

Camp Programs Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register for summer camp?

Please review the [ljams Camps](#) webpage, and [2022 Dates & Rates](#) before registering for camp. [You can register here for summer camp!](#) Families can register multiple campers for multiple sessions at the same time.

How many sessions may campers attend?

Campers may attend as many sessions as they would like. The program structure and activities are recycled, so a camper may experience repetition after several weeks.

Do you offer financial assistance or discounts for camps?

Current ljams members at the Family level receive a 5% discount on camp programs, including After Care. To receive this discount, enter coupon code "INCMEMBER4CAMP." If your membership is not current, it must be renewed to be eligible for the discount. ljams also offers multi-child discounts (\$10 discount for each additional camper registered) and multi-session discounts (\$10 discount for each additional session registered). These discounts are applied at checkout.

Can I make a donation to support camp scholarships?

Yes! It's easy to make a gift to help send a kid to camp! One-time gifts or recurring donations can be made [on the ljams website](#) (please note that the gift is intended for the Camp Scholarship Fund). Gifts of any amount are deeply appreciated. Charitable contributions help to keep programs affordable so that all children may experience the joys and adventures of camp. To make a donation off-line, please contact Cindy Hassil, Development Director, at chassil@ljams.org or +1865-577-4717 ext. 117.

What is the cancellation policy?

Cancellations made more than 30 days prior to the first day of your selected week of camp are eligible for a full refund (minus a \$25 administrative fee) or the opportunity to transfer registration to a different session (subject to availability and a \$25 administrative fee).

Cancellations made between 15-30 days prior to the camp start date will be eligible for a refund equal to 50% of the full camp tuition for that week.

Participants absent at the time of camp or cancelling 14 or fewer days prior to camp will not receive a refund of fees paid, and fees are not transferable to another week of camp.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, if your camper has to miss camp due to quarantining from exposure to or infection with COVID-19 in the days and weeks leading up to the camp, please notify ljams. The staff is happy to work with families on a case-by-case basis for hardships related to COVID-19.

What is your current COVID-19 policy?

Here are Ijams Nature Center's most up-to-date [COVID-19 policies and safety practices](#). Policies are subject to change; Ijams staff will update this link and communicate any changes with enrolled families.

Do you offer payment plans for camp?

Yes. During registration, families will have the option to pay in a lump sum or in four installments. Email Lindsay Whitaker, Youth Programs Manager, at lwhitaker@ijams.org with questions about payment plans.

Can I pay by check?

Yes. Please email Lindsay Whitaker, Youth Programs Manager, at lwhitaker@ijams.org to make arrangements to pay by check.

Is Before or After Care offered?

Before Care is not offered for any Ijams summer camp. Please make arrangements to drop your camper off no earlier than 8:50 a.m. each camp day.

After Care is offered at Nature Discovery Camp and Nature Adventure Camp, and can be added at the time of registration. After Care is offered from 3-5 p.m. After Care can be purchased at the time of registration or while camp is in session. Families may purchase an After Care package or may purchase After Care by the day. After Care fees are as follows:

- 1 day of After Care: \$25 per camper, per day
- 2 days of After Care: \$50 per camper, per day
- 3 or more days of After Care: \$60, per camper (*this package includes up to 5 days of After Care for the price of 3 days*)

Every 10 minutes after your camper's pick-up time, \$10 will be accrued. For example, if your camper does not have After Care, your camper must be picked up by 3:15. Campers picked up between 3:16-3:25 will be charged \$10. Campers picked up between 3:26-3:35 will be charged \$20. The same fees will be charged for campers picked up after 12:15 (*applicable to preschool camp*) and for campers picked up after 5:00 (*applicable to After Care campers*).

What should my camper bring to camp each day?

All campers should bring the following items to camp every day:

- Weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes/boots, to allow most of each day to be spent outside.
- A couple of facial masks for campers to wear when in larger groups or inside.
- Day pack durable enough to hold a lunchbox, change of clothes, water bottle, and any other personal items that your camper can move about comfortably in.

- A complete change of clothing for each day of camp, including an extra pair of CLOSED-TOE SHOES that can get wet. Old sneakers, water shoes, and sandals with heel straps work great! Flip-flops do not adequately protect feet.
- One pair of LONG PANTS for rock scrambling and/or bouldering.
- Rain jacket or poncho (when applicable).
- Snack and lunch - Please pack plenty of food for morning and afternoon snacks as well as lunch; an ice pack is recommended. Campers eat outside picnic-style; please pack accordingly.
- Sunscreen - Please apply sunscreen to your camper before camp starts each day. Staff/campers will reapply as needed.
- Hat for sun protection; sunglasses are recommended.
- At least one filled, refillable water bottle.
- Mosquito and tick repellent is recommended. Please apply before camp starts each day if interested. Staff/campers will reapply as needed. Please check for ticks daily after camp.

Will my children be in the same group at camp?

In any given camp session, campers will spend the majority of their time in groups that are split by age. If two campers of different ages from the same household are registered for the same camp and week, they may not be placed in the same group. To request that campers are in the same group, please contact Lindsay Whitaker, Youth Programs Manager, at lwhitaker@ijams.org or indicate this during registration.

My camper has a learning difference, limited mobility, or health concerns. Can they participate in camp?

Yes! Ijams strives to make summer camp as accessible, safe, and inclusive as possible. Ijams welcome campers who are emerging multilinguals as well as campers with social, emotional, physical, cognitive, or behavioral challenges, along with their 1:1 assistant or personal care assistants. Families are required to submit detailed health information during registration. This information assists camp staff in providing a safe experience for everyone. Please be advised that some of the activities offered at camp may not be able to be modified for every need or ability. Camp staff will work to find alternative activities for campers in those scenarios. Activities may be physically demanding, which can be exacerbated in hot summer weather. Furthermore, campers must possess the ability to work effectively with others, refrain from inappropriate or harmful behavior, and assume responsibility for personal care and hygiene for up to 8 hours per day, with minimal to no assistance. In many cases, Ijams staff are able to make modifications or adjustments to the program, and are open to feedback or ideas.

Ijams requires that all campers be able to use the toilet for all bodily functions, as well as appropriately and thoroughly clean themselves after. Pull-ups are not allowed.

Before enrolling a camper with special developmental, physical, medical, or emotional needs, please contact Lindsay Whitaker, Youth Programs Manager, at lwhitaker@ljams.org, to discuss potential accommodations; disclosure of special needs will not preclude participation.

Are lunch or snacks provided for campers?

No. All campers must bring their own lunch and two snacks each day camp is in session. Please ensure your camper has enough food and at least one appropriately-sized water bottle for full, physically active days in the outdoors.

My camper has food allergies. Can they participate in camp?

Yes! Be advised that Ijams is not a nut-free facility. Ijams does not prevent campers from bringing lunches or snacks containing common food allergens. Campers will eat lunch and snacks outdoors, and can be spaced out appropriately if allergies are a concern. Campers will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after every meal. If your camper has an Epi-Pen for any food or environmental allergies, they must carry it on their person at all times.

Is there anything I can do at Ijams Nature Center while my camper is participating in a summer camp program?

Yes! Ijams has 12 miles of trails for walking, hiking, and both road and mountain biking. Swimming is available at Mead's Quarry. [River Sports Outfitters](#) offers canoe, kayak, and paddleboard rentals at Mead's Quarry, and [Navitat Knoxville](#) is a great way to zip through the day while your campers are away! Check the [ljams website](#) for hours of operation and more information.

Nearby Sevier Avenue in South Knoxville has shops, restaurants, and more, and is only a five-minute drive from Ijams.

Who will be responsible for my camper during a camp program?

All Ijams summer camps are led by trained educators and naturalists. All education staff undergo thorough background checks during the interview process. Campers will always be under the supervision of a member of Ijams' education team, with enough freedom for free play and exploration while ensuring all campers' safety and well-being. All camp staff are First Aid and CPR certified and are trained in outdoor safety and group management strategies.