



Summer 2023

# DISCOVERY CAMPS

## Welcome Guide



Thank you for registering your camper for Discovery Camp at Tifft Nature Preserve!  
Please carefully review the information listed before camp.

### Camp Age Groups

- Ages 3-5 (children entering preschool to K in Fall 2023)
- Ages 5-8 (children entering grades 1 to 2 in Fall 2023)
- Ages 8-10 (children entering grades 3 to 5 in Fall 2023)

### Daily Schedule

- **DROP-OFF: 8:30-9 AM and PICK-UP: 4-4:30 PM**

*We pause for nature and maintain flexibility at all times while aiming to follow the schedule below:*

- **9:00 AM** | Camper Check-In
- **9:30 AM** | Snack, Activities & Trail Hike
- **12:00 PM** | Lunch & Free-Time
- **1:00 PM** | Crafts, Games, & Activities
- **2:30 PM** | Snack & Quiet-Time
- **3:00 PM** | Crafts, Games, & Activities
- **4:00 PM** | Camper Check-Out
- **LATE PICK-UP: 4:30 PM-5:30 PM.**

*(\$12 per 30 minutes per day; must be arranged at time of registration)*

Please ensure your camper eats breakfast before arriving to Camp so they are not hungry during our morning hike.

# SUMMER 2023 DISCOVERY CAMP WELCOME GUIDE

## Before Camp

- In the weeks before camp starts, look for an email with instruction on how to submit the Camper Health and Emergency Form and Character Pledge electronically. These forms and a copy of the camper's immunization record need to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to their first day of Camp.
  - **Campers will not be permitted at Camp until fully completed forms and immunization records are received.**
  - If you have submitted forms to BMS, there is no need to submit the forms again to Tifft.
  - Forms may also be printed and faxed to 716-824-6718.
  - **Please do not submit your forms via email.**
- Communicate any special circumstances that Tifft staff should be aware of to make sure your camper has a great week! Email [tifftcamps@sciencebuff.org](mailto:tifftcamps@sciencebuff.org) or call 716-825-6397.
- If you did not register for late pick-up and your camper will need to be at Tifft later than 4:30pm on any day, please contact Tifft as soon as possible- [tifftcamps@sciencebuff.org](mailto:tifftcamps@sciencebuff.org) or call 716-825-6397.
- To ensure all are able to enjoy their camp experience, please remind your camper to adhere to camp behavioral expectations on a daily basis. These include respecting all campers, camp staff, camp facilities, following directions, and keeping hands and feet to oneself. Violations of camp expectations may result in permanent removal from camp.

## What to wear and bring

- For their safety and comfort, all campers should wear:
  - Clothes that can get dirty (we're a nature camp after all!)
  - Layers appropriate for the day's weather. It can be chilly at Tifft in the morning and quite hot in the afternoon. Dressing in layers helps campers adjust to these changes and remain comfortable.
  - Long pants are preferred
  - Closed shoes with socks, **no sandals, flipflops, or foam clogs**
- Items campers need to bring each day:
  - Change of clothes including socks and underwear (mud and spills happen even in older campers!)
  - Sweatshirt or light jacket
  - Hat
  - Rain jacket or poncho
  - Campers in the 3-5 age group will be scheduled a quiet time. Please bring a blanket or beach towel large enough to lie down on.

# SUMMER 2023 DISCOVERY CAMP WELCOME GUIDE

## What to wear and bring, cont'd

- Items campers need to bring each day, cont'd:
  - Lunch (packed in reusable containers. No refrigeration is provided.)
  - Water bottle, labeled with your camper's name
  - Sunscreen
  - *Optional- Insect repellent*
- A small morning and afternoon snack will be provided, but feel free to pack your own.
- Besides lunch boxes, all items above may stay at Tifft throughout the week and go home with campers on Fridays.
- Please leave all personal items- toys, electronics, stuffed animals, etc.- at home so that they do not get lost or damaged. Tifft is not responsible for any lost or damaged items brought from home. Use of cell phones and other electronics is prohibited during the camp program. If you need to reach your camper, please call Tifft at 716-825-6397.
- Apply a layer of sunscreen at home or at Tifft prior to signing in your camper.

## To drop-off your camper

- Drop-off begins no earlier than 8:30 am.
- Upon arrival at Tifft, please drive back and park in the parking lot near the Herb and Jane Darling Environmental Education Center. During morning drop-off, please do not pull-up or park along the driveway. Staff will greet you and your camper outside the front door of the Darling Center.
- Adults dropping off campers and children who are not attending Camp will not be permitted to enter the Darling Center for any reason during drop-off and pick-up times.
- Staff greeting you and completing the check-in process will direct your camper inside the Darling Center where they will be greeted by another staff member who will assist them in getting to the correct classroom.

## To pick-up your camper

- Drive back to the parking lot near the Darling Center and loop around the island in the parking lot.
- When the lane is clear, pull up to the right side of the driveway near the Darling Center (see photo below.)



- Please stay inside your vehicle and wait for a staff member to come to you and be ready with a form of photo identification to present to staff.
  - ***Campers will not be released to anyone that cannot present photo identification or whose name is not on the pick-up list on their Health and Emergency Form. This includes parents.***
- Once staff has confirmed your name on the camper's pick-up list, they will radio to the staff inside the Darling Center.
- Counselors will alert the camper that they are getting picked up and staff inside the building will monitor campers as they leave the Darling Center.
- Staff outside the building will assist campers in getting to the correct vehicle.
- If a camper will be picked up prior to 3:45pm, please let staff know ahead of time and upon arrival, remain in your car and call Tifft at 716-825-6397.