphasize appropriate behavioral expectations.
- If necessary, we will temporarily limit a camper's activities by asking them to stay close to an adult or provide a table at which to work.
- In the event a camper has difficulty adjusting to our program and behavior expectations, the camper's adult will be contacted.
- If a camper consistently exhibits unacceptable behavior that counselors and staff are unable to address, we may request the involvement of a parent or guardian to accompany the child and serve as an aide for the remainder of the week.
- Based on the severity of the incident, a camper may not be permitted to return for the remainder of the week or to future camps that child is enrolled in.
 - No refund shall be granted if a child is removed as a result of threatening or inappropriate behavior or speech

If behavior is physically or emotionally harmful to self, other campers, staff, or museum property, then a parent/guardian will be notified immediately and appropriate action will be taken.

Camp Forms

As part of your registration, you provided emergency and health information about your child. If any information changes before your child attends camp, please contact us at summercamps@boonshoftmuseum.org or call the camp administration desk at (937) 275-7431 x116.

Medical History/ Medical Care Plan

If your child has an illness/medical condition requiring administration of medication, special procedures, or a modified diet, then you must complete additional paperwork before your child can attend camp. Contact the camp administration for more information. These forms may require a physician's signature and specialized staff training before your child can attend camp. If there are questions about the form, a Boonshoft staff member will contact you to clarify your camper's medical plan.

Complete these forms as soon as they are received to allow adequate processing time.

****It is vitally important that you notify the museum of any allergies your camper may have including ANY food allergies****

Camper Pick-Up Authorization Form

Also as a part of registration, you indicated any other adults who are authorized to pick up your child from camp. Your child will only be released to those persons listed and they MUST show photo identification each day. If you would like to add or remove someone from this list, please contact the camp administration desk.

We will not release children to anyone who is not on the consent to release form or who cannot provide photographic evidence of their identity. It does not matter if the child recognizes them. If you have special custody arrangements with a child's legal parent/guardian, please make us aware of that in advance, even if the parent is not listed on the consent to release form.

We will not release children to anyone who appears to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any other substance that impairs their ability to drive. In these cases, we will first attempt to contact another adult on the consent to release form, and then we will call the police.

Authorization of Permission

As part of your camper's registration, you have authorized your camper to participate in daily camp activities. If there are any activities that are located off-site, additional permission will be required.

Camp Procedures

Before Camp Begins

Read through your confirmation packet. Fill out required forms prior to that start of camp. Call or email us if you have questions.

Review the following camp rules with your child:

- Respect yourself, others, and learning spaces
- Keep your hands, body, and objects to yourself
- Stay with your counselor at all times
- Follow directions
- Have fun!

Arrival and Departure Procedures

The purpose of our arrival and dismissal procedures is to ensure the safety of all children.

Camp Times:

- Full-day Camps: 8:45am - 3:45pm
 - Drop off begins at 8:15am
 - Pick up begins at 3:15pm
- Half-day Camps: 8:45am - 1:15pm
 - Drop off begins at 8:15am
 - Pick up begins at 1:00pm

Arrival

Drop off begins at 8:15am in front of the designated learning space. Check your child's age group on the next page to see what room they will be going to. All parents/guardians coming in to pick up and drop off need to enter through the **Education Lobby** doors and not the main entrance. Please park in the parking lot and walk your child inside to sign them in each morning. Please do NOT park in the drive. Anticipate potentially lengthy sign-in lines, and allocate sufficient time to avoid feeling rushed.

Class Size, Staff to Camper Ratio, and Location

Age Group	Ratio	Location
5 - 6 years old	1 staff: 6 children Max: 18 children	Edison Classroom Downstairs
7 - 8 years old	1 staff: 8 children Max: 24 children	Einstein Classroom Downstairs
9 - 10 years old	1 staff: 8 children Max: 24 children	Main Exhibit Hall Upstairs
11 - 14 years old	1 staff: 10 children Max: 20 children	Loft Upstairs

****Please sign your child up for the correct camp as of their age on **June 1, 2026**.****

Dismissal

For half-day camps, dismissal begins at 1:00pm in front of the Edison classroom. For all other camps, dismissal will begin at 3:15pm in front of the designated learning space (see above). Have your **Photo ID** ready as we will be checking to ensure that you match the information on the registration form for pick up. ***Photo IDs will be checked every day.**

Late Pick Up

It is important for your child's safety and security that any changes in pick up and/or drop off plans be communicated to the administration office. If Extended Care is needed, please email summercamps@boonshoftmuseum.org. You may not pick your child up after 3:45pm if they're not enrolled in Extended Care.

Please notify the Boonshoft staff if you need to pick up your child more than 15 minutes outside of their regular time.

If you arrive more than 15 minutes late to pick up your child and do not contact the museum, or if you repeatedly arrive more than 15 minutes late, you will be charged the Extended Care price of \$50. The staff of the Boonshoft understands that emergencies sometimes arise and we will take that into consideration. *Failure to pick up your child may result in the museum calling child protective services.*

Extended Care

Extended Care will be offered from 3:45pm until 5:00pm. Campers in the 5 & 6 year old camp are not eligible for this option. Extended Care will have a set schedule including a board game day and a day in the planetarium. Extended Care is \$50 for the week.

Absent and Tardy

If your child must be absent from camp, please inform the office as soon as you know of the planned absence.

Please understand that we recognize an occasional or unavoidable delay does occur. However, please make every effort to get your child to camp no later than 8:45am to avoid your child having to miss out on activities or experiences. In the event an unavoidable delay occurs, please let us know the approximate time you will be dropping off your child by emailing summercamps@boonshoftmuseum.org or calling the administration desk at (937) 275-7431 x116.

If you need to take your child out of camp early, please notify the administration office; we will have your child ready when you come to pick them up.

Lunch

When packing lunches and snacks, please keep in mind food allergies of other campers. The Boonshoft Museum is a peanut-free and tree nut-free site. All campers must have a packed lunch unless they have paid for one through the café. Additionally, campers are given breaks throughout the day where they are able to eat a snack. If your child would like a snack during this time, please ensure that it is packed with them. Snacks cannot be provided by the café.

- Campers are **required** to bring a packed lunch with their name written on it or purchase lunch from the café (see below).
- We are a **peanut-free & tree nut-free** camp. Please do not pack a lunch with items that contain peanuts or tree nuts.
- We have the authority to direct campers when and where to eat their snack/lunch and a child may need to wait until they can be escorted to a safe snacking area.
- Lunches are not refrigerated so please utilize a cool pack if needed.
- Campers are unable to heat lunches. Please do not send frozen meals or items that need to be heated.

If you forget to pack a lunch or provide a frozen lunch that would need heated, campers will be provided a café lunch (see below). You will be charged \$10.

Café Lunch

We will be offering the option of purchasing lunch from our Eco Eatery. This lunch will consist of one main item, a fruit, a bag of chips, a cookie, and a bottle of water. The main items will be a hotdog, a grilled cheese, a ham and cheese sandwich, chicken strips, or a cheese quesadilla. Each main item will be assigned a specific day. The campers are not able to choose what they have each day, they will have to follow the daily schedule. Unfortunately at this time, we are unable to provide vegan or gluten free options. Children with dietary restrictions are encouraged to continue packing a lunch each day. This lunch option will cost \$50 for the whole week.

****We do not fully separate children with food allergies from other campers during lunch unless there is an extreme need. We do our best to monitor all food, but it is your responsibility to contact camp administration if your child needs accommodations****

Snacks

All campers may bring one or two small peanut and tree nut-free snacks. There will be designated snack/break times scheduled into the camp day.

Recess

Whenever possible, campers will go outside for recess. Please plan accordingly. However, there may be times that campers will be kept indoors due to extremes of heat, humidity, lightning, or other weather extremes including air quality. If students are kept indoors, they will have access to the Boonshoft Museum's exhibits, planetarium, and other indoor activities.

Allowed and Prohibited Items at Camp

What to Bring/Wear

Dress campers in comfortable clothes and shoes that can get stained or dirty. We spend time outdoors and indoors doing messy experiments and explorations. Label any loose items (hats, jackets, etc.) with the camper's name. Campers must wear closed-toe shoes that stay securely on their feet. **Shoes such as flip-flops, sandals, and slides are not allowed due to being a safety hazard.**

Camp counselors may have special requests for activities during the week, such as an extra set of clothes or shoes for an extra messy/wet activity. These suggestions will be written and given to the adult picking up the camper.

- Wear comfortable clothes and closed-toe shoes
 - Label loose items such as hats and jackets with the camper's name
- Lunch and snacks, must be labeled with the camper's name
 - We are a **peanut-free** and **tree nut-free** camp at all times. Please do not pack anything with peanuts in your child's lunch.
- Reusable water bottle, must be labeled with the camper's name

If Applicable

- Epinephrine pen, inhaler, and/ or nebulizer (labeled and given to the camp manager's desk)
- Any medication (labeled and given to the camp manager's desk)
- Completed "Request for Administration of Medication" form

Do NOT Bring

- Unnecessary personal items, toys, games, collectible items, or stuffed animals, unless special accommodations are made.

- Electronic devices, hand-held gaming systems, etc.
- Guns, firearms, knives, or other weapons, drugs and/or alcohol. Possession will lead to dismissal of the camper and a report to the authorities.
- Personal sports equipment
- Animals are not allowed (with the exception of service animals). Please alert the Boonshoft staff as soon as possible if your child requires a service animal.
- Shoes such as flip-flops, sandals, and slides.
- Money
- Any item that is a distraction for the camper.
- Clothing with inappropriate language/ images

****If the camper is suspected to have brought a prohibited item or something that may cause harm to themselves or others, Boonshoft reserves the right to search their belongings****

Cell Phones

At Boonshoft Summer Camps, we prioritize an immersive camp experience for all campers. To ensure engagement and focus, cell phones are not allowed during scheduled activities and meals. In case of emergencies, campers can use their phones and must inform a camp counselor. Boonshoft Summer Camps is not responsible for lost or damaged phones, and important parent/guardian communication should be done before camp starts. Violations of the cell phone policy may result in temporary confiscation, with the phone held at the Camp Manager's desk until the end of the day, and parents/guardians will be notified. We appreciate everyone's cooperation.

The museum is not responsible for lost, stolen, or misplaced personal items. Items brought to camp will not be held by the counselors or other staff members. There is a “lost and found” located at the Main Entrance. If your child loses or misplaces items, you are encouraged to check there.

Inside Exploration

During indoor exploration of the museum, campers must stay with their counselors at all times. Campers will explore the museum during public visiting hours. During this time, campers need to respect camp staff and other campers, in addition to museum visitors.

Outside Exploration

Campers will plan to go outside for recess and activities each day, even if it has rained. Please dress your child appropriately for all possible weather conditions.

Medical and Safety Information

Medication Administration

If your child requires medication to be administered, this information must be recorded on the health/ medical form completed prior to the start of camp. This information must be provided if we are asked to administer ANY medication, food supplement, or modified diet to your child. Information on each medication is required. Any prescription medication must be in the original prescription container. Camper medication is located at the camp manager's desk and will be accessible only by authorized museum staff, who will also administer medication to your child.

With completed paperwork, only these items may be administered by the museum without written instruction from a licensed physician:

- Non-prescription fever/ pain-reducing medications that do not contain aspirin
- Cough or cold medications that do not contain codeine

We will not administer any medication beyond the expiration date, in a container other than the original prescription or manufacturer's container, or without the appropriate paperwork.

Health Guidelines

We follow health protocols mandated by Montgomery County. In the event health protocols and restrictions are put in place, we will contact parents/guardians and make adjustments as required.

Illness

Your child is required to be in good health to fully engage in the program's daily activities, including outdoor recess. We do not have the resources to accommodate sick children, and we cannot permit their attendance or continuation at the camp if symptoms manifest after drop-off. In the interest of your child's well-being and the well-being of others, do not send them to the program until they have recovered and are no longer a risk for transmitting their illness.

If you are keeping your child home due to illness, please contact the office by 8:45am and let the staff know of your child's absence. Email summercamps@boonshoftmuseum.org or call (937) 275-7431 x116.

Any of the following signs or symptoms require exclusion from camp and 24-hours after the symptoms are no longer present. If noticed at camp, the camper will be separated from other campers until picked up by an authorized adult.

These symptoms include but are not limited to:

- Temperature of 101°F or greater (touchless thermometer used)
- Diarrhea
- Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness (such as unusual lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, wheezing, or whooping)
- Yellowish skin or eyes

- Mouth sores
- Untreated infected skin patches, unusual spots, or rashes
- Untreated lice, scabies, or other parasitic infections
- Sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- Vomiting more than one time or when accompanied by any other sign or symptom of illness
- Pink or red eyes with white or yellow discharge
- COVID symptoms

If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, the administration staff will contact the child's emergency contacts. All sick campers must be picked up within an hour of being contacted.

Injuries

The health and safety of your child at camp is our top priority. Even under a watchful eye, children often test their physical limits, making injuries possible. An incident report will be filed when an accident or injury occurs during camp. This includes any time a bandage or ice pack is utilized. The incident report will be explained to the parent/guardian at pick up, and a signature will be needed. We will keep the report with the museum's facility manager for insurance purposes. If you wish to have a copy of the form to take home, please inform a member of staff.

Please keep your child's enrollment form up-to-date on phone numbers, emergency numbers, and other pertinent information for reference in emergency situations.

If your child becomes seriously injured at camp, you will be notified immediately. If the care to the injury is beyond basic first aid, and the parent/guardian cannot be reached, an ambulance will be called; the child will be taken to the hospital emergency room. Your child's emergency care form will be with your child at all times during the emergency. The staff member who will accompany the camper to the emergency room will stay with the camper until a parent, guardian, or other adult listed on the pickup form comes to assume responsibility.

Emergency Incidents

Education camp staff is trained in safety precautions and procedures. Campers will be supervised at all times and safety is a top priority.

In the event of any emergency (fire, tornado, any unusual event that jeopardizes the health and/or safety of camper or staff), the following procedure will be used:

- Staff will notify camp leadership immediately via radio
- Emergency response procedures will be followed according to training
- First aid will be administered if necessary
- Parents/guardians/emergency contacts will be notified as soon as it is safe to do so

Additional Camp Policies

Confidentiality Policy

All campers' record forms and information are confidential and are available only to the camper's parents or guardians upon request. This information is used only by the appropriate Boonshoft Museum of Discovery staff in compliance with the best camp practices and to provide your camper with the highest quality of care.

Non-Discriminatory Policy

The Boonshoft Museum admits campers of any race, color, sexuality, gender, and ethnicity to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities provided. In addition, the museum will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexuality, gender, or ethnicity in the administration of its educational policies, education programs, scholarships, loans, fee waivers, and extracurricular activities. It is unlawful for the museum to discriminate in the enrollment of children based upon the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or nation origin or disability in violation with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 104 Stat. 32, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.

Photography Policy

The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery staff frequently document our campers and activities for promotional and historical purposes. During the registration process, you were asked to agree to your child being photographed or included in video. Please notify the Administration staff upon arrival to camp if you do not wish your child to be included in photography or videography.

Weapons Policy

We prohibit all persons who enter the property from carrying any handgun, firearm, knife, or other prohibited weapon of any kind regardless if the person is licensed to carry the weapon.

Communication

Summer Camps at the Boonshoft will communicate through emails and phone calls, which requires your participation to maintain two-way communication.

Behavior of Adults on Museum Property

We recognize that children often model their behavior on the actions they have observed in adults. As such, we expect the utmost in grace and courtesy from adults on campus. All community members, children, and other adults should be treated respectfully and in a way that reflects the welcoming environment of our camp.

Repeating Camps Policy

Although campers are permitted to enroll in the same camp multiple times during the summer, we do not recommend it. Participating in a duplicate camp will result in the same experience for

your camper. We encourage campers to explore all four camp themes available throughout the summer. **If boredom-related behavior disrupts the camp environment despite staff intervention, we may send the camper home to ensure a positive experience for all the campers in attendance.**

Cancellation and Refunds Policy

Refunds

All registrations for Summer STEM Camps at the Boonshoft Museum are considered final. **Refunds will not be given for inclement weather, negative behavior, over-scheduling, or illness.**

Transfer Fee

If you must transfer your camper to a different camp, there will be an additional \$50 administrative fee. Transfers must be requested two weeks prior to the camp start and only permitted if space is available in a different camp. If you feel that you have a grave exception, contact the Boonshoft staff via email at summercamps@boonshoftmuseum.org.

Cancellation Policy

Summer STEM Camps at the Boonshoft have the authority to cancel camps if they do not reach the minimum numbers of eight campers. You will be contacted if this impacts your registration. You are entitled to a full refund if we cancel camps, or a no-fee transfer to another camp.

New and returning to 2026

New Camp Themes

We are excited to offer new themes for our summer camps this year.

- Zoology: *Paws and Claws*
- Paleontology: *Fossil Finders*
- Astronomy: *Mission Control*
- STEAM: *Invention Convention*

Please see below for descriptions of each.

Fossil Finders Camp

Join us on the leading edge of paleontology as we learn about dinosaurs and discoveries of the past! Campers will explore pieces of our very own on-site collection, learn about excavation, and explore wonders of history. Travel through time with us and dig into ancient worlds filled with mysteries and wonders as we learn about the science behind paleontology!

STEAM: Invention Convention Camp

Invent something groundbreaking as we explore the concepts of STEAM and the science of technology! Invention Convention camp is all about taking something familiar to us, and making it new by unlocking the science behind it. We are sure to have something for everyone as we explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math, in a hands-on approach!

Mission Control Camp

3, 2, 1, blast off! Lead your very own mission into outer space and explore themes of astronomy as we travel through the solar system! Campers will engage in hands-on activities including rockets, geography, gravity, and colony construction. Climb aboard and find your place in space!

Zoology: Paws and Claws Camp

Join us for a week of animal-focused fun! In Paws and Claws camp, campers will dig their claws into zoo-keeping to learn what it means to create diets, build habitats, and design enrichment for a variety of animals! Campers will visit animals in the Discovery Zoo, and get face-to-face interactions with our on-site animal ambassadors, as they learn how they can support conservation efforts at home and around the world.

Extended 5-6 Camp session

The 5-6 camp will begin at 8:45am and end at 1:15pm, therefore, we will not offer a 5-6 PM camp due to extended hours for the half day camp.

Age Groups Offerings

We will still offer four age groups for summer camps; 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-14. Please sign your child up for the correct camp as of their age on **June 1, 2026**. This year, we will only be offering 11-14 camps for the first five weeks of the summer. *The last four weeks will become an additional 6-8 camp. This change has been made due to the demand of spots for campers ages 6-8.*

Camp Times

- Full-day Camps: 8:45am - 3:45pm
 - Drop off begins at 8:15am
 - Pick up begins at 3:15pm
- Half-day Camps: 8:45am - 1:15pm
 - Drop off begins at 8:15am
 - Pick up begins at 1:00pm

Registration Account

This year, we are using an online software called Jumbula to register for camp. You will be required to create an account before you may begin the registration process.

Camp Week at SunWatch

We are excited to offer 2 weeks of camp at SunWatch this year. This camp will be available to campers ages 9-10 and 11-14. SunWatch camp for 9-10 year olds will be held from June 22nd to June 26th. SunWatch camp for 11-14 year olds will be held from July 20th to July 24th. The drop off and pick up times will differ from the camps at the museum, however, all the rules and regulations still apply.

Catered lunch and extended care will not be options this week and the schedule of activities for this camp will be specific to SunWatch. Many of the activities in this camp will take place outside. Drop off and pick up will take place at SunWatch.

Campers will obtain an understanding of SunWatch Village/Archaeological Park in its modern, historic, and pre-contact contexts. They will focus on archaeology and field science topics.

SunWatch Camp - 2301 West River Road, Dayton, OH 45417

- Full-day Camp: 9:00am-3:30pm
 - Drop off begins at 8:30am
 - Pick up begins at 3:00pm

****Please be aware that these pick up and drop off times are different than those located at Boonshoft****