Virtual Summer Camp
FAQs

**Why is Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh having virtual camps instead of in-person camps?**
In order to provide innovative, safe and fun programs within the guidelines provided by the state and local health authorities, we have chosen to provide 10 weeks of virtual summer camps and studios.

The health and wellness of our visitors, members, staff and the community is of the utmost importance to us. In Pennsylvania’s current Yellow Phase of reopening, museums are not permitted to open to the public.

**THE BASICS**

**How many campers will be in each session?**
Camp is limited to 14 participants and 2-3 facilitators to ensure an individualized experience.

**Is there a discount for members?**
Yes! There is 15% off for members. The discount will be applied when you check out.

**Who is teaching Virtual Summer Camp?**
Summer camps will be led by highly trained educators on staff at Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh. Camps are planned by the Education Department and aim to provide the same innovative experiences that inspire joy, creativity and curiosity that our in-person programs provide.

**What platform will you be using?**
All summer camp workshops will be taught through Zoom.

**Does an adult need to be present during camp?**
Adults must be present for Explorer Camp for ages 3-6. Your participation is highly encouraged.

The Museum will facilitate all the workshops for Adventure Camps for ages 7 - 10 and Youth Studios for ages 11 - 13. We ask that you give them a safe space to explore challenges and the bounds of their own curiosity, and we’ll take care of the rest. We’re excited to learn with them!

**How should my child dress for camp?**
Your child should be dressed comfortably and ready to partake in some potentially messy activities! Please dress in school-as cameras will be on during the online sessions.
THE VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE

What are you doing to ensure a safe online environment for camps?
The link to each week’s camp’s Zoom rooms will only be provided to campers that are registered for that camp. We will ask each child to set their user name as their first name and last initial. We will use the ‘Waiting Room’ feature each day and participants will only be let into the room if their name matches the attendance sheet. The private chat functions will be shut off for participants and they will only be permitted to directly message the facilitator.

How much screen time will camp entail?

- **Explorer Camp (ages 3-6 and a caregiver):** Two (2) 30-minute sessions per day, 5 days a week
- **Adventurer Camp (ages 7-10):** Three (3) 2-hour sessions per week
- **Summer Youth Studios (ages 11-13):** Two (2) 2-hour sessions per week + one optional 1-hour session per week

What is the Virtual Summer Camp schedule?

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<tr>
<td>Explorer Camp</td>
<td>9:00-9:30am screen time 9:30-10:00am playtime 10:00-10:30 am screen time</td>
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<td>Adventurer Camp</td>
<td>10am-12pm Virtual Workshop</td>
<td>Prompt + independent work</td>
<td>10am-12pm Virtual Workshop</td>
<td>Prompt + independent work</td>
<td>10am-12pm Virtual Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Youth Studios</td>
<td>1pm-3pm Virtual Workshop</td>
<td>Prompt + office hours from 1-2pm</td>
<td>1pm-3pm Virtual Workshop</td>
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What are office hours?
This is coworking time for learners who want a more social experience or to ask deeper questions. This is a time for sharing and seeking resources and communal trouble-shooting while working on camp-related projects.

What will my child get out of camp?
Your child can expect to explore new tools, materials, processes, and ideas. Each week will focus on a different theme and learning goals as listed in the camp descriptions.

What are the expectations for my child during camp?

- First and foremost, we ask that everyone follow the golden rule and treat others as they wish to be treated.
- Take turns when speaking so all voices are heard.
- Keep your device’s camera on during workshops to help facilitators support learners and ensure everyone is working in a safe manner.
- Attend each session. Sessions will build upon each other.
- Keep any breaks to the time designated by the camp educator.

How can I support my child during camp?

- Please provide a safe space for your child to focus and be creative while attending Virtual Camp. Keep all the materials and tools they need for the week’s camp in this space if possible. Help make this space a quiet place to work if possible.
- Independent challenges will be provided to push campers to dive deeper in exploring a process, not necessarily creating a finished product. If they find themselves struggling, encourage them to work through the issue. Failure is an important part of the creative process. Encourage them to write down their questions and bring them to the group during the next session.
- Ask open-ended questions to encourage them to keep thinking through their projects, such as:
  - Can you tell me about how you did that?
  - What more do you notice?
  - What made you decide that?
  - What’s next?
TOOLS & MATERIALS

What does my child need to participate in camp?

- A computer, tablet, or phone with working internet
  
  *Please read the descriptions of all camps, some require a device that allows you to take photos.*

- Basic tools: scissors, tape, pencils, markers
  
  *If you don’t have access to these materials, please let us know.*

- Some camps may ask you to supply natural materials such as leaves, recycled materials such as plastic containers, and basic office supplies.

What tools and materials does the Museum provide for my child for camp?

For each camp, we’ll provide most of the tools and materials needed for the activities. Camp boxes containing these tools and materials will be available for pick up at the Museum from 4:00 - 7:00 pm on the Thursday before your camp week starts. You can also opt to have your camp box shipped to you for an additional cost of $15.

REGISTRATION

How do I register for virtual summer camp?

You can register for camp by following the registration link on the camp homepage at [www.pittsburghkids.org/education/camps](http://www.pittsburghkids.org/education/camps).

When does registration for camp close?

Registration closes (14) fourteen days before each camp begins to ensure we can provide materials for each participant. You can pick up your materials at the Children’s Museum from 4:00 -7:00 pm on the Thursday before your camp week starts. If you would like materials shipped to your home for an additional fee of $15.

Can I register for only part of the week of camp?

All online camp sessions are designed to build off each other. In order for your child to get the full experience from a week-long camp, we ask that they attend every scheduled session. Registration for a partial week is not available and discounts or refunds will not be provided for campers who aren’t able to attend each session.

I need to cancel my registration. How do I cancel and can I receive a refund?

You can cancel your registration by contacting Matthew Winnning at mwinning@pittsburghkids.org. Cancelations made 7 days before the start of camp will receive a full refund. Cancellations after 7 days will receive a partial refund to account for a materials cost. We appreciate your understanding on this matter.
Can multiple kids in the same household attend the same camp?
Each camp is curated for the age group for which it is offered. In order for your child and the other campers to get the most out of camp, we ask that you only send multiple children to a camp if they fall within the same, appropriate age group. We want everyone to get the best experience possible out of camp and for the educators to be available to support each learner to the best of our ability. **Please register each child individually.**

**I have more questions, who can I contact?**
Please contact camps@pittsburghkids.org.

*Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh is committed to creating an accessible and equitable learning environment for all learners. Please contact us if you or your child require any accommodations.*

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