

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Summer Camp Information and Policies



Registration

Enroll your camper based on what grade they will enter in Fall 2026; prices are listed per child, per camp.

1. Visit <https://dmbotanicalgarden.com/summer-camps/> to find the camp you want to enroll in and select “register.”
 - a. **Members:** Once you are redirected to our purchase page, be sure to sign in at the top of the page to apply your member discount!
 - i. Your login email address is the one associated with your membership. If you have not created an account with your email address, please click register. If you’ve forgotten your password, reset it to receive your discount.
2. Complete the required **Camp Participant Health and Consent Form**. This will be provided to you electronically in your confirmation email.
 - a. Registration is not complete until we receive the Camp Participant Health and Consent Form regarding allergies, chronic illnesses, and medications. A physical is not required to attend camp.

Wait List Policy

If a camp is full, we will replace the registration link with the wait list form on our website. You must complete this form to be added to the wait list. If a spot becomes available, we will contact the first name on the list for that week of camp. If we are unable to reach that person within 24 hours, we will move on to the second name, and so on. You do not need to pay to be on the wait list.

Communication

Information will be communicated with you using the email address you provide during registration, so be sure to provide accurate information. You will receive an email receipt after you register for camp. A pre-camp information email will be sent approximately one week prior to camp. It is important that you read and review this email to prepare for camp. The Botanical Garden is not responsible for lack of notification if not provided with accurate contact details. You can reach the Botanical Garden education team by calling 515.323.6290 ext. 6 or emailing education@dmbotanicalgarden.com.

Cancellations

Cancellations must be emailed to education@dmbotanicalgarden.com. Cancellations made before Friday, May 15, 2026, will receive a full refund, minus a \$50 cancellation fee. Cancellations after this date are non-refundable but can be transferred to another camp session based on availability. Refunds are not given for missed days. Camps cancelled by the Botanical Garden will be fully refunded. Credit card processing fees are non-refundable.

Communicable Illness

To keep camp participants, volunteers, and staff healthy and safe, we ask that if your camper has active symptoms of communicable illness including, but not limited to: nausea, vomiting, fever, diarrhea, etc. that they not attend camp until 24 hours after symptoms elapse without medication. If your camper is diagnosed with a communicable illness, we ask that you notify our staff, and that the child remains at home for the remainder of the week unless a written doctor’s note recommending the ability to return is provided. The Botanical Garden reserves the right to assess and remove a child from camp should they exhibit any symptoms of communicable illness. Refunds are not given for missed days.

Drop Off/Pick Up

Drop off will be from 8:45-9 a.m. and pick up will be from 4-4:15 p.m. Please drop off and pick up your child on time each day. Doors will be locked prior to 8:45 a.m. We cannot assume responsibility for supervising children outside of camp program hours. If campers are not picked up by 4:15 pm, a \$10 fee is assessed for every 15 minutes that each camper remains. Only persons specified on the Camper Participant Health & Consent Form will be allowed to pick up your child from camp, and they will be asked to show a proper form of identification.

Lunch

Lunch is not included with camp registration. Campers should bring a water bottle, sack lunch, and snack. Please note: refrigeration is *not* provided.

Clothing

- **Recommendations:** Camp runs rain or shine, hot or cold, and we will be outside for much of the day. Please dress your camper for the weather. Layers or jackets are great for transitioning between our classroom and indoor/outdoor garden areas. Leggings or layers are encouraged to be worn under dresses or skirts. Closed toe shoes are strongly encouraged. We also recommend labelling your camper's belongings.
- **Items to avoid:** Flip flops or 'special' clothes - campers will be exploring, creating and playing and may get dirty. Please label your camp participant's belongings.

Behavior Expectations Please read and discuss these expectations with your camper:

Our team strives to create a fun, engaging, accessible camp environment for all campers. Safety is our top priority. Our small multi-age classroom style camps inspire youth to explore and learn about the natural world. Campers must be able to positively function in a group learning environment to be successful at camp.

- **Be Safe:**
Always stay together as a group. Respect boundaries, keeping your hands, feet, and objects to yourself. No rough play is allowed. Wear appropriate clothing for both outdoor and indoor activities (varying temperatures), including shoes that will not fall off.
- **Be Kind:**
Campers are expected to be kind and respectful toward instructors, other campers, and the Botanical Garden and its plants. This means actively listening when others are speaking, respecting the personal boundaries of others, and respecting the plants that are growing at the garden.
- **Be Responsible:**
Campers must clean up after themselves. Campers must share the supplies and tools used during camp and take good care of them while they are used.

Our instructors work hard to create camp experiences that are camper-centered and full of engaging activities throughout the Botanical Garden's unique environment. This robust preparation does not always prevent disruptive and/or challenging behaviors by campers.

When disruptive camper behaviors are interfering with the camp experience, we follow a **4 TRY policy**:

First Try: Camp instructors will attempt to resolve the issue calmly and compassionately with the camper. Guardians will be notified at pickup of this conversation and ask for tools to help improve the behavior.

Second Try: If disruptive behavior continues, the Education Manager will attempt to resolve the issue with the camper. A call to the guardian will be made to notify them of the continued concerns.

Third Try: If disruptive behavior continues, the guardian will be contacted to pick up the camper immediately, for the remainder of the camp day, but permitted to return the following camp day.

Fourth Try: If disruptive behavior persists, the guardian will be contacted to pick up the camper immediately, and the camper will not return for the remainder of camp.

If a camper's behavior endangers themselves, other camp participants, volunteers, or staff, the camper be removed from camp immediately without following the 4 Try Policy.

The Botanical Garden reserves the right to terminate registrations. Refunds will not be given for behavior-related withdrawals.

Liability Waiver & Agreement

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden strives to provide an enjoyable, safe and educational camp experience for all participants. However, participants registering their child in programs and activities must recognize the potential risk of injury that participation entails. In order to reduce the risks, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden requires participants to follow all Botanical Garden and Camp safety rules. By my agreement below, I acknowledge and recognize the inherent risks of physical injury to participants in the Camp Program. I agree to assume the full risk of any and all loss, damages or injuries my child may sustain as a result of their participation and activities in the Camp program. I do hereby fully release discharge and hold harmless the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden and its agents, volunteers and employees from and against any and all liability arising out of or relating to my child's participation in the Camp program, including but not limited to causes of actions, suits, damages, judgement, or claims for personal injury and/or death.

I hereby authorize and consent to Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, its employees, volunteers and agents, my child's physician or any physician in their group practice, on my behalf and in my stead, to administer emergency medical assistance to my child. This permission and consent extends to the right of the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, its employees, volunteers and agents, to arrange for immediate medical treatment by a licensed physician and/or other medical personnel, and for such physician or other medical personnel to apply such emergency techniques which in their judgment they deem appropriate to treat any injury sustained by my child. I further authorize the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, by and through its employees, volunteers and agents, to administer such emergency medical treatment as is necessary for the health and welfare of my child.

I give permission for my child, listed above, to participate in all camp activities. I further understand that Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden is not an allergen-free environment and that, if my child is susceptible to allergic reactions, it is my responsibility to complete the medication authorization forms and notify the Botanical Garden of my child's allergies.