A Parent’s Guide to Summer Camp at HMNS – The Basics of What you Need to Know!

Dear Summer Camps at HMNS Camper Parent,

To better help prepare you and your camper for your first day of camp, we have compiled this basic list of information.

What we need from you before the first day of camp

- Camper Health Record Form along with immunization records – these records are a requirement.
- Children who have NOT had a Camper 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 or medication on campus for your child, please fill out an Allergy Action Plan (also available in the Education Office), 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.
- Check-In for Before Camp is located just inside the main museum Grand Hall. If coming in from the Museum Parking Garage, walk through the Gift Shop and the check-in table is just inside the Grand Hall.
- After Camp is available from 3:25 until 5:30, Monday – Friday for $60 per week. The After Camp classrooms will be located on the lower level in the classrooms beneath the Gift Shop. If coming in from the Museum Parking Garage, look for signage just before the entrance to the Gift Shop directing you downstairs. Signage will be on the lower level indicating the last name alphabet ranges for each After Camp classroom.
- To sign up visit [http://store hmns.org/](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 to their classroom.
  - Catering by Periodic Table Cafe is available only at the main museum location. Information can be found online at [hmns.org/visit/dining](http://hmns.org/visit/dining). Online orders must be placed by 5 PM the day before the lunch is to be delivered. For questions, please call Catering by Periodic Table Cafe at 713-639-4699.
  - Chick-Fil-A is available only at the Sugar Land location. A representative will be on location to take orders on Monday morning. CASH ONLY. Orders are accepted on MONDAY ONLY for the entire week.

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](http://hmns.org/visit/directions) 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.
- You will need to fill out a Sign-In Card for your camper with a list of approved adults for pick-up, including yourself.
- Take the Paleontology Hall elevators to the Lower Level at the main location. There will be staff and signage 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 Summer Camp staff anytime they are out of the classroom, whether that be going to the restroom as a group or visiting a museum exhibit hall.

Special Needs

- Please notify the Camp Director of your child’s special needs PRIOR to your child’s first day of camp by emailing [summercamp@hmns.org](mailto:summercamp@hmns.org).
- 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 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 at a T-shirt cart in the elevator bay at various times throughout the week for $10 (cash and check only).

**Valuables**

• Bringing valuables like cell phones, electronic games, 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 Summer Camp office at 713-639-4651 or 713-639-4625, and a staff member will deliver your message to the appropriate person.

**Parking for HMNS Summer Camp**

Summer is always a busy time at the Houston Museum of Natural Science! Please allow yourself some extra time when bringing your child to, and collecting your child from, our summer camps. We are continuing to address parking issues at the museum for our summer camp patrons and will continue to provide reserved and coned parking in the Museum Garage for the exclusive use of summer camp patrons during drop-off and pick-up. Also, for $30 a week we offer a curbside drop-off and pick-up service for summer campers. Please note the Drop-Off Pick-Up service is limited to 50 member spots per week.

**PARKING IN THE MUSEUM GARAGE**

The museum garage will have approximately 80 parking spaces coned off and reserved exclusively to ensure that Summer Camp at HMNS parents have an easier time finding/accessing open parking spaces in the garage during drop-off from 7:50 AM – 10:30 AM and pick-up from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM. The cones are placed in the morning with the ultimate objective of having reserved spaces for camp parents in the afternoon when the garage is near capacity. In the morning, Summer Camp at HMNS parents will be directed to a coned spot or an open parking spot. Moving cars along in the morning to open, non-coned spaces is only done to prevent backup at the garage entrance. The garage attendants will direct you to a coned space in the morning if traffic is not backed up at the Museum Garage entrance. In the afternoon, Summer Camp at HMNS parents will be directed to a coned and reserved spot if available. The ultimate objective is to ensure that camp parents have access to a parking space in the garage and do not have to park offsite. Camp ends at 3:00pm and campers not enrolled in After Camp should be picked up by 3:25pm. After Camp hours are 3:30-5:30pm.

Summer Camp at HMNS patrons utilizing the museum garage reserved spaces will need to display the SUMMER CAMP PARKING PASS on their dash. The SUMMER CAMP PARKING PASS will be emailed to all registered patrons prior to your scheduled week of camp. The SUMMER CAMP PARKING PASS will also be available in the Education Office in the museum.
Also, summer camp patrons will need a COMPLIMENTARY PARKING COUPON to exit the museum garage for FREE. COMPLIMENTARY PARKING COUPONS will be available in all summer camp classrooms and in the Education Office inside the museum.

**CAMPER DROP-OFF/PICK-UP CARPOOL SERVICE**

Summer Camp at HMNS will operate a camper drop-off and pick-up line during the weeks summer camp is in session. This service will be limited to members of the museum. We will offer 50 “Summer Camp at HMNS Carpool Passes” per week when summer camp is in session. The service will be available to purchase online at [store.hmns.org](http://store.hmns.org)

Summer Camp at HMNS patrons utilizing the drop-off and pick-up service will need to display the SUMMER CAMP AT HMNS CARPOOL PASS on their dash. The drop-off pick-up carpool line will begin on Hermann Drive at the corner of Caroline and Hermann Drive and continue on Hermann Drive to the end of the “Loading Zone”.

- Available to members of the museum exclusively
- $30 per week for a Summer Camp at HMNS Staff member to escort your camper to and from the camp classrooms and to ensure authorized pick-up and signature.
- Limited to 50 member patrons per week
- Camper drop-off service not available on Monday mornings. Please utilize the museum garage or alternate parking, and escort your camper inside the museum to complete summer camp pick-up authorizations, order lunch, and orient yourself and your child to the camp layout.
- Camp patrons can purchase the service in advance online at store.hmns.org
- Limited quantities might be available on site the week of camp if not sold out online
- 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 1pm the day of service.
- Patrons using the service must display “Summer Camp at HMNS Carpool Pass” on their dash.


**PLEASE CHECK HMNS.ORG FOR FUTURE UPDATES REGARDING SUMMER CAMP PARKING.**
Alternate Parking (Please see map)

• Additional Free parking options include:
  o Free 3-hour parking lot in the new Garden Center (Lot C)
  o Metered parking on the streets around the Museum District
  o Free 3-hour parking lot directly off the Circle, by the statue of Sam Houston (Lot A)
  o Free-daily parking near the Zoo (Lots D, E, F, G, and H)

• Additional Paid Parking Options (At your own cost):
  o Metered parking around the Museum District Museum Medical Tower
  o MFAH
  o Children’s Museum
  o Holocaust Museum parking lot
  o The MetroRail – The “Museum District” stop is only 3 blocks from HMNS.