



A Parent's Guide to Camp – The Basics of What you Need to Know!

Dear Xplorations Camper Parent,

To better help prepare you and your camper for your first day of camp, we have compiled this basic list of answers to some frequently asked questions.

What we need from you before the first day of camp

- [Health Record Form](#) along with immunization records – these records are a requirement this year.
- Children who have NOT had a Health Record Form turned in by check-in on Tuesday afternoon **will not be permitted to return to camp** until a health form is turned into the Education Office.
- If you would like to keep epinephrine on campus for your child, please fill out an [Allergy Action Plan](#) (also available in the Education Office), have it signed by a doctor, and attach your child's picture.

Before Camp/After Camp

- Before Camp is available from 8:00 to 10:00, Monday – Friday for \$50 per week.
- After Camp is available from 3:25 until 5:30, Monday – Friday for \$60 per week.
- To sign up visit <http://store.hmns.org/> prior to the first day of camp.

Lunch

- Campers may bring a lunch from home or you may pre-order meals to be delivered.
 - [McDonalds](#) is available only at the main museum location.
 - [Park Grill](https://mavn.is/parkgrill/) is available only at the main museum location (<https://mavn.is/parkgrill/>)
 - [Chick-Fil-A](#) is available only at the Sugar Land location. A representative will be on location to take orders on Monday morning.
- Orders are accepted on **MONDAY ONLY** for the entire week. It saves time to have the forms filled before you arrive on Monday morning.

What does your camper need?

- Clothes you don't mind getting dirty and closed-toed shoes – no flip flops or sandals, please.
- A backpack or bag to keep personal items and lunches contained
- A recycled bag or green shopping bag to bring home projects

Getting to Camp

- You can find [directions online](#) or by calling 713-639-4601 or 713-639-4629.

What to expect Monday morning

- You will need to sign your camper in at their camp classroom. Sign-in begins at **9:45**.
- Take the Paleontology Hall elevators to the Lower Level at the main location. There will be staff to guide you to the correct classroom.
- If you need to drop off your camper earlier than 9:45, Before Camp is available for purchase for the week online or in the Education Office.
- Children must be signed in and out by an approved adult every day. Updated contact information is required daily.
- You are required to show a **photo ID** to sign your child out. Please be patient as it takes time to assure the safety of campers during sign-out.
- Campers are escorted by Xplorations staff anytime they are out of the classroom.

Special Needs

- Please notify the Camp Manager of your child's special needs **PRIOR** to your child's first day of camp.
- Help us help your child by completing the [Camper Health Record Form](#) and notifying us of any allergies, accessibility concerns, behavioral, psychological or emotional concerns, or any other special needs.
- In the case of severe food allergies, it is not possible for us to monitor the food other children bring to camp. **We are not a nut-free zone.**
- If your child requires an Epi Pen you will need to fill out the [Allergy Action Plan](#), have it signed by your camper's doctor, and turn it in to the Education Office on Monday morning of your child's camp week.

Souvenir T-Shirts

- T-shirts will be available for purchase Monday morning and Friday afternoon during camp for \$10 (cash and check only).

Valuables

- Bringing valuables like mp3 players, electronic games, cell phones, etc. to camp for use during lunchtime, Before Camp, or After Camp is at the discretion of the parent and HMNS is not responsible for loss or damage to camper's valuables.

In Case of Emergency

- Please call the Xplorations office at 713-639-4651 or 713-639-4625, and a staff member will deliver your message to the appropriate person.

Parking (See Map Below)

As always, Xplorations patrons are able to park in any spot in the museum garage. However, we now have more options to make things more convenient

There are two NEW Pick-Up/Drop-Off options for Xplorations Summer Camp 2018:

- Camper drop-off/pick-up carpool services
- Reserved coned parking spaces in the garage

Camper drop-off/pick-up carpool services:

- Exclusively available to museum members.
- The cost is \$30 per week for a staff member to escort your camper to and from the classrooms and to ensure authorized pick-up/drop-off signature.
- Limited to 50 patrons per week.
- Not available on Monday mornings. Please use the museum garage or alternate parking, and escort your camper inside the museum to complete pick-up authorizations, order lunch and orient yourself and your child to the camp layout.
- Qualifying camp patrons can purchase this service in advance, online at hmns.org.
- Camp patrons must be authorized to pick up designated camper, and all the names of campers to be picked up must be provided to the program coordinator at the time of purchase. Any changes to camper pickup must be communicated to the program coordinator no later than 1 p.m. the day of service.
- Available to purchase online at hmns.org

Reserved coned parking spaces in the garage:

- There will be 80 coned parking spaces exclusively for Xplorations Summer Camp patrons.
- Once they're all gone, Summer Camp patrons can still park in any available space in the parking garage.
- **You need two things to park in the parking garage:**
 - Blue colored PARKING GARAGE COUPON so you can get out for free. These will be available in all Summer Camp classrooms and in the Education Office in the museum.
 - SUMMER CAMP PARKING GARAGE PASS displayed on your dashboard for the reserved spots. These passes will be emailed to all registered patrons and they will also be available in the Education Office in the museum. If you do not have access to a printer, these passes will be available at the parking garage entrance on Monday during drop-off and pick-up.
- **Each week, reserved spaces are offered on the following schedule:**
 - **7:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m. Daily** – staff will direct Summer Camp patrons displaying the Summer Camp parking pass to available coned spaces on the lower levels of the museum garage.
 - **2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Daily** – staff will direct Summer Camp patrons displaying the Summer Camp parking pass to available coned spaces on the lower levels of the museum garage.

Alternate Parking:

- Additional free parking options include:
 - Free 3-hour parking lot in the new Garden Center (Lot C)
 - Metered parking on the streets around the Museum District
 - Free 3-hour parking lot directly off the Circle, by the statue of Sam Houston (Lot A)

Free daily parking near the Zoo (Lots D, E, F, G, and H)

- Additional paid parking options (at your own cost):
 - Metered parking around the Museum District Museum Medical Tower
 - MFAH
 - Children's Museum
 - Holocaust Museum parking lot
 - The MetroRail – The "Museum District" stop is only 3 blocks from HMNS.

HERMANN PARK

