DUNWOODY NATURE CENTER

CAMP GUIDE

Visit our webpage!

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Dunwoody Nature Center's summer camp program has spanned over 30 years! We have grown from one week of camp back in 1994 to 13 weeks of camp at two locations for summer and school break camps throughout the year. We are happy to have your family as part of our camp family!

What to Bring

Quick Camp Checklist

- [ ] Backpack
- [ ] Lunch & Snacks Full Day
- [ ] Lunch only Half Day
- [ ] 20 oz water bottle
- [ ] Extra clothes & shoes

Lunch & Snacks

Please bring:

- lunch in a lunch box or bag
- 20 oz (or larger) refillable water bottle
- snacks for full day campers and after care

Make sure your child has a reusable water bottle with them as it can get hot outside! Campers will be able to refill their water bottles throughout the day.

There is no refrigeration available for camp lunches, but they are kept indoors.

Our Environmental Impact

We are teaching the kids about the R's (reduce, reuse, and recycle) so please keep this in mind when packing lunches and snacks. Our goal is to have zero waste from lunches. We will have a recycle bin available for recyclable products and a compost bin for leftover food.

Please pack your child's food in reusable containers and refillable water bottles. Any packaging that is not recyclable will be sent back home in the lunch boxes.

Sunscreen and Bug Spray

- Please apply sunscreen and bug spray PRIOR to your child's arrival.
- Do not put on bug spray and sunscreen in the carpool line.
  - If needed, you may pull over into one of our parking spots and apply there.

You may send extra sunscreen and bug spray with your child and it can be reapplied during the day if needed, but we want to make sure that each camper arrives to camp protected and ready to go.

Toys, Phones, Smart Watches and Other Electronic Devices

Please leave at home!

Our goal is to have your child connected to nature and not their toys or electronics during camp. No phones or handheld devices, smart watches, or toys etc. These devices distract the campers from being out in nature!

If your child has these at camp they will be asked to put them away in their backpacks and you will be contacted and asked for those items to be left at home.

Clothing, Shoes, & Bags

Please come prepared for a lot of outdoor fun, creek play, and getting very dirty. This is Nature Camp - we will go outside even if it is raining!

Clothing

- Weather appropriate clothing.
  - Sunny days = shorts, t-shirts, bathing suit, hiking shoes, etc.
  - Rainy days = rain jackets, waterproof shoes, hat, etc.
  - Change of clothes in a reusable (or plastic) bag.

Shoes

- Sneakers or hiking shoes
- Water shoes
  - We do not allow flip-flops, crocs, or in general open-toed shoes.*

Bags

- Have campers bring a backpack to help them carry all of their things.
  - Tote bags are not acceptable for camp! They are difficult for children to carry.

Other

- A towel for creek days

Please label everything your child will bring to camp (clothes, towels, water bottles, etc.).

Creek Play Days

We schedule one creek play day each camp week and two days on “creek week” themed camps.

- Our creek play time is dependent on the weather and water quality.
  - If we cannot have a creek play day due to the weather or water quality, we will have a water play time in our lower parking lot or another location with sprinklers and kiddie pools.
- Campers can wear clothes in the creek or bathing suits.
  - They must bring a change of clothes and shoes.
  - Full-Day campers will change clothes in our restrooms after creek play time.
  - Please come to camp ready for creek time.
- Half day campers will NOT change after creek time. Their creek time is at the end of the day - we go from creek time to check out time. Bring a towel for the car ride home or you can change your child in our parking lot.

*Shoes in the creek must stay on well. We find that crocs are too slippery and fall off. Old tennis shoes, teva, chaco, natives or other water style sandals/shoes are best. Rain boots tend to get filled up with sand and water and are not good for navigating rocks.

Camp Classes

Class Organization

Our camp classes are divided by age, with activities designed specifically for that age range. We group the children according to their birthdates - not necessarily their grade in school. We honor buddy requests when the children are in the same birth year. We only put siblings together if they are requested and are close in age, putting the older child with the younger child's class. We find that campers make new friends quickly and do best with children their own age!

Activities

Each camp week has a different theme. The activities and crafts are planned around the theme of the week. All camp classes will have outdoor hikes on our trails, time to play on our playground, a creek play time once a week (twice a week on a creek week), indoor camp crafts time, outdoor activities and games. Lunch and snack time might be indoors or outdoors depending on the weather.

Half Day Camp | 9:30am - 1:00pm

- Campers are 4 years old
  - With the exception of some young 5 year old's who prefer the half-day format.

- For half day camp, our camp teacher to child ratio is 1:10
  - Camp classes typically have 1-3 junior counselors (teen volunteers) assisting the camp teachers.

- Our half day class can have 4 year old's for only 4 hours maximum, per the guidelines from DECAL (Georgia Department of Early Childcare and Learning).

Half Day Drop Off & Pick-Up Procedure

Drop-off is from 9:15 - 9:40am.

- Our Drop-off location is at the Austin Elementary Bus Lane!
  - Camp drop-off is carpool drop off only. Campers will be assisted out of their car and escorted to their specific camp class waiting area.
  - See the map on **page 7** for details.

- A camp class check out card will be given to the parent at drop off. You will need to write the child's first and last name on this card in large print.
  - Please show this card at drop off and pick up.

Pick-up is at 1:00 pm

- Half Day carpool pick up is at our regular main parking lot location.
  - See the map for details.

Full Day | 9:30am - 3:30pm

- Campers must be from 5 years old - 11 years old.

- For full day camp, our camp teach to child ratio is 1:14
  - Camp classes typically have 1-3 junior counselors (teen volunteers) assisting the camp teachers.

- We are required to keep the minimum age for our full day campers to 5 years old by the rules set by DECAL for summer camp programs.

Full Day Drop Off & Pick Up Procedure

Drop off is from 9:15 - 9:40am.

- Our drop off location is at the Austin Elementary Bus Lane!
  - Camp drop off is carpool drop off only. Campers will be assisted out of their car and escorted to their specific camp class waiting area.
  - See the map on **page 7** for details.

- A camp class check out card will be given to the parent at drop off. You will need to write the child's first and last name on this card in large print.
  - Please show this card at drop off and pick up.

- If you would like to walk or bike your child to camp please come at the end of carpool, at 9:35am, to drop your child off at Austin Lane

Pick up is at 3:15 - 3:40pm.

- Our pick up location is at the Austin Elementary Bus Lane!

- Please have your check-out card visible with your child's name written on it in large lettering.
  - We will call for your camper via two-way radio and they will be escorted to meet you at your car.
  - If the pick-up person does not have the check-out card with them or a picture of the card, we will check the pick-up person's ID. Please email camp director with your pick-up person's name.
  - This policy will ensure the safety of your child being picked up by the designated person and we will do everything we can to make sure that it does not slow down the check out procedure.

- If you have not picked up your child by 3:40pm your child will join *Adventure Club* and your account will be charged a fee of $23 per day.

Monday always takes the longest for drop-off and pick-up. Tuesday - Friday is a lot faster.

Thank you for your patience!

Drop-off & Pick-up Directions

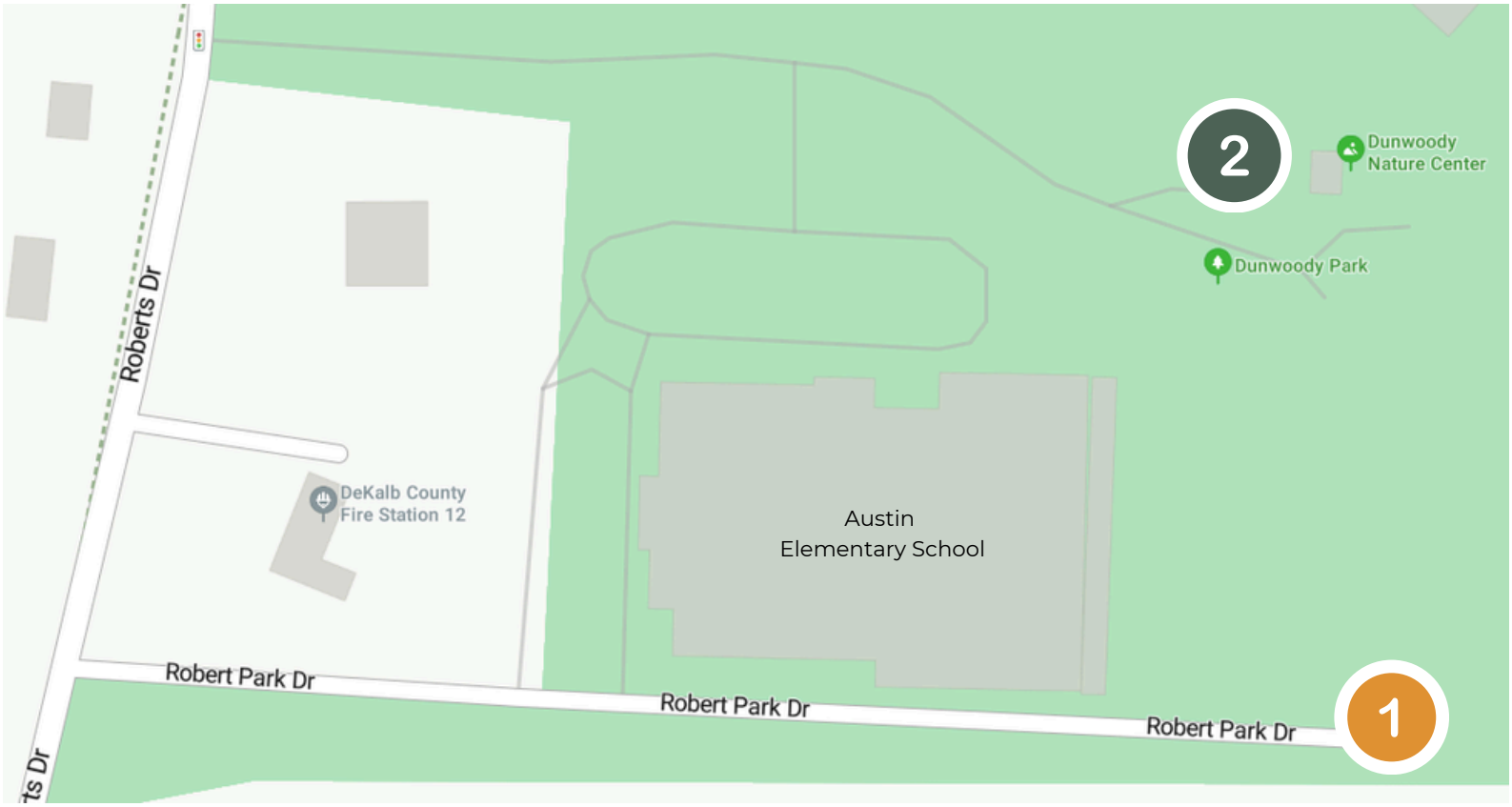
1 Full & Half Day Drop Off

Full Day Pick Up: Austin Elementary Bus Lane, Dunwoody, GA 30338

- This entrance is between Wyntercreek Subdivision and the fire station south of our main entrance.
- Look for a sign that says, “Dunwoody Nature Center - Summer Camp”.
- Pull all the way to the end of this driveway, there is a cul-de-sac turn around at the end.
- This is where our Dunwoody Nature Center staff will meet you.
- This is the location of Full Day pick-up at 3:15 - 3:40pm.

2 Half Day Pick Up: Dunwoody Nature Center Main Parking Lot

- Half Day Pick Up at 1:00pm.
- Late Drop off after 9:40am or Early Pick up before 3:00pm.
- Early Bird Care from 8:00 - 9:00am.
- Adventure Club Care from 4:00 - 6:00pm.



You can click the address or scan the barcode for google map directions!

Late Check-In

If you arrive after 9:40 a.m., please first check the carpool drop-off area to confirm that carpool has ended. If you have missed carpool, please park in the main parking lot and walk your child into the main building.
A staff member will check your child in and escort them to their classroom.
For the safety and accountability of all campers, please do not take your child directly to their classroom. All campers arriving after carpool must be checked in at the main building before joining their group.

Early Check-Out

If you need to pick up your child prior to 3:00pm you will need to email camp@dunwoodynature.org with the expected pick up time.

- You will need to park and walk into the main building's front office to check them out.
- Please allow time for this process as sometimes it takes awhile for the camper to gather their belongings and get to the office.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent from the camp day, please notify the office at your earliest convenience.

- There are no refunds for camp absences. See our refund policy for details.

Early Bird (Early Care)

If you are registered for our Early Bird option, you will need to park your vehicle and walk your child into the main building or Learning Lab (we will notify you which place each week) for check in.

- **Early Bird will start at 8:00am.**
- No early bird drop off after 9:00am.
  - This interferes with our carpool drop off and you must join the carpool line if you arrive after 9:00 am.

Adventure Club (After Care)

If you have registered and paid for our Adventure Club after care program, you will need to park and walk into our main building or Learning Lab (we will notify you which place each week) where you can retrieve your child and sign out.

- **Adventure Club pick up is between 4:00 - 6:00pm.**
  - We occasionally have room in our early and late care, please email the camp director if you would like to add this service.

Health & Safety

Illness

If your child...

- Has been sick, they must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to camp.
- Has an active cough or runny nose, we ask that you keep your child home until they are feeling better.
- Has had a stomach bug, they need to be free of those symptoms for at least 24 hours.
- Manifests symptoms of illness at camp, we will give you a call and ask that you pick up your child.

We have the children wash their hands prior to eating lunch or snacks and after bathroom breaks. We also wipe the camp tables down each day with disinfectant.

Allergies

Please make us aware of any food or other allergies that your child has with detailed instructions. You can send those instructions to the camp director via email.

We will alert the staff and class families if we need to enforce any restrictions. We will keep your EpiPens or other allergy medications with the camp teacher or in our camp office per your instructions.

Other Medications

While our staff is First Aid/AED trained, there is not a nurse on staff. We cannot be responsible for dispensing medication to your child.

If you have medications that need to be taken during the day, you will need to make arrangements to come to the nature center and dispense the medications to your child.

Campers with Special Needs

We would like every child to be able to enjoy nature camp! Please help us accommodate your camper to the best of our abilities.

If your child has any of the following:

- special needs (either behavior or physical in nature)
- medications for behavior or medical reasons
- has an IEP in their school for behavior or other reasons
- have an aide in their classroom

We ask that you contact the camp director prior to registration so we can determine if nature camp is a safe and good fit: camp@dunwoodynature.org.

Behavior

Please review the Nature Center's Behavior Policy with your child and sign the **Behavior Form**.

We expect each child to abide by our Camper Code of Conduct. The camp teacher will review this with the campers on the first day of camp.

If a camper has problems keeping to the agreement:

- **1st occurrence**
  - they will be reminded of the agreement
- **2nd occurrence**
  - they will be asked to speak with a camp director
  - the parent will be notified via email or phone call of the first two incidents
- **3rd occurrence**
  - child will be sent to the camp director's office
  - we will give the parent a call to speak with the child over the phone
- **4th occurrence**
  - the parent will be asked to pick up the child and dismissed from camp
  - no refunds will be issued due to behavior problems

Refund and Cancellation Policy

If you cancel more than 2 weeks from the start date, we refund 80% of the camp or program fee. You will need to email the camp director with your request. camp@dunwoodynature.org

There are NO refunds or credits given during the two weeks before your camp starts.

Absences

If your child misses camp for any reason please email us to keep us informed of the absences. There are no refunds or transfers for absences.

Transfers

You may transfer your camp to another week in the same calendar year if there is availability, there is no refund in this situation for prorating. For example, if you want to transfer a 5 day week for a 3 day week at another time, you will not be refunded the difference. A transfer must take place in one transaction. Once you transfer a week, it is nonrefundable.

Communication

Camp communication will come to you via email. A camp letter will come to you a week prior to your camp week. A camp newsletter will come to you on the last day of the camp week. If you do not receive these publications and have checked your spam or junk folders, please reach out to the camp director camp@dunwoodynature.org.