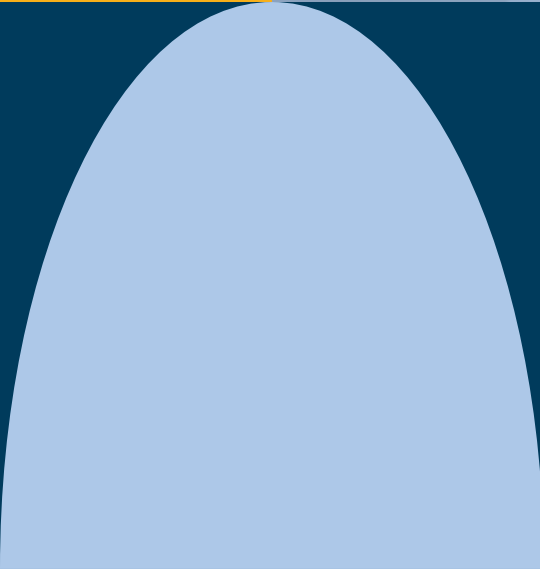


PACIFIC
SCIENCE
CENTER



Guardian Guide

CAMPS FOR
CURIOUS
MINDS



Pacific Science Center's Mission

PacSci ignites curiosity in every child and fuels a passion for discovery, experimentation, and critical thinking in all of us.

Our Commitment: Science is For Everyone

We believe that curiosity, critical thinking, and communication are essential to equity and justice. We embrace science as a process of inquiry, discovery, and problem-solving that helps us better understand our universe and each other. Science has the power to connect people and develop solutions for the common good.

We prioritize inclusion, diversity, equity, access, and representation across our work to strengthen our organization and community. We encourage all members of our community to come together, to celebrate science and each other, and to be curious.

About Camps for Curious Minds

PacSci's award-winning camps offers youth the opportunity to explore, experiment, and ignite their curiosity through a range of innovative topics.

Camps for Curious Minds offers more than 80 exciting camp experiences for kids in grades PreK–8 across multiple locations, including Seattle and Bellevue. With all kinds of camps for all kinds of kids, you're sure to find options your camper will love!

Contact information

For inquiries or concerns, reach out to the Camps team at (206) 443-2008 or camps@pacsci.org. Additionally, each camp location has a unique on-site phone number; note it down for direct communication with your Site Lead.

Who are we?

Camps for Curious Minds' Administration

A dedicated camp administration team is crucial for a safe and enjoyable day camp. Our team is caring and curious, working year-round in camps. We study current STEM trends and what interests youth, so we can offer the most exciting and up-to-date camp experiences each summer, keeping up with kids' evolving interests.

Camps for Curious Minds' Seasonal Staff

Our seasonal camps team is the heart of our camp. We aim to hire a diverse group with different backgrounds, experiences, and skills, ensuring that each person brings something special to our programs. We take pride in supporting those who are new to the workforce and helping them grow during their time with us. Many of our staff return each year, just like our campers, and we ensure a thorough screening process for all summer staff, including interviews and background checks. We are honored that staff choose to spend Seattle's summers creating science memories with your campers—while ensuring everyone is ready to have FUN!



How Are Staff Members Trained Before Camp?

Our staff undergo comprehensive training covering vital skills including health and safety, sensory access, camp best practices, and many more. Staff will also obtain WA State Food Handlers, CPR, First Aid, and AED certifications before camp. Alongside these, staff will engage in curriculum reviews, games, songs, and team bonding for preparation. This training ensures their readiness for the summer ahead, providing a solid foundation to create a safe and engaging environment for your campers.

About Our Camp Locations

Pacific Science Center is the campus where it all began. Born in the spirit of innovation at the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle, the Pacific Science Center has set the tone for Science Centers and informal STEM programming to come. We are proud to call PacSci our home site, where campers can experience our beautiful campus and curious hands-on exhibits.

Our **Mercer Slough** location is nothing short of unique. In partnership with Bellevue Parks, we camp at the Environmental Education Center at the Nature Park. Campers explore and experiment with the hidden wonders of the wetland ecosystem in this enviro-focused location, featuring camp curriculums and activities you won't find anywhere else.

Explorer West Middle School is our southernmost location. Well-equipped classrooms with vibrant and spacious outdoor play areas and fields offer campers an opportunity for exploration and discovery.

Impact Salish Sea Elementary is just a short walk from the light rail station in the heart of South Seattle in vibrant Othello Square. With a community-based design, this location is great for grades PreK–5th grade campers.

St. Thomas School in Medina is one of our largest off-site locations. Nestled between a golf course and a park on Lake Washington's shores, this location is known for its secure play structure, providing a vibrant setting for K–8th grade campers.

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DAILY ROUTINES & OPERATIONS





Camp Hours

Full-day camp hours: Regular camp hours are from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. There may be some variations in the time pick-up procedures begin depending on location. Please review your “Details for Next Week” email no later than the Wednesday prior to the first day of camp detailing drop-off and pick-up times.

Half-day camp hours: Our PreK-K camps are half day offerings with an AM and PM session. The AM session is from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and the PM session is 1–4 p.m. Campers can register for both AM and PM PreK-K sessions, and their camp educators will supervise them over the lunch hour. Campers will eat lunch and have free time between camp sessions.

Please note: We strongly recommend PreK-K campers do not participate in Extended Care when they register for a full-day of camp due to the length of the day.

Pick-Up and Drop-off

All campers must be accompanied to and be picked up from the assigned camp location by a guardian or a person authorized by the guardian. Authorized individuals must be reflected in the camper’s CampDoc account and must be at least 18 years old. Campers may not sign themselves into or out of camp programs. The only exception to this is the self-checkout authorization. Self-checkout is available for campers that have completed 5th grade or higher. Campers who check themselves out are not permitted to check out younger campers. Guardians can authorize self-checkout on CampDoc under “Authorizations.” Persons unknown to camp staff will be asked to show identification.

If an unauthorized person arrives to pick up a camper, the camper will not be released. The camp site lead or supervisor will approve a person to pick-up the camper only if written permission via email is given by the guardian, prior to the day of pick-up. In emergency situations (car accident, major incident), the guardian may give verbal consent to the camp manager.

- **First Day of Camp:** On the first day of camp, drop-off typically takes a little longer than the rest of the week while camp staff confirm important Health Profile information with each camp family. Guardians dropping off will be asked to confirm the camper’s KidCode before a camper is accepted into camp.
- **KidCode:** KidCodes are a password created by the authorized user of a CampDoc account when completing their camper’s Health Profile. The KidCode will be required each time a camper is picked up no matter how familiar a staff member is with a guardian. This code should not be shared outside of authorized people and campers should not know their code. If you forget your KidCode, you can always find it at the bottom of the “Emergency Contacts.” Section under Health Profile in your campers CampDoc.
- **Walk-Up vs. Rolling: Drop-off and Pick-Up:** Drop-off and pick-up procedures vary depending on location. We make every effort to choose a procedure that best fits the camp site and partner preferences. Walk-up locations require finding parking to reach the drop-off/pick-up area while rolling sites involve staying in the designated car line. Camp staff will facilitate both procedures. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding while we ensure all safety expectations are met.

Late Pick-Up/Extended Care

Extended care begins at 4 p.m. and the program ends promptly at 6 p.m. Any use of extended care that was not registered for prior to the start of the camp session, or late pick-ups from camp result in a \$20 fee for the first 10 minutes late, and an additional \$10 for every 10-minute interval thereafter. (e.g., 11–20 minutes late = \$30 fee, 21–30 minutes late = \$40 fee). Any late pick-ups after 6 p.m. will incur an additional \$50 fee.

- For early pick-ups, contact your location’s site lead. Please note all early pick-up window ends at 3:30 p.m. for all camp locations.

Daily Communication

Daily Camp Letters will be emailed via CampDoc each day. Camp letters will include some information about your camper’s day and will allow you to stay updated throughout the week. Additional emails, reminders, and updates may be emailed to you via CampDoc from staff throughout the camp week as needed.

REGISTRATION





Camp Session & Lunch Registration

Registration for camp sessions: Our camp registration is conducted directly through CampDoc. A unique link to PacSci's CampDoc registration portal is posted on our summer camps web page at pacsci.org/camps. Our unique link is the only way to create a free CampDoc account associated with our program. More information on using the platform will be provided at pacsci.org/camps. Each individual camper needs an account to register correctly. If you already have a CampDoc account for Pacific Science Center Camps, you can reuse the previous profile and update the required fields before registering for camp new sessions.

Registration for lunches: For full-day camp sessions, guardians have the choice to either pack lunches for their campers or purchase lunch. We have partnered with Gourmondo, a local catering company, to offer fresh and nutritious lunches for our campers. All camp locations, excluding our St. Thomas location using in-house kitchen staff, have lunches delivered each day. For the St. Thomas location only, lunch is included in the camp fee. For all other locations, lunch must be added to your registration by **the Monday before the camp week** for guaranteed orders. To purchase lunch, add it during the Add-On page when registering. You will have the option to choose between a Standard, Vegetarian, and Allergen-Free lunch option. Lunch options are chosen for the week, no one-day orders are available. For more information on lunch, please visit our Summer Camps Webpage and/or email us at camps@pacsci.org.

Grade Ranges for Camps

Our camp age bands are based off the grade your camper will be going into Fall 2025. Please note that campers are required to attend the correct grade range or their registrations may be canceled with no refund. We are unable to make exceptions for age and grade for Summer Camp enrollment.

- All campers must be at least 4 years old to attend camp. Any campers that do not meet the minimum age requirement by the start of their camp date will be canceled with no refund.

Camp Session Cancellations & Transfers

Cancellations: Our biggest goal is to welcome campers, but we understand that plans may change. All requests for withdrawal from any camp must be received via CampDoc and to the camps@pacsci.org by May 15 at 9 a.m. Requests for refund after the May 15 deadline and until June 9 at 9 a.m. are eligible to receive a 50% refund of camp cost, minus \$75 non-refundable processing fee. No refunds will be issued for requests received after June 9 at 9 a.m. deadline.

- To cancel your registration, you must email the Camps team at camps@pacsci.org with the authorized user for the camper's CampDoc account, the camper's name, and the camp being canceled.
- PacSci and our partners will make every effort to run camp sessions as scheduled, but in the event of extenuating circumstances requiring PacSci to cancel a camp, we will issue a prorated refund for days canceled. If PacSci does not cancel a camp but a family chooses to miss a day or misses due to any type of illness, changes in work or vacation, or any other personal reason, no refunds, make-ups, or credits will be provided.



Camp Session Cancellations & Transfers (cont.)

Transfers: We understand that campers may wish to transfer to a different open camp session after initial registration. Transfers can only be made from one fully registered camp session to an open space in another camp session; transfers from a registered camp to a waitlist are not available. All transfer requests must be initiated at least 10 full business days prior to both the original and transfer camp session, and there is an additional fee of \$25 for each session that is transferred.

- To transfer your camper to a new camp, first register for the new open camp session via CampDoc. Once registered, follow the cancellation process for the original camp and state that you wish to transfer your original payment to the new camp and pay the \$25 transfer fee.
- Transfers are not eligible outside of the current camp season or camp location of the original registration.
- Any transfer requests after May 15 should be directed to the registration team at camps@pacsci.org.



Waitlist Process

Our registration process allows families to join waitlists for camp sessions at no cost. If a desired camp is full at the time of registration, we highly recommend joining waitlists for camps you hope to attend. Openings occur when someone transfers or cancels their registration. While joining a waitlist does not guarantee a spot, the chances of being promoted into the session vary depending on theme, week, and location. Upon request, our registration team can update you on your waitlist position at any time and you can exit a waitlist at any point. Once an opening occurs, the next person on the waitlist will be notified. They have 24 hours to confirm registration before the next waitlist individual is contacted.

Due to physical limitations of our spaces and our adult-to-camper ratios, we cannot add spaces to full camps.





Membership Benefits & Policies

Members get more! We offer one week early access to Camps for Curious Minds registration, plus a discount per camp depending on the membership level. Feature Family and Igniter Members receive a \$30 discount, and Family Members receive a \$15 discount per registered camp session.

Members receive their unique early-access registration link via email prior to member registration open. Once the link has been received, you can create or update your CampDoc account ahead of registration open. If you do not receive your unique member link prior to registration open, please email membership@pacsci.org.

Please note: You will be asked to verify your membership status in your camper's CampDoc profile. Memberships will be verified after early registration. All campers registered during early member registration, and/or utilizing a membership discount code, must be named on the associated PacSci Membership and the Membership must be active through the camp's end date. Any registration made during early member registration not meeting these criteria will be subject to cancellation with no refund.



Payment

- Each camp session requires a \$75 non-refundable processing fee when registering.
- After inputting your payment information on the Payment Confirmation page, you will have the option to pay in full or set up a payment plan for the remaining balance.
- Camp sessions must be paid in full by May 1, 2025. Any outstanding balances on payment plans will be automatically charged on this date.
- All camps registered for after May 1, 2025 must be paid in full at time of purchase.
- Please note: Charges from CampDoc will appear on your card or bank statement from DocNetwork, Inc. (Ann Arbor, MI).



SCHOLARSHIPS





Application & Eligibility

Application: Scholarship applications are posted on our website on February 3, and it will remain open until March 3. This application will allow you to share your preferences for camp theme, location, and date. Families will be notified whether they have received a scholarship and to which camp session by April 1.

Camp scholarships cover the full cost of one week of camp tuition, including the option of receiving free daily lunch, snacks, and Extended Care. More information on scholarships and qualifications can be found on our camp webpages under the “Summer Camp Scholarships.”

Eligibility: Camp for Curious Minds aims to make its enriching programs accessible to all. Requiring proof of eligibility for scholarships allows us to allocate limited funds fairly, ensuring that those facing economic challenges can participate fully. This practice reflects our commitment to inclusivity and provides opportunities for all children to learn and create lasting memories together, regardless of financial circumstances.

Please Note: Any camps reserved and registered through CampDoc must be fully paid by the registrant and are not eligible for a scholarship award. All scholarships are awarded on a lottery basis, depending on available spaces. Once you have been notified that you have received a scholarship for a specific camp, you will receive an invitation to complete the registration process through CampDoc.

To qualify for a scholarship, a separate application must be submitted for each camper.



PREPARING FOR CAMPS



What Should My Camper Bring to Camp?

- Refillable water bottle. We recommend 32 oz.
- Change of clothes in a labeled bag if needed.
- We're unplugged at camp! Cellphones, tablets, and gaming devices distract from daily activities and lessons. We welcome fidgets and stuffies, but please leave screens at home when possible.

Lunch Box Check List

- Campers that do not purchase lunch, or attend our St. Thomas location, must bring lunch and two snacks with them to camp.
- Make sure your campers lunch is non-perishable
- Avoid packing foods that can trigger common allergies
- Do not pack any sort of nuts
- We notice many campers eat more than usual during camp because they are using up so much energy to fuel their fun. Be sure to send your camper with enough food to last them all day.

Toileting Expectations

We require that all campers attending our programs are fully potty trained (able to independently ask and go to the restroom, including wiping and re-dressing) to maintain a comfortable and smooth experience for all participants and staff.



Accommodations

We are happy to welcome camper personal aides into our program. If your camper is accompanied by a personal aide, please provide details in your camper's CampDoc Health Profile under Additional Health Information. In order for an aide to attend camp, you must email camps@pacsci.org at least two full weeks prior to the start of camp to provide information allowing PacSci to complete the required background check.

Camp T-shirts

Each camp registration comes with one of our iconic stylish camp shirts. We will ask for your camper's shirt size in the CampDoc registration process. We highly encourage campers to wear their t-shirts while at camp. Campers are welcome to leave their shirts at camp throughout the week for ease and take them home on the last day. Our shirts help keep campers visible while outside of the camp space, protect their clothing from potential messy experiments, and are a token of their scientific summer.



HEALTH & SAFETY





Weather Cancellations

We partner with our Health and Safety team to monitor weather conditions to ensure camper and staff safety. In the event of Heat and/or Wildfire Smoke Advisory or Warnings it may be necessary to cancel camps, in which case we would notify camp families as soon as possible.

Sick Camper Policy

In order to attend an in-person summer camp, all parents or guardians of campers must review and sign our Sick Camper Policy through CampDoc. The policy includes an acknowledgment that campers who have exhibited or reported symptoms within the past 24 hours prior to camp will not be allowed to attend camp and/or will be sent home.

Medication

Staff do not administer **any** medication but will supervise participants capable of administering their own. In case of a life-threatening situation where the participant is unable to administer medication such as an epi-pen or asthma inhalers, staff will assist. Arrangements may be made for a guardian to administer medication to their camper during the camp day but require prior approval by the camp manager.

Sunscreen & Mosquito Repellent

Sunscreen: Please apply sunscreen before coming to camp, even on cloudy days. If a camper brings sunscreen to camp, it must be listed in medications in your camper's CampDoc account. Sunscreen must be labeled with your camper's name.

We strongly encourage the use of spray or stick sunscreen as it's easier for campers to apply. Staff are **only** able to assist campers with spray sunscreen.

Mosquito Repellent: If you are concerned that your child will not be able to apply insect repellent themselves, please apply it prior to camp. If you would like to send your child to camp with their own repellent, please add it as a Medication on CampDoc and ensure they are able to dispense and apply themselves.

- Bug Spray is highly recommended at our Mercer Slough location, as many insects call the Wetland Park home. We encourage guardians to practice applying and re-applying spray with their campers prior to joining us.

Photo Release Policy

All guardians must review and accept or decline the Appearance Release under Authorizations in CampDoc before coming to camp. This authorization allows us to capture photos or videos of our campers while engaging in the program. Please note that by declining the appearance release, no photos will be taken of your camper. If you hope to see your camper captured in our photos, the release must be accepted.



FAQ





What Is a Girls-Focused Camp? Can My Son or Male-identifying Child Register for This Session?

Not only can your camper still enroll in the Girls-Focused session, we encourage it!

Our Girls-Focused camps are intended to create a space where girls and non-gender conforming youth can bond over shared interests in STEM in a shared environment. This is one way in which we are combating the disparity of women and non-gender conforming individuals' representation in STEM career fields. However, we do not restrict boys from signing up for these sessions. If your camper is comfortable in a group of mostly girls in camp, you should still sign up for the session, especially if that is the camp that works best for your schedule.

What Is a Sensory-Friendly Camp? Can Anyone Register?

Anyone can sign up for these camp sessions, however we ask families to keep in mind that these camps are specifically tailored for campers with extra sensory needs.

Our Sensory-Friendly sessions are unique in that they have a smaller camp size, with a total of 12 campers instead of 20, and are only scheduled to be camps with activities that would help avoid disregulation as best as possible. We have additional resources available like fidgets, noise dampening headphones, and more to assist with a comfortable camp experience.

All Outdoor Classrooms at Mercer Slough for 4-5 camps!

Our 4-5 camp offerings provide a unique experience with an all-outdoor classroom.