

The Youth Garden Project

Summer Camp FAQ's

2021

When is Summer Camp held?

The Youth Garden Project (YGP) Summer Camp is a full day camp (9am-4pm) and is held Mondays through Fridays for nine weeks during summer vacation. The first week will be June 7th, 2021.

Who are the Youth Garden Project camp instructors?

Julie Zender is the Youth Programs Director. She handles all camp registrations, manages the youth camps, and supports the Youth Programs Instructors who will be planning and facilitating the majority of camp. These instructors are at YGP for six months completing an environmental education internship. Our instructors have prior experience working with groups of elementary-aged children; have an interest in connecting them to various aspects of garden-based education & the outdoors; and will receive multiple trainings related to working with youth. Each instructor has received certification in First-Aid & CPR, training on effective teaching strategies, and has undergone an extensive background check.

What is the child to instructor ratio?

We maintain a camper/instructor ratio of 6:1. There will be no more than 25 campers registered for camp. The Youth Programs Director over-sees camp. Additional YGP staff and interns will also be on site for the majority of the camp day.

Can I sign my child up for more than one camp session?

Yes! Each week has new and creative activities planned that connect to the weekly theme. Some camp elements repeat, such as helping in the garden in the morning, swimming & playing around Mill Creek, and the personal/quiet time each afternoon—but with new campers each week the excitement never stops!

How will I know if my child is signed up?

After you submit registration materials you will receive a registration confirmation e-mail within 24 hours or as soon as possible. This e-mail will indicate which weeks of camp your child is enrolled in, which weeks of camp they may be on the waiting list for, and your balance amount due along with the due date.

What happens if I sign my child up for a week that is full?

Registration is organized on a first come first served basis, so there is a possibility that your child may be placed on the waiting list for a certain week(s). As noted above, you will be notified via e-mail if this is the case. The Youth Programs Director will contact you as soon as possible should an opening in the week become available. Sometimes this doesn't happen until the very first day of the camp session, so we appreciate your patience and flexibility!

If we *are* able to sign your child up via the wait list, the summer camp payment will be due either two weeks before the start of camp *or* at the time of registration (this will depend on how the timing of registration works out). If your child does not receive a spot in the summer camp week, your deposit will be returned. It's recommended that you call YGP and ask which weeks of summer camp are full already if you are getting a late start on registration. We do fill up quickly!

What does my child need for camp?

CLOTHING:

- Send your camper to YGP in comfortable clothes and shoes that can get wet and dirty. Shoes should be able to be worn into the creek. We *DO NOT* allow kids into the creek without shoes on for their own safety. Your camper will also need a swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen packed every day in a bag or backpack.

FOOD:

- YGP provides a morning and afternoon snack each day. Your camper should always bring a full water bottle with their name on it and a sack lunch. If your camper has any food allergies, please make sure to note that on the parental release section of the registration form.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

- Electronics, personal toys, etc. They are a distraction and often get lost! Cell phones should remain in campers' bags/backpacks until pick-up time. If you need to contact your camper, please call the YGP

office. If there is an emergency, you can reach Julie Zender (Youth Programs Director) on her cell phone at 847-204-8121, or Kaitlin Thomas (Executive Director) at 435-260-9716. Cell phones are very disruptive; please support us by affirming our policy with your child.

Are there any additional materials fees?

No! The cost of camp includes all materials, take-home projects, snacks, etc.

What is your payment and cancellation policy?

Tuition is \$150 per child per session. Our Expedition Day Camp in partnership with Canyonlands Field Institute is also \$150 per child per session. Scholarships are available for both camps and all families are encouraged to apply! A \$35 good faith deposit per child per session is due with registration to hold the space. The deposit is only refundable if you cancel 30 days prior to the camp start date. The remaining balance is due two weeks prior to each session. Payment must be received at this time. If you have paid in full—a refund will only be possible if we fill your campers spot. You will be e-mailed balance due reminders, as well as a complete list of balance due dates in the registration confirmation e-mail.

Can someone else other than the listed authorized individuals pick up my camper? Can my camper bike/walk to camp?

Yes! If your child will be regularly picked up by someone other than yourself or another parent/guardian please list them on the registration in the section titled: "Individuals OTHER than Parents/Guardians Authorized to Pick Up My Child." If your child is going to be picked up by someone other than those you have listed on the registration form, let us know as soon as possible. You may send the child to camp with a written note of permission, or if it is last minute, call the YGP office. If you plan to have your child walk and/or bike to camp daily, please provide written permission on the first day so they can sign themselves in/out and thus are properly accounted for at the end of the day.

What are your behavioral expectations?

In order to foster a fun and safe environment, YGP asks that all summer camp participants follow the C.A.R.E.S. models of behavior expectations. Outlined below is the C.A.R.E.S. model for your review. If new to camp, we recommend going over this with your camper before the start of camp. We will go over it in detail on the first day of camp as well.

- o **C=Cooperation:** follow directions the first time; work as a team.
- o **A=Attitude:** come ready to have fun and to try new things!
- o **R=Respect:** follow KYHF&OOTY: "keep your hands, feet, & other objects to yourself."; kindness and respect should be shown to all campers, staff, and guests at all times; be gentle with all plants and animals; clean up after yourself; use an indoor voice when inside the Shafer Home
- o **E=Empathy:** follow the "golden rule": treat others as you would like to be treated; lend a helping hand to anyone who needs it.
- o **S=Safety:** stay with the group at ALL times; WALK and stay on the designated pathways; wash your hands before eating and after visiting animals; wear sunscreen/layers & be ready to drink lots of water!

Anyone who does *not* follow the above expectations will:

1. Be given one verbal warning and discuss behavior with an instructor.
2. If behavior continues, the camper will be removed from the activity (chill-out aka chill-out) with a follow-up discussion with an instructor. If more than one chill-out is given in a day, family will be notified at pick-up.
3. If more than three chill-outs are given in a day or as deemed appropriate by staff, the camper will meet privately with the Youth Programs Director. In some cases, a parent/guardian will be called immediately. Depending on severity, if issues continue, the child will be dismissed for the remainder of the day or week. Camp tuition will not be refunded.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

E-mail julie@youthgardenproject.org or call us at 435-259-BEAN (2326)!

