



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

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REGISTRATION

How do I register?

Please visit www.scienceandartsacademy.org/summer and click the “Register Now” link which will direct you to our online registration. We strongly recommend accessing the registration system on a computer, as there may be some compatibility issues on phones and tablets. Please contact us if you do not have internet access.

Are there any admission requirements?

Summer Adventures in Learning is open to the community, regardless of the school your child attends during the academic year or their achievement level. The admission process involves receipt of the online registration, accompanying medical forms, and payment. Eligibility is based on the grade in which your child is entering in the fall.

When does registration open and close?

Early bird registration typically opens in February. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until spots are filled. Registrations are accepted up until the first day of the session, but new registrations submitted within 3 business days of the session start date may incur a small administrative fee.

What registration forms are required?

Most of the required enrollment information is collected during the online registration process. Additionally, we must have on file a copy of the child's Certificate of Child Health Examinations (or comparable form) with up to date immunizations. The physical exam must have been completed within one calendar year prior to the session start date. Additional forms may be required for children with allergy action plans or who need medication during the camp day. We dispose of all records at the end of each summer season, and must recollect new information before each summer begins.

Can I register for an additional session after camp begins?

Yes, we accept registrations up until the start of the session. However, program options do fill on a first come, first served basis and many options do reach capacity. To register for an additional session, log into your online account and access your existing registration by clicking “View registration details” under the Summer

Adventures in Learning 2019 heading. On the next screen, click “add sessions” and follow the on-screen instructions.

When are payments due?

Final account balances are typically due in late May or early June. Please review the program catalog for the final balance due date and refund policies. SAA reserves the right to cancel unpaid registrations after the set forth deadline.

Do you require a deposit to hold a spot?

Yes, a small enrollment deposit for each child is required at the time of registration (or within 7 business days if by check/cash) in order to secure their spot. Please review the program catalog for an up-to-date deposit amount and policies regarding refunding deposits.

Do you offer any discounts?

We do! There are several types of discounts available, including: new family discounts, early registration discounts, sibling or multiple session discounts, referral discounts, and exclusive discounts for Science & Arts Academy students. All eligible discounts are applied after receipt of registration, either as a credit to the account balance or refund.

Do you offer financial assistance?

As of Summer 2019 there are limited need-based scholarship funds available on a first come, first served basis. Interested families must complete an application. We are also happy to work with families on interest free payment plan options.

CAMP SCHEDULE

What are the general camp hours?

The camp day begins promptly at 9:00am (except on the first day of each session, see [below](#)) and ends at 3:00pm. Half day campers are dismissed at 12:00pm, unless enrolled in an individual enrichment class that ends earlier in the morning. The summer office is open from 8:00am to 4:00pm. We are always closed on July 4th in observance of the national holiday.

Can I drop off my child before the camp day begins or after it's over?

Yes, we offer Extended Care for the convenience of our families. Before Camp Extended Day is available beginning at 7:30am, and After Camp Extended Care is available until 6:00pm. Extended Day is a drop-in service, so there is no registration process. The program is adequately staffed and capable of accommodating any size group. We bill families after each session based on the amount of time the child attended. Please review the program catalog for rates and additional information.

What happens on the first day of each session?

We ask that campers arrive 10-15 minutes early on the first day of each session, and all families are invited into the gymnasium for a brief welcome ceremony. On this day only, campers are dismissed to the classrooms from

the gym. For the remainder of the session, campers should proceed to their classroom/activity space upon arrival.

Do you offer lunch?

Campers enrolled in a program past 12:00pm have a brief lunch/recess period before commencing afternoon activities. Lunch may be purchased in advance from our school lunch provider, Gourmet Gorilla, or a packed lunch may be brought from home. More information about Gourmet Gorilla is sent to families before the summer begins.

What are the Friday Enrichment Showcases?

It's a Summer Adventures tradition to invite families and friends into the building on the last Friday morning of each session to see what campers have accomplished. Visitors shadow their camper through their regular morning schedule, and each class has a project showcase, demonstration, or opportunity to participate in classroom activities. Visitors to the Young Learners program are provided a specific window of time (typically an hour) in which to observe and participate in the classroom activities. Following the showcase and regardless of attendance, all families receive an emailed session recap with additional highlights from the previous two weeks.

What days do campers go to the waterpark?

Recently, based on feedback from campers and families, we increased the number of afternoon waterpark visits to twice per week! The specific day of the week your child will go to the waterpark is communicated to families prior to the first day of each session. We try our best to keep the days consistent throughout the summer, but sometimes days may switch session to session.

What if my child can only attend one week of a session?

Our camp is intentionally structured in two week sessions to maximize learning opportunities while providing families with scheduling flexibility. Generally speaking, we don't recommend partial attendance as it introduces challenges around having missed important expectations and material. Because each program day builds on the previous, the delivered value to the child is diminished with missed time. Additionally, due to the demand of our program, we must first allow those who can attend an entire session to participate. We handle partial attendance requests on a case by case basis, but please understand that we are typically not able to offer a proration. Please contact us to discuss your needs.

Can my child enroll in the same class multiple times a summer?

We strongly encourage Young Learners campers to participate in as many sessions as possible as their is the opportunity to build upon their progress from the previous session. Additionally, certain 1st-8th grade enrichment classes are offered multiple times over the course of the summer and lend themselves to being repeated. If your child is interested in repeating a class, we encourage you to first reach out to us for guidance.

Why don't you run more than three sessions?

In general, the model of three consecutive sessions from mid-June to end of July has been well received by our families and staff. In planning for the summer, we must take into account scheduling constraints, most importantly the time in between the academic year and summer camp. With limited time to transform the

campus into our summer program site and return it to form for the school year, we've found a 6-week sweet spot that aligns with staff availability and building maintenance needs.

CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS

What happens if I go to register and a program option is full?

Because of our commitment to high quality programming and small class sizes, many options do fill quickly. In these cases you may join the waitlist at no cost. However, we strongly recommend enrolling in a backup choice in case no spots open in the waitlisted option.

If I want to cancel, can I receive a refund?

While we hope this question won't apply to you, we understand that it does happen from time to time. In order to cancel your enrollment, we must be notified of the cancellation by phone or in writing. Please refer to the catalog for complete refund policies. Do not attempt to make a cancellation online.

Can I make a change in my enrollment?

Yes, but we must be notified of requested changes by phone or in writing. Do not attempt to make changes online. Depending on availability, we are happy to accommodate most changes at no cost when requests are made at least one week prior to the session start date. A small administrative fee may be applied to changes requested within this time frame.

Are classes ever cancelled due to low enrollment?

While we do everything possible to run all scheduled classes, there are times when we are forced to cancel a class due to low enrollment. Typically, this circumstance is limited to 1st-8th grade enrichment classes, and does not impact the Young Learners Program or the Recreation Program. In the event a class is cancelled, we notify families immediately and offer a full refund if no viable alternative is found.

OPERATIONS AND SAFETY

How does the drop-off and pick-up process work?

Families have two options for dropping off and picking up: 1) remain in your vehicle and utilize our car line or 2) park your vehicle and come inside. We encourage families to take advantage of the supervised car line to speed up the drop off and pick up process. The car line operates from 8:45-9:00am for drop-off, and from 12-12:15pm and 3-3:15pm for half day and full day dismissal, respectively. If you are dropping off and/or picking up your 1st-8th grade camper at 10am or 11am following an enrichment class, you must come inside building to pick up your child.

What if I need to pick up my child early one day?

We understand that doctor's appointments, vacations, and other scheduling challenges arise during the summer, and we're happy to accommodate early pick-ups. We request advance notice for all early pick-ups so that we can coordinate with our staff and your child. In the event of an early pickup during afternoon hours when a camper is off site, the school must be notified so that we can communicate your arrival to staff

supervising at the offsite location. We do not have the staff capacity to escort children back to SAA for an early pick up.

Is transportation service offered?

At this time, we do not offer a transportation service for our summer program participants. However, we often help families coordinate a carpool schedule to make the commute to SAA more manageable. SAA is conveniently located three blocks east of the Des Plaines Metra Station which services Chicago and many northwest suburbs, and a Pace route 250 bus stop is adjacent to the school.

What's your sick policy?

If your child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, s/he must be kept home. If your child becomes ill during camp and has a temperature of 100.4, we will require them to go home, and s/he will remain in the sick room until picked up. We have a 24-hour fever free policy, so your child may only return to camp after 24 hours without a fever or having taken fever reducing medication.

How are families notified of an emergency?

In general, we have “call-first” approach to dealing with any situation involving the health and safety of a child, so our immediate action is to call parents and/or emergency contacts. In the event of a building wide emergency, an emergency alert system will automatically call and email to contact information on file. Additional information about our health and wellness protocols is available in the Family Handbook.

OTHER INFORMATION

What should my child bring to camp each day?

We recommend every child bring a small backpack or bag to hold personal items, including a water bottle and snack (must be nut-free), to camp each day. All items must be labeled with your child's name. For a complete packing list and items not permitted into the building, please refer to the packlist list on our website. A Lost & Found area in the lunchroom stores missing items, and the school donates all unclaimed items after the summer.

Can my child be grouped with friends?

Buddy requests may be submitted during the online registration process for 1st-8th grade participants in Recreation Program. While we try our best to honor these requests, we're unable to guarantee all requests will be granted. Multiple groups participate together in many of the afternoon activities, so even if your child is not buddied with a friend, they will spend significant time with each other.

Can I order additional camp t-shirts?

Yes! Limited quantities and sizes are available for purchase once the summer begins. Please let a staff member know if you'd like to purchase an additional t-shirt.

Can children with special needs participate?

While Summer Adventures in Learning isn't formally structured to meet the special needs of every child, there are children with a wide range of special needs who participate. Please feel free to contact us and tell us more about your child to see if our summer program is the right fit for your family.

After 8th grade, where can my child have an enriching summer experience?

While rising 8th graders are the oldest eligible campers, there are several quality options in the area for high school aged children. Please contact us for a list of recommendations.

What's your Tax ID number?

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