



74 Main Street
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www.mainediscoverymuseum.org

FAQ

What should my child bring to camp?

Pack a non-refrigerated lunch and afternoon snack. Please leave toys, electronic games and valuables at home.

What should my child wear to camp?

Comfortable play clothes for indoors and outdoors and comfortable, safe shoes (not flip flops). Most kids will proudly wear their camp t-shirts handed out on the first day of camp. Special requirements for the outdoor nature camps will be listed on the itineraries available at the beginning of June.

Where do I drop off my child?

You will sign in your child with one of his teachers at the admission desk each morning.

Where do I pick up my child?

Pick up is either in the classroom or a designed area in the museum. The admission desk staff will direct you to the right area. There, camp staff will have the sign-in/out sheets ready. You have to sign your child out each day.

Can someone else drop off my child?

Yes. We assume that you know who drops off your child.

Can someone else pick up my child?

We must have a signed, dated note from you with the person's name. If the camp staff is not familiar with that person, they will ask to see picture ID. For the sake of your child's safety, we cannot accept changes in pick up made over the phone.

What if my child has trouble with separation at drop off?

For many first time campers that first morning can be a new and overwhelming experience. Our camp teachers and museum staff will address your child's worries with compassion, patience and care, and a few proven strategies like introducing them to their new camp friends or engaging them in an activity. If you're worried your little one might suffer from a touch of separation anxiety please let us know. We have some tips to make the transition easier for everyone.

What if my child becomes ill during camp?

Camp staff and the camp director will evaluate the situation and contact parents to advise on how to proceed. The child will be allowed to rest in a supervised quiet area until he/she is either ready to return to camp or is being picked up. Please make sure we have a current, working emergency contact. If, for example, a relative listed as an emergency contact lives 2 hours away, that's not really a good option. **Children with a fever of more than 100 degrees or are vomiting must stay home until 24 hours after the fever breaks/and or vomiting occurs.**

What will you discover?

What if my child misses me during camp?

We take your child's concerns seriously. Campers will be comforted and reassured. Camp staff will re-direct them to activities or a staff person will spend some one-on-one time till the child has calmed down. We may call you to involve you in resolving the situation.

What do you serve for morning snack?

We serve a type of crunchy carbohydrates, like crackers, goldfish, pretzels or popcorn, a fruit or vegetable and a protein (either lean cheese, yogurt or milk). If your child has special dietary needs, please let us know at the time of sign up to discuss how we can accommodate them. We will make reasonable efforts to accommodate dietary needs but ask that in case of serious allergies you provide all food for your child.

What if my child gets thirsty?

Water is ALWAYS available to your child. We will remind children to stop for water breaks and have several group water stops throughout the day.

What should I pack for lunch/afternoon snack?

Pack non-refrigerated meals and snack. Please do not pack anything containing peanuts or peanut products.

Does my child need money for anything?

Level 1 camp kids (ages 5/6) do not need money. We recommend that you don't give your child money for the vending machines. Oftentimes money gets lost. Sometimes we have a situation where other kids are sad because they don't have any money for treats.

What if my child needs the bathroom?

Each day, staffers remind kids where the bathrooms are. A staff person walks the child to the bathroom, waits outside and then walks the child back to rejoin the activity. Camp staff will remind younger children to visit the bathrooms before and after meal breaks and check for washed hands before each meal.

How many children are in camp?

There can be up to 10 campers in Level 1 (ages 5 and 6) plus an additional 5 half-day campers, and up to 15 in Level 2.

What is the camper/staff ratio?

There are two full-time camp teachers in each camp with usually at least one additional educational intern and helpers depending on the total number of kids enrolled and activities. Our camper-to-staff ratio conforms to ACA recommendations.

Are the staff qualified?

All of our camp teachers go through an extensive interview and vetting process, are selected based on experience and proven track record working in educational settings, attend trainings and orientations and are under constant, close supervision of MDM's education staff. In addition, almost all of our camp teachers either have education degrees or are working towards one. We have a very high retention rate for our summer camp staff. Many teachers have worked at our camps for years and were once campers themselves!

We also have some volunteers (education students, interns or high school seniors) that help. The responsibilities of these specially selected and trained volunteers are limited to assisting with crafts and activities, engaging with play and escorting children to and from bathrooms or water fountains.

What will you discover?

Do you require a background check on camp staff?

Yes, we do. We also require finger printing for all of our teachers.

What will my child do at camp?

After check in, children are engaged in either a game or supervised free play. Each day begins with a brief morning meeting to share an overview of the day after which campers enjoy a full day structured into activities, presentations and supervised discovery time in the museum.

Does camp leave the museum or go outside?

We like to include easily accessible outdoor places within very short walking distances to the museum as much as possible.

All level camps walk to the park for lunch, weather permitting. Level 2 camps may visit downtown locations. For example, we may go to the Architect for a tour, the Rock and Art Shop for a demo, the Art Museum for a visit. We send out Field trips notifications at the beginning of camp. In the past, we've taken public transportation to the Bangor City Forest, the Planetarium, the University of Maine, and other places.

My child wants to stay with his/her sibling:

If the siblings are enrolled in different level camps, they will have plenty of time during meals and free play to interact. Keep in mind that these short separations will help both children grow in confidence and independence. If your children are of different ages but MUST stay together, we recommend you sign-up for day camps since they offer mixed age groups.

Are there nap times?

We don't mandate nap times but plan for quiet time after lunch and afternoon snack. Children can listen to stories while taking a break, play quiet games, etc.

Can I join my child during the day or during lunch?

Lunchtime is a great time for children to interact with each other, share stories, play together and form new friendships. If you wish to, or your child requires your assistance we can meet up for lunch.

What if my child needs medication?

We do not administer medication but we will remind your child to take his medicine. All teachers can utilize Epi pens. If your child needs assistance taking medicine or assistance with personal hygiene needs, we ask that you or a caregiver take care of your child's special needs as required.

How do you handle behavior problems?

In any new situation with a new group of unfamiliar faces, children might act out.

If the behavior causes a disruption, makes other children uncomfortable, or puts anyone in any danger we have a disciplinary plan (see your packet). In all cases we will deal with behavior problems in the most patient, kind and compassionate but firm way possible.

Is my child ever left alone?

Your child is always under the supervision and in the presence of his teachers and museum staff.

What if my child needs to come in later or leave early?

No problem! Just make sure to inform your teachers at the time of sign-in or sign out.

What will you discover?

What if we miss a day of camp?

We will try our best to let your child catch up on projects.

My child has special needs.

In the interest of providing the best possible experience for all campers we require that you to discuss any special needs, dietary requirements, behavioral issues or any other issues with the Director of Education **before** you sign up your child. MDM does not provide one-on-one staff but invite one-on-one staff to come to camp with their clients. We will make every reasonable attempt to work with you within the parameters of our abilities to create a successful and enjoyable experience for all of our campers. We rely on you to openly communicate about any issues or concerns.

What will you discover?