

# Summer 2026

# 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:

- Children entering preschool to K in Fall 2026
- Children entering grades 1 to 2 in Fall 2026
- Children entering grades 3 to 5 in Fall 2026
- \*NEW! For Weeks 5 and 7 - Children entering grades 6 to 8 in Fall 2026

*All campers must have independent bathroom skills (no Pull-ups).*

## Daily Schedule:

### **8:30–9 A.M. DROP-OFF and 4–4:30 P.M. PICK-UP**

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

- 9:00 a.m.** Camper Check-In
- 9:30 a.m.** Snack, Activities & Trail Hike
- 12:00 p.m.** Lunch & Free Time
- 1:00 p.m.** Crafts, Games, & Activities
- 2:30 p.m.** Snack & Quiet-Time
- 3:00 p.m.** Crafts, Games, & Activities
- 4:00 p.m.** Camper Check-Out

**LATE PICK-UP: 4:30–5:30 P.M.** (\$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.**



## Before Camp:

- In the weeks before camp starts, look for an email from CampDoc on how to electronically submit your camper's health profile, emergency contacts, permission for pick-up, and immunizations. Please submit all information no later than 2 weeks prior to the first day of Camp.
  - **Campers will not be permitted at Camp until fully completed CampDoc forms and immunization records are received.**
  - If you have submitted forms to BMS, there is no need to submit the forms again to Tifft.
  - **If you have submitted information for camp in a previous year using CampDoc, your login will remain the same and you will be asked to update your camper's records or resubmit certain fields in preparation for the current year.**
- Before camp begins, please communicate any special circumstances or camper needs 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 4:30 p.m. 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-toe 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, and a 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.
- Lunch (*packed in reusable containers. No refrigeration is provided.*)
- Water bottle, labeled with your camper's name

## What to Wear and Bring, Continued:

- 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.
- *Optional:* apply sunscreen and tick repellent at home or prior to morning check-in. As per the Department of Health, staff are *not* permitted to apply sunscreen or repellent to children. Ticks are present throughout WNY and may be found in this area. Campers are instructed to stay on trails, however daily tick checks at home are advised.
- 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.
- If your camper has prescription medication they take during the day or for emergencies per CampDoc information, please hand the clearly labeled medicine to Camp staff in the morning so it can be secured.



## To Drop Off Your Camper:

- Drop-off begins no earlier than 8:30 a.m.
- Upon arrival at Tifft Nature Preserve, please drive down the driveway and **park** in the **back parking lot** next to the Education Center. **Please do not pull-up curbside for morning drop-off.**
- Escort your camper(s) to the Camper Check-In station outside the front entrance of the Education Center. Staff will greet you and complete the check-in process. Staff will then direct your camper inside the Education Center to their assigned group.
- Adults dropping off campers and children who are not attending Camp will not be permitted to enter the Education Center for any reason during drop-off and pick-up times. The Education Center is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## To Pick Up Your Camper:

- Drive back to the parking lot near the Education 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 Education 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 Education Center.
- Counselors will alert the camper that they are getting picked up and staff inside the building will monitor campers as they leave the Education Center.
- Staff outside the building will assist campers in getting to the correct vehicle.
- For EARLY or LATE PICK-UP: 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 (716) 825-6397. If a camper has scheduled late pick-up, please park and enter the Education Center to present your photo identification.



Tift Nature Preserve | 1200 Fuhrmann Blvd, Buffalo, NY 14203