

Adler Camp FAQs

Registration Information

Can I register in person or over the phone?

Registration is only available online.

Can we sign up for more than one session of the same camp?

Each type of camp will have the same content each time it is offered. Registering for more than one session of the same camp program is not recommended. However, if your young child benefits from repetition, you are welcome to register for multiple sessions of the half-day Astro Camps.

What is the cancellation policy?

Once your registration is submitted, there are no full refunds. To receive a refund minus a 10% transaction fee, cancel your registration on or before May 1, 2020. After May 1, refunds cannot be given for cancellations. You are welcome to transfer your registration to a friend in the correct age range for your camp session up until 10 days before the session begins. Contact us for assistance with any of these needs.

Can I edit my registration?

Yes! Please log in to your registration account to make any needed changes until 10 days before the session begins. After that time, please email us with any needed changes.

How do I access my registration account?

Your confirmation email contains a link to your account or you can follow the registration link from our camps page <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/summer-camps/>.

How does the waitlist work?

If the session you wish to register for is full, you can register for the waitlist. We will contact you to offer you a spot if one becomes available; no later than one week before the session begins. Spots become available only as cancellations occur; we cannot guarantee that your child will be offered a spot in our camps. Your credit card will not be charged when you register for the waitlist.

Are scholarships available?

A limited number of *financial need-based* scholarships are available. The application can be accessed at: <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/summer-camps/>. Applications will be reviewed by a committee and decisions are based on financial need, individual circumstances, and program availability. All scholarship applications must be submitted online by the posted due date.

Program Information

Overview Guide to Adler Camps

Grade in Fall 2020 / age during camp	3 - 5 years old	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
Camp Options			Astro full-day								
	Astro half-day										
						Astro-botics					
								Skyshow			
								Mission Near Space			

Can I register my child for a camp that does not match my child's grade level? Ex- Can I register my 5 year old for Astro full-day camp or my incoming 3rd grader for Astro-botics?

We take great care to design age and grade appropriate camp curriculum each summer. Campers must fall within the designated age or grade ranges specified in the descriptions.

Grade levels listed are a child's *incoming* grade; that is, the grade they will enter in the next school year, not their current grade level. Ex- if you are registering in March and your child is currently a 3rd grader, please look at 4th grade camps for them.

Adler camps follow the CPS birthday guidelines, so a 4 year old who will turn 5 by September 1, 2020 *AND* will be entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2020 is considered a Kindergartener for camp. They should register for an Astro half-day session.

If you are unsure which camp is most appropriate for your child, please email us!

The Adler Planetarium reserves the right to request a notarized birth certificate to confirm a camper's age at any time before or during camp. If this does not match with the birth date information entered at the time of registration, placement in camp will be forfeited and no refunds will be made. This policy is to ensure that all campers have the best possible camp experience.

How do I know if my child is ready for an Adler Camp?

Adler campers need to be able to:

- ★ Take care of all restroom needs without assistance.
- ★ Enjoy a busy, active day without a nap (for those in a full-day program).
- ★ Follow instructions given by instructors and counselors.
- ★ Separate from parents/ caregivers without distress.

Please see the [Astro Half-Day social story](#) and [Potty Trained Acknowledgement](#) for more guidance for our Astro Half-Day program.

Does your child have developmental or medical needs that require support in a classroom setting? Please reach out before registering so we can plan for success together.

What are camp hours?

Half-Day Camps (Astro for ages 3-5):

To meet the needs of our youngest campers, Astro Half Day pick up and drop off is limited to 15 minutes before and after camp.

Drop off begins at 8:45am, Camp begins at 9:00am

Camp ends at 11:30am, Pick up ends at 11:45am

Full-Day Camps (Astro for 1st-4th, Astro-botics, Skyshow, Mission Near Space):

Drop off begins at 8:30am, Camp begins at 9:00am

Camp ends at 3:00pm, Pick up ends at 3:30pm

How do we Sign in and Sign out?

To sign out a camper, an adult must be on the authorized pick up list AND have a valid photo ID every day. There are no exceptions to this policy. For the safety of our campers, a child will not be released to an adult who does not meet both requirements until the registrant adult or emergency contact gives permission.

An adult must be present to sign in and out daily: campers may not be dropped off from the car or sent out to you (please contact us if this presents an accessibility challenge). Campers younger than 14 must be in the care of an authorized adult at drop off and pick up. Please do not leave your child unattended outside of Adler before drop off begins.

If your child is age 14 or older and is permitted to travel alone, please email summercamp@adlerplanetarium.org to discuss permission to self-dismiss.

Adler Camps cannot accommodate late pick up. There is a \$5 charge for every five minutes after the end of the pick up window. This must be paid before the child can be signed in the next day. We know that life (and traffic!) can be unpredictable: if 3:00 - 3:30pm is a difficult time for you to pick up, please consider signing up for After Care! Details are below and on our website.

What if there is inclement weather during drop off or pick up?

Sign in and sign out will take place near the Sundial sculpture on the North (lake) side of the building daily. Facing Adler from the road, this is the left side of the building. If there is inclement weather, the campers will wait for you inside. Please walk to the *street level* entrance on the North (left) side of the building.

Museum Campus has many visitors and events during the summer, and traffic can be unpredictable.

We recommend the use of public transit to travel to and from camp. The 146 and 130 drop off right at Adler!

- ★ Please note: Lollapalooza is at nearby Grant Park Thursday, July 30 through Sunday, August 2. There will be access to Museum Campus, however, road closures in the days before, during, and after the event will impact travel routes through downtown.

More detailed information about sign in and sign out, including a map, will be emailed to you closer to camp.

Do you offer before-care or after-care?

NEW for 2020! Yes, we offer After Care for full day campers: Astro Full-Day, Astro-botics, Skyshow, and Mission Near Space! After Campers will have the option to read, create artwork, play games, watch relevant and age-appropriate movies, explore the museum, or participate in other free-choice activities. After care content will be connected to space science, but will be more relaxed in nature: after a busy day at camp, After Campers will need a chance to relax a bit!

After Care capacity is limited, available on a first-come, first-served basis, and is offered as a weekly, flat-rate session from 3:00 to 5:30pm. Please see our website for rates and registration information.

All campers must be signed out by 5:30pm. There is a \$5 charge for every five minutes after 5:30pm, to be paid before the child is signed in the next day. Chronic lateness may result in the camper being dropped from the After Care program without refund.

Will my child be spending time outside?

Yes! Campers will be outside during sign in each morning and sign out in the afternoon. We have lunch outside daily (weather permitting). Some activities will also take place outside. We go outside as often as the plans for the day and the weather allow.

What do I need to send with my child each day?

- ★ Peanut AND tree nut free lunch. We encourage you to add extra snacks for your child as well, especially if they are staying for After Care.
- ★ Camp t-shirt: the camp t-shirt is mandatory: *it must be worn daily*. If your child does not have their shirt, a new shirt will need to be purchased onsite. Registrants receive one complimentary t-shirt on the first day of camp, but many families find extra shirts to be very helpful! These can be purchased for \$10 during registration or onsite (cash only onsite).
- ★ Comfortable clothing that can get messy
 - *Astro half-day campers should bring a full change of clothes in a ziploc bag.*
- ★ Close-toed shoes
- ★ Backpack or similar
- ★ Water bottle
- ★ Sunscreen or sunblock that the camper can self-apply. Camp staff cannot apply sunscreen for your child.
 - *Astro half-day campers should arrive with sunscreen applied.*
- ★ Encouraged- lightweight jacket (the museum may be cold inside), sun hat, rain gear as needed (we may go outside in light rain)

Do the Camps provide lunch?

- ★ Adler Camps do not include lunch or snacks. If your camper forgets their lunch, please call or email us to make arrangements for their lunch to be dropped off.
 - For full-day programs, send your camper with lunch and snacks. The camp program does not have access to refrigerators or microwaves.
 - For Astro half-day programs, please pack only a healthy snack for your child.



Adler Camps strive to be peanut and tree nut free. For the safety of all participants, **do not pack food that contains any peanut or tree nut products. Please share this information with anyone who packs your camper's lunches.** If a camper's lunch contains nuts, the camp team will remove that food item from the camp area. They will not be permitted to eat it while at camp. (If you pack a PB&J with a non-nut butter, please label it so we know it's safe!)

What is your staffing like? How many adults will be with my camper?

Each camp has an Instructor and Counselor, and may have one or more Teen Assistant(s). A Camp Director and other senior staff are on site throughout camp.

Mission Near Space Camp additionally works with many Adler astronomers, and Skyshow will have multiple Adler content experts present during the week. Our half-day Astro programs maintain an especially low adult to child ratio, appropriate for our youngest campers.

All camp staff are background checked.

What kind of training does your staff have?

The instructors are museum staff, classroom teachers, or others with similar qualifications. Most counselors are college students majoring in education or a related science discipline and have experience working with camp-aged children. All undergo camp-specific training before camp season begins.

Do you have trained medical personnel on staff?

Please see our [Waiver](#) and [Terms and Conditions](#) for information concerning medical emergencies

I have a teen who has aged out of the camp programs. Is there anything they can do at Adler this summer?

Adler has great programs for teens! Please visit <https://www.adlerplanetarium.org/teen-opportunities/>.

I have more questions about camp at Adler. How can I get in touch?

Please email summercamp@adlerplanetarium.org or call 312-322-0329 with any questions or additional information you need to communicate.