

Metro Parks Nature Camp FAQ's

How does the waitlist process work?

When a spot becomes available at one of our camps, camp administrative staff will consult the waitlist for that specific camp. Should your camper be next on the waitlist, staff will reach out via email from naturecamps@metroparks.net offering the position. Families will have 48 hours to accept or decline the position. If no response is received, the position will be offered to the next family on the waitlist.

How do I check what position my camper is on the waitlist?

Please call camp administration staff at 614-895-6213 or send an email to naturecamps@metroparks.net along with your first and last name, your campers first and last name, and the camp waitlist that you are inquiring about.

What are the chances of my camper enrolling from the waitlist?

Unfortunately, there is no way to know the chances of enrolling from the waitlist. It is dependent on the choices of the families of the campers enrolled into camp and whether they choose to cancel their enrollments or not.

I have campers that are enrolled into camp and campers that did not make it into enrollment. Can my campers who did not make it be enrolled?

At Metro Parks, we have strict maximum capacities at our camps in order to keep our counselor camper ratio at 1:6 to provide the best experience for our campers and families. Unfortunately, we cannot enroll campers beyond our maximum. There must be an open spot in the camp and your camper must be next on the waitlist for them to be enrolled.

Can I sign my camper up for more than three weeks of camp?

No, campers are limited to signing up for a maximum of three weeks of camp in order to provide more campers with the opportunity to attend camp.

I am having issues with ePACT, who do I contact?

As ePACT acts as a third party outside Metro Parks and camp families, any issues with accounts, submission, technical issues, etc need to be addressed directly to [ePACT](#). You may also call 1-855-773-7228 ext.2 to access the ePACT helpline service.

How does the camp scholarship work?

You are able to send in the scholarship before your registration or after your registration. Please download the form and email the filled form along with the required documentation (listed on the form) to naturecamps@metroparks.net. At the Camp Administration's earliest convenience, they will add the scholarship rate to your campers account. If done before registration, the scholarship rate will apply at checkout. If you choose to send in the scholarship after, Metro Parks will refund you the difference.

Who can I contact if my camper is not able to attend camp for the day, I need to drop off late, or pick up early?

Please contact the Camp Cell Phone for the camp that your camper is attending. The phone numbers are listed in the Parent Handbook and on the Parent Letter sent out a week prior to camp. The camp may be away from the shelter so it is best to call ahead and coordinate.

What should my camper wear/bring to camp?

All campers should wear closed toe, sturdy shoes such as tennis shoes or Keen-like sandals with clothes that can get dirty. Everyday campers should bring a refillable water bottle.

In a backpack campers should/may bring:

- Labeled sunscreen and insect repellent
- Change of clothes/shoes
- Light Jacket/Sweatshirt for chilly mornings.
- Raincoat/Poncho
- Labeled Medications
- Plastic bag for wet clothes
- Notebook/Coloring Book for desired downtime.
- A Hat
- Creeking shoes for creeking day (Refrain from crocs if possible as these are very slippery).

Can my campers bring a cell phone to camp?

Campers may bring a cell phone to camp however they may only use the device for emergency purposes. The aim for our camps is to disconnect from an increasingly digital world and reconnect with the natural world around them. Unless notified of an emergency situation, camp staff is trained and expected to ask campers to put away digital devices. Similarly, campers may wear smartwatches but should only be used in emergency situations.

Can my camper bring their own fishing pole, kayak, etc?

We kindly ask that campers utilize the materials that are offered by Metro Parks and do not bring their own equipment.

Is there a camp Lost and Found?

Yes, please contact the Camp Phone for the camp that your camper is attending. You may also contact Camp Administration at 614-895-6213 or email naturecamps@metroparks.net.

Do I need to provide lunch for my camper?

Yes, you will need to send your camper to camp with lunch. We will have a cookout at camp every Thursday (weather permitting - camp staff will communicate if cookout day will change) in which it will be optional to send your camper with lunch from home.

What is included on Thursday's cookout?

We will have hot dogs, buns, ketchup, mustard, regular potato chips, and watermelon. Upon request, we are able to provide alternative options for hot dogs and buns (i.e. gluten free buns, veggie hot dogs, kosher hot dogs, etc).

My camper is not between the ages of 6-12 but would like to attend camp, can I enroll them into camp?

Unfortunately, we have a strict age rule and children outside the ages of 6-12 are unable to attend Metro Parks Summer Camp. Children must be 6-12 during the duration of the weeks they are attending camp.

Are camps split by age?

For our Traditional Day Camps there are two enrollment sections: ages 6-8 and ages 9-12. In order to provide the best camp experience we allow an equal amount of 6-8 year old enrollments and 9-12 enrollments however both age groups will be together at camp. Campers will be divided into "pods" by age to do specific activities however daily group camp activities will occur as well.

My camper turns 8 years old this year but will not be 8 during camp. Can they still kayak?

Unfortunately, Metro Parks has strict rules for kayaking and campers must have turned 8 years of age to participate.

My camper is attending a Traditional Day Camp and is too young to kayak. What will they be doing instead?

Campers under the age of 8 or those who choose not to kayak will do alternative activities such as a Nature Center visit, playground time, or whatever the camp is feeling that day!

I have two campers that want to be in the same pod for the week. How do I make that happen?

Call Camp Administration at 614-895-6213 or send an email to naturecamps@metroparks.net. You may also inform the Head Counselor on the first day of camp.

What is the counselor to camper ratio at camp?

We aim for a counselor camper ratio of 1:6.

Are my campers safe underneath the care of counselors?

Yes, your campers are safe with our counselor staff. Each staff member is interviewed twice to ensure they are a good fit for our camp program. Every Metro Parks staff member, including counselors, goes through a background check process. Head Counselors are trained for two weeks and General Counselors are trained for one week. Each of our camps are within parks that have trained Metro Parks Ranger staff who will be contacted during emergencies.

Will camp cancel if the weather is bad?

No, camp will not cancel if the forecast calls for bad weather (heat, storms, rain, etc) however we will pivot our activities accordingly. Depending on the situation, some activities will be canceled and alternative activities done in place. Every one of our camp locations has a tornado shelter. Each of our camps also have indoor, A/C locations such as our Nature Centers or The Grove Lodge at Scioto Grove that camps can utilize to take a break from the heat. Families have the option of not sending their campers to camp if that is preferable however no refunds will be given if they do not attend.

What is the plan for thunder and lightning?

If thunder is heard or lightning seen, campers and camp staff will take shelter. Alternative indoor activities will be done. After 30 minutes from the last rumble of thunder or sight of lightning, outdoor activities may resume.

Are there Junior Counselors opportunities?

At this time, we do not offer Junior Counselor opportunities at our summer camps.

What is the Tax-ID for Metro Parks?

For tax filing purposes, Metro Parks' Tax ID # is: 31-1578154.

Where can I find more information about camp?

You can find more information within our 2025 Parent Handbook. You may also reach out Camp Administration at naturecamps@metroparks.net or 614-895-6213.