



2026 CAMP FAMILY INFORMATION HANDBOOK

JUNE 1 – AUGUST 7, 2026



- ★ Important 2026 camp policies and procedures
- ★ What to expect during your camper's session
- ★ How to prepare for a successful camp experience

WELCOME TO CAMP!

Welcome to Clearwater Marine Aquarium's Marine Science Camp and Marine Academy Camps! In this handbook, you will find important information about our 2026 camp policies and procedures, as well as details on what to expect during your camper's session and how to best prepare for camp.

Our summer camps combine fun and learning through hands-on activities, aquarium tours, educational crafts, and other engaging experiences designed to encourage curiosity and active participation in a supportive environment.

Our camps are organized by age to ensure activities are developmentally appropriate and enjoyable for all participants. Each age group offers a variety of morning, afternoon, and/or full-day camp options. To help your camper have the best possible experience, it is important to register them for the correct age-level camp.

Creating a safe, welcoming, and enriching learning environment is a top priority. Camps are supervised by trained Clearwater Marine Aquarium educators and college-age interns who have completed background screenings. All educators are certified in First Aid and CPR/AED. Clearwater Marine Aquarium is also proud to be a KultureCity Sensory Inclusive® organization.

For camps that include snorkeling, Coast Guard–certified captains operate and supervise the boats alongside CMA staff and interns. Snorkeling activities take place in shallow, standing-depth water, and no prior snorkeling experience is required. However, all campers must be able to swim in order to participate. Participant numbers follow Coast Guard regulations to ensure safety at all times. Due to safety requirements—including classroom capacities, boat limits, and staff-to-camper ratios—we are unable to overbook any camp programs.

This handbook is designed to support families before and during the camp session by offering clear guidance and helpful resources. Thank you for choosing Clearwater Marine Aquarium—we are excited to welcome your camper and look forward to a fun and educational summer!



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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Camp Supervisor Team – Office: 727-441-1790 x 2270

Camp Supervisor Team – Cell Phone: 727-409-6290

Please note: This phone is only monitored from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM during the summer camp season.

Camp Supervisor Team Email: camps@cmaquarium.org



GUARDIAN GATHERING NIGHTS

We invite you to join us for one of our Guardian Gathering Nights designed just for you—our valued camp guardians! Whether you're a seasoned CMA camp family or gearing up for your first summer camp adventure with us, our virtual sessions are designed to provide invaluable insights into our most frequently asked questions. This is also an opportunity for guardians to connect with our dedicated camp staff, allowing you to gain a comprehensive understanding of what to expect for both new and returning families. Here's what you can anticipate during these sessions:

- Get an overview of the latest policy and procedure changes for 2026, ensuring your experience aligns seamlessly with our commitment to safety, education, and enjoyment.
- Ease first-day jitters by asking all of your questions before arriving at camp.
- Discover your camp's exciting excursions and get a snapshot of our fun-packed schedules!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming sessions:

- May 12th, 2026, at 5:00 PM
- May 28th, 2026, at 5:00 PM

Please note: The session on May 28th will be recorded and available upon request. To request access, email camps@cmaquarium.org.

- June 24th, 2026, at 5:00 PM

Virtual meeting information will be sent out via email after registration. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at camps@cmaquarium.org or call 727-441-1790, extension 2270.



GENERAL CAMP INFORMATION

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- Space is limited, and camps fill up quickly. Register for summer camps online at cmaquarium.org.
 - No email, in-person, or phone reservations will be accepted.
- CMA's Marine Science Camp and Marine Academy Camp are designed for participants aged 5 to 18. To join, campers must be a minimum of 5 years old, have completed Kindergarten, and be no older than 18—currently in high school or having graduated within the most recent semester when their camp begins.
 - For Advanced Marine Biology, campers must be 15 years old by the day their camp begins. Age verification may be requested prior to the first day of camp.
- Campers must be comfortable in the water and possess basic swimming skills; however, they do not need to be advanced swimmers. All campers must also be self-sufficient—able to use the restroom and change their clothing independently.
- Campers must be registered for a camp that aligns with their age. Clearwater Marine Aquarium reserves the right to cancel or modify any registration that does not match the camper's age and reassign them to the appropriate age group, if space allows.
- During the enrollment process, complete the registration form in full. A receipt will be emailed upon completing your reservation. Save and print the receipt to bring it with you on the first day of camp.

CAMP TIMES

- Each camp is a five-day program, held Monday through Friday during the selected week.
- Morning camp sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Lunch Bunch runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Afternoon camp sessions run from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Families may choose to enroll in both morning and afternoon sessions during the same week for a full-day experience (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Lunch Bunch is included for campers registered for both a morning session and an afternoon session in the same week.
- The following camps are full-day only and run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Lunch Bunch is included: Animal Care 101, Ecosystem Advocates, Field Investigation, & Advanced Marine Biology

LUNCH BUNCH

Need a little extra time between camp sessions? Lunch Bunch is a supervised mid-day break where campers can eat lunch. Campers must bring their own lunch or pre-purchase a catered option during registration. **Lunch Bunch is automatically included for:**

- Campers enrolled in both a morning and afternoon session during the same week
- Campers participating in a full-day camp program

Drop-off and Pick-up Times:

- Morning campers attending Lunch Bunch: Pick-up between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- Afternoon campers attending Lunch Bunch: Drop-off between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Price: \$25 (only applies if not enrolled in a full-day camp or both morning and afternoon sessions)

REGISTRATION ADD-ON ITEMS

CAMP T-SHIRTS

Camps can get messy, so please make sure your camper wears camp-appropriate clothing along with their camp shirt each day. Additional shirts can be purchased during registration. All complimentary and purchased shirts will be distributed at Monday check-in for each camp program.

Price: \$22 + tax

CAMP GEAR PACKS

Missing some essentials for your summer camp adventure? Camp Gear Packs are available for purchase when registering online and include everything your camper needs:

- CMA drawstring bag
- Mask and snorkel set
- A towel
- A reusable water bottle
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen

All Camp Gear Packs purchased during registration will be distributed at Monday check-in for each camp program. *Items are subject to change, and gear pack inventory is limited.*

Price: \$70 + tax

CATERED LUNCHES

Catered lunches are available for campers enrolled in both morning and afternoon sessions within the same week, full-day camps, or the Lunch Bunch. Each catered lunch includes an entrée, side, drink, and dessert. The weekly entree menu* includes:

- Monday – Turkey & Cheese Sandwich
- Tuesday – Cheeseburger
- Wednesday – Pizza
- Thursday – Chicken Tenders
- Friday – Corn Dog Nuggets

Lunches must be purchased for the entire week in advance; single-day purchases are not available. Additional food is not available for purchase at camp beyond the pre-paid catered option. We are unable to accommodate special dietary requests for catered lunches. If your child has dietary restrictions, we strongly recommend packing a lunch and snacks from home. Even for campers who purchase a catered lunch, please send snacks and a refillable water bottle each day to ensure they stay fueled and hydrated.

*Menu items are subject to change. Campers participating in Ecosystem Advocates, Advanced Marine Biology, or Field Investigation camps will receive alternate refrigerated lunch options on full-day field trip days.

Price: \$45 + tax

LUNCH BUNCH

Need extra time for early drop-off or late pick-up between camp sessions? Lunch Bunch is a supervised mid-day break from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. where campers can eat lunch and relax, either unwinding after their morning session or preparing for their afternoon session. Campers must bring their own lunch or pre-purchase a catered option during registration.

Drop-off and Pick-up Times:

- Morning campers attending Lunch Bunch: Pick-up between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- Afternoon campers attending Lunch Bunch: Drop-off between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Price: \$25 (only applies if not enrolled in a full-day camp or both morning and afternoon sessions)



REGISTRATION ADD-ON ITEMS

ADVENTURE PHOTO PACKAGE

"Seas" the moment with our exclusive camp photo package! Capture the magic of your camper's summer with our Adventure Photo Package, available Mondays during the first camp session check-in for \$129.

Sign up early to secure the best rate and ensure your camper's unforgettable moments are captured all week long! Pre-Purchase Price (during registration): **\$99 + tax**



SCAN QR CODE
FOR TERMS
OR CLICK HERE

THE ADVENTURE PHOTO PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Photos taken during one boat ride, snorkel excursion, and/or kayak trip (if applicable)
- For Jr. Animal Encounter and Animal Encounter Camps, the package includes interaction photos in place of snorkeling/kayaking photos
- Posed individual photos with fun backgrounds
- A group photo
- All digital images delivered in an online gallery



For any questions, please contact Fintastic Photo at photos@cmaquarium.org or submit a ticket via www.fintasticphoto.com

REFUND & DATE CHANGE POLICIES

CANCELATION & REFUND POLICY

Refunds on camp payments will be processed only after written cancellation requests are received via email at camps@cmaquarium.org.

- Cancellations received 15 or more days before the first day of camp: 80% refund of total camp cost.
- Cancellations received 5 to 14 days before the first day of camp: 50% refund of total camp cost.
- Cancellations received 0 to 4 days before the first day of camp: No refund will be issued.

Please note the following important policies:

- Once a cancellation request is received via email, your camper's spot is forfeited. If you change your mind, you must re-register through the regular camp registration process.
- No full or partial refunds, camp credits, make-up days, or discounts will be provided for missed days of camp. This includes absences due to illness, scheduling conflicts, or other personal circumstances.
- Refunds will not be issued for campers who attend one or more days of a program.
- A 100% refund can be issued for any camp add-ons as long as the product has not yet been issued to the camper.
- Clearwater Marine Aquarium also reserves the right to cancel a camp for any reason. If your camp is canceled, you will be contacted a minimum of three (3) days in advance. We require a minimum of three (3) participants per camp session. If we do not meet the minimum required participants by the Wednesday prior to camp, the camp will be canceled, and full refunds or rescheduling will be conducted.

DATE CHANGE POLICY

Requests to change your camper's week of attendance must be submitted in writing to camps@cmaquarium.org at least 5 business days prior to the start of the originally scheduled camp week. You may not request to change camp dates if your camper has already attended one or more days of the original camp week. All date change requests are subject to availability and must be approved by Clearwater Marine Aquarium Education management. The new camp date must have open spots. There are two options for changing your camper's week:

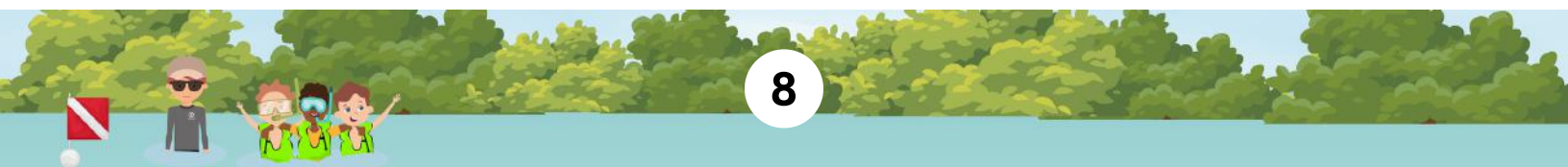
Option 1: Book the New Camp Online & Request a Refund

1. Visit our website to register for your preferred camp session (pending availability).
2. Email camps@cmaquarium.org with the confirmation order numbers for both the camp you are canceling and the new session.
3. Once your request is processed, we will issue a full refund for the camp you will no longer be attending.

Option 2: Request an Internal Transfer

1. Email camps@cmaquarium.org with the camp session you wish to switch to, along with your current camp order confirmation number.
2. If a spot is available in the new session, we will process the transfer internally. Please note: Availability will be confirmed when our team processes your request in the office, not at the time your email is received.
3. You will receive a modified confirmation email from camps@cmaquarium.org, which serves as your official record of the transfer. Your online account may still show your original registration, but the confirmation email you receive after the change is the official record.

For all other cancellations or changes, please refer to our camp cancellation and refund policy.



DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES

GENERAL INFORMATION

CMA's summer camp drop-off and pick-up occurs at 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL 33760. Parents and guardians must follow the designated procedures to ensure a smooth and safe experience for all campers.

- **Authorized Pick-Ups:** Camp staff will only release campers to adults listed as authorized pick-ups during registration. A valid photo ID is required for sign-out. If someone not listed will be picking up your child, you must notify CMA staff in advance, either in person at check-in or via email at camps@cmaquarium.org. Failure to notify staff may result in delays, as confirmation with the authorized parent/guardian will be required.
- **Security & Safety:** All persons, bags, parcels, and other items may be subject to screening upon arrival daily. No weapons, bicycles, skateboards, scooters, skates, glass containers, or balloons are allowed. Clear bags are recommended to reduce wait times.
- **Service Animals:** CMA welcomes service animals, which are defined as dogs trained to perform tasks for individuals with disabilities. Service animals must remain on a leash or harness under control of the owner. Pets other than certified service animals are not permitted in the facility during drop-off/pick-up.
- **Early Pick-Up Requests:** If a camper requires pick-up before 11:15 a.m. or 3:45 p.m., contact the Camp Supervisor by phone or email prior to the camp day. No early pick-ups are permitted between 11:15–11:30 a.m. or 3:45–4:00 p.m. Failure to notify staff in advance may result in delays of 30 minutes or more.
 - Please note: If your camper is scheduled for an offsite activity—such as a snorkeling trip, kayaking trip, or field trip—they may not return until the scheduled pick-up time. These excursions cannot return early for early pick-ups. However, if staff is notified ahead of time, campers may temporarily join a different camp group not on the excursion. Please note this group may not align with your camper's age, and they will remain with that group until the arranged pick-up time.



DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP TIMES

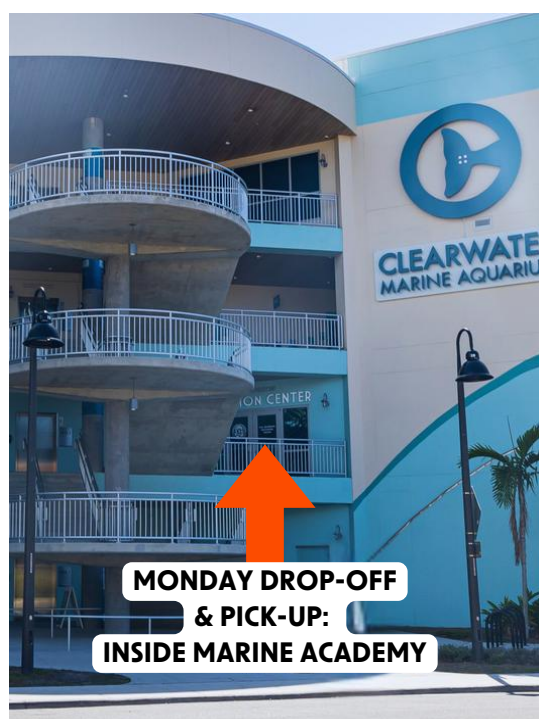
Camp Session	Drop-Off Time	Camp Start Time	Camp End Time	Pick-Up Time
Morning Session	8:15–8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	11:30–11:45 a.m. <i>No early pick-ups between 11:15–11:30 a.m.</i>
Afternoon Session	12:45–1:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:00–4:15 p.m. <i>No early pick-ups between 3:45–4:00 p.m.</i>
Full-Day Session	8:15–8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:00–4:15 p.m. <i>No early pick-ups between 3:45–4:00 p.m.</i>

Please note: Drop-off and pick-up windows close promptly at the times listed. If you arrive after the drop-off window has closed, you must contact the Camp Supervisor at 727-409-6290 for further instructions. If your camper is scheduled to participate in a snorkeling trip, kayaking trip, or off-site field trip, on-time drop-off is required. Camp groups will depart as scheduled, and excursions will not be delayed for late arrivals. If your camper arrives late, they may be temporarily placed with a different camp group that may not align with their age until the scheduled excursion returns.

MONDAY DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

On Mondays, all campers must be escorted into and out of the second-floor RO Jacobson Education Center by an adult during drop-off and pick-up.

- Guardians may temporarily park on the second floor of the parking garage for up to 25 minutes. Reserved parking spaces on the second floor are allocated for camp families on Mondays only. Cars exiting the garage after 25 minutes will be subject to the standard parking fee. Alternatively, free street parking is available, but you must adhere to local parking laws.
- During this time, guardians will receive an overview of reminders and have the opportunity to meet the camp staff to ask any additional questions they may have.
- Campers will receive their complimentary Camp T-shirt along with any items pre-purchased during registration. Additional Camp Gear Packs and Camp T-shirts may be available for purchase at the Welcome Desk while supplies last.



DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES

TUESDAY-FRIDAY CAR LINE INSTRUCTIONS

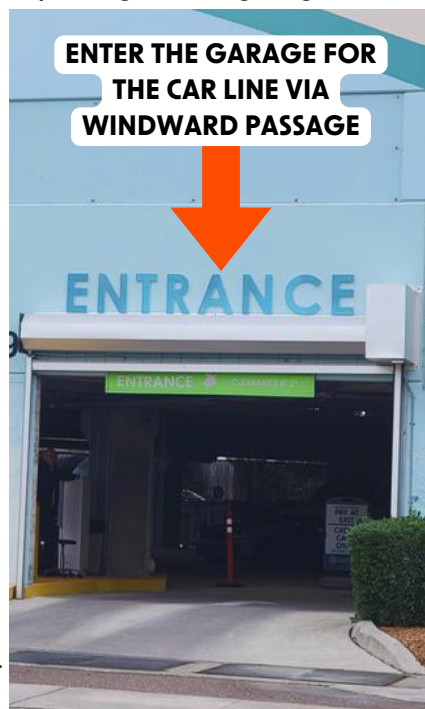
Drop-off and pick-up windows are as follows: 8:15–8:30 a.m., 11:30–11:45 a.m., 12:45–1:00 p.m., and 4:00–4:15 p.m. Please do not enter the garage or line up before these windows, as early arrivals can block traffic and make it difficult for others to safely navigate the garage.

Arrival and Drop-Off:

- Enter the parking garage and follow the signs to the first-floor car line.
- Campers must remain in the car until a CMA staff member is ready to check them in.
- The adult dropping off the camper will provide the camper's name and complete the digital sign-in.
- Once signed in, campers will be escorted to their classrooms by a CMA team member.

Departure and Pick-Up:

- Enter the parking garage and follow the signs to the first-floor car line.
- Place your camper's car line pass on the passenger-side dashboard to help speed up the process.
- CMA staff will verify the identity of the authorized adult using a valid photo ID before releasing the camper.
- Once verified, the authorized adult will complete the digital sign-out, and a team member will escort the camper to the vehicle.



TUESDAY-FRIDAY WALKER INSTRUCTIONS

Arrival and Drop-Off:

- Walkers should meet a CMA staff member at the first-floor entrance to the garage, near the spiral staircase.
- Campers must remain with their adult guardian until a CMA staff member is available to check them in.
- The adult dropping off the camper will provide the camper's name and complete the digital sign-in.
- Once signed in, campers will be escorted to their classrooms by a CMA team member..

Departure and Pick-Up:

- Guardians walking to pick up campers should wait at the first-floor entrance to the garage, near the spiral staircase, until CMA staff is ready to check out their camper. Please do not enter the parking garage to retrieve your camper.
- CMA staff will verify the identity of the authorized adult using a valid photo ID before releasing the camper.
- Once verified, the authorized adult will complete the digital sign-out, and a team member will escort the camper to you.



GETTING READY FOR CAMP

WHAT YOU SHOULD PACK

- **Snack & Water Bottle:** Pack at least one peanut-free & tree-nut-free snack each day. Send a refillable water bottle to keep your camper hydrated. Please avoid soda or carbonated beverages, as they may cause discomfort in the heat. Water or sports drinks are recommended.
- **Lunch:** If your camper is enrolled in Lunch Bunch, both morning and afternoon sessions, or a full-day camp, please send a peanut-free & tree nut-free lunch unless you've purchased a catered lunch. Lunches will be stored at room temperature with no access to refrigeration or microwaves. Please pack non-perishable items.
- **Backpack:** Campers should bring a backpack each day to carry personal items such as:
 - Snorkel gear (mask & snorkel)
 - Towel
 - Closed-toe water shoes (required for water activities)
 - Change of clothes (including undergarments)
 - Sunscreen, hat, and insect repellent
- **Attire:** Campers should arrive dressed in a swimsuit under their camp T-shirt and bottoms each day. While campers may wear any comfortable shoes throughout the day, closed-toe water shoes are required for kayaking, snorkeling, and select field trips. These protect feet from sharp objects under the water.
 - **Campers without closed-toe water shoes will not be allowed in the water. CMA does not sell water shoes—please come prepared.**
- **Optional: Camera or Cell Phone:** Campers are welcome to bring a camera or phone to capture memories. Staff will not take photos during activities like snorkeling, kayaking, or classroom time, as their focus is supervision and safety. Staff may assist campers in taking photos if time and conditions allow.

WHAT WE PROVIDE

Once you've packed the essentials, we'll take care of the rest. We provide:

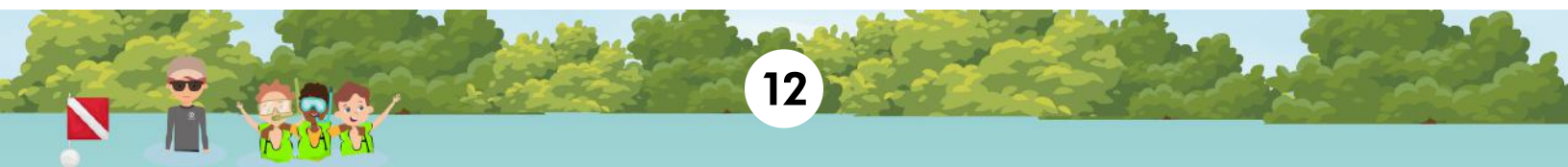
- One complimentary CMA camp T-shirt per camper
- Snorkel vests for all snorkeling activities
- All kayaking gear (kayaks, paddles, and life jackets)
- Transportation to and from field trip locations*

**Advanced Marine Biology Camp may have camper pick-up at the SCUBA shop, depending on dive class availability.*

WHAT NOT TO BRING

To ensure a safe and focused camp experience, campers should not bring toys, video games, iPads, or other electronic devices. Jewelry, money, and other personal valuables are also discouraged. Campers may bring a cell phone for communication with guardians or to take photos, but phone use should be limited during camp hours. Staff may ask campers to stow any electronic device that causes a distraction or disrupts activities.

Please note: Clearwater Marine Aquarium is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.



MEDICAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

DAILY MEDICATIONS

For the safety of all campers, Clearwater Marine Aquarium has a strict policy for handling medication at camp. If your camper needs to take medication during camp hours, please provide the medication in its original pharmacy-labeled packaging, clearly marked with the camper's legal name, medication name, and dosage instructions. The medication must have been administered at home at least once; first-time medication use cannot occur at camp.

Please complete the Medication Authorization to Dispense form, which will be provided by camp staff at check-in or sent via the camp reminder emails the week before your session. Expired medication will not be administered, and medication cannot be stored with your child's belongings (except for EpiPens & inhalers).

Hand the medication and completed form to your camper's Camp Teacher, who will store it in a locked bag in their backpack. Prescription medication cannot be administered without proper written permission. If the authorization form is incomplete or does not match the prescription label, we will notify you that we cannot dispense the medication.

ALLERGIES & EPI-PENS

Due to a significant increase in severe nut allergies, CMA does not allow peanuts or tree nuts in camp. Please pack lunches and snacks accordingly and avoid items such as trail mix, granola bars, hazelnut spread, or peanut butter.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium will make every reasonable effort to reduce risk for children with severe allergies or anaphylaxis. CMA is not free of food items or other allergens that may trigger a severe reaction. Parents/guardians must inform the Supervisor of Conservation Education Programs, both verbally and in writing, of any allergies, anaphylaxis, or potential risk, and this information must also be listed on the camper registration form.

Campers with EpiPens must be trained by a physician and knowledgeable about how and when to use them. If an EpiPen is needed, staff will immediately call 911 and assist with administration. All camp personnel are trained in EpiPen use. EpiPens may be carried in camper gear with parent/guardian permission.



MEDICAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ILLNESS OR INJURY AT CAMP

All CMA camp staff are trained in First Aid and CPR. In case of an emergency, 911 will be called immediately. Children who are not well enough to participate in the day's activities will not be allowed to attend camp. Symptoms that require staying home include vomiting, fever, cold symptoms, discharging eyes, stomach pain, rash, diarrhea, sore throat, or nausea.

If a camper becomes ill during the day, they will be separated from other campers and kept comfortable while their emergency contact is notified. You will be asked to pick up your camper for any of the following: fever of 100°F or higher, persistent cough, vomiting, conjunctivitis (pink eye), sore throat, ringworm, lice, severe headache, or flu-like symptoms. CMA regularly updates health and safety protocols based on guidance from the CDC, Pinellas County Government, and the Florida Department of Health. Please note that protocols may change as recommendations evolve.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CAMPERS

CMA is committed to providing reasonable accommodations, program modifications, and inclusion services to ensure equal access to all programs and activities. If your camper requires accommodations for physical or behavioral needs, exhibits behaviors of concern, or needs support for learning or socialization, begin by registering for your preferred summer camp. After registration, email camps@cmaquarium.org to request and complete an Accommodation Request form. CMA may request additional documentation or information consistent with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

While CMA will make every effort to fulfill accommodation requests, not all requests may be approved. Forms must be submitted at least two weeks prior to your camp session, and you will be notified at least one week before camp if accommodations can be provided. All information will remain confidential and shared only with HR and the camp staff directly involved with your child.

If a classroom aide is required, they must be over 18, certified (e.g., ABA or Behavioral Aide), and complete a State of Florida background check at least two weeks prior to camp. Families are responsible for arranging and covering the cost of this check through CMA's HR team. The camp must have at least two available spots for both your child and the aide. After registering, notify CMA immediately so we can reserve the aide's spot. The aide must sign a waiver and non-disclosure agreement (NDA) prior to camp. There is no additional charge for the second spot.

Please note, CMA is wheelchair accessible, with elevators and ramps throughout the facility. However, our snorkeling boats, kayaks, and transport vans are currently NOT wheelchair accessible.



ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

CAMPER SAFETY

For your camper's safety, Camp Staff will only release your child to an authorized pick-up person with a valid photo ID at sign-out. Authorized pick-ups are designated during registration. If your child will be picked up by someone not listed, you must notify CMA staff either in person during check-in or via email at camps@cmaquarium.org. Failure to notify staff in advance may result in delays while Education staff confirm authorization with the listed parent or guardian. Additionally, all persons, bags, parcels, and personal items may be subject to screening or security checks upon arrival. For the safety of our guests, animals, and staff, no weapons, bicycles, skateboards, scooters, skates, glass containers, or balloons are permitted. We recommend campers bring clear bags to help reduce check-in times. For a full list of prohibited items, please refer to our Aquarium Rules page.

All CMA camp staff are trained in First Aid and CPR. Staff also undergo background checks through the Florida Department of Children and Families to ensure the safety of every camper. Clearwater Marine Aquarium regularly updates staff protocols and procedures based on guidance from the CDC, Pinellas County Government, and the Florida Department of Health. Please note that all outdoor activities are monitored for weather conditions and are subject to the Inclement Weather Policy listed on page 17. Protocols and planned camp activities may change to ensure the health and safety of all participants. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility as we adapt to current conditions.

CAMPER LOST & FOUND

Found items will be kept in the camp program's room for the week's camp session. Campers and camp parents/guardians can ask the camp staff to check for lost items in their room or at the Marine Academy's front desk. Once the weeklong camp session concludes, any unclaimed items will be held at the Marine Academy's front desk until the end of the summer camp season.

If you suspect your child has left an item at camp, please contact us at 727-441-1790 x 2270 or email camps@cmaquarium.org, providing a detailed description of the item. We understand the importance of your belongings and will promptly reach out if we locate them or need additional information. In the event your item is found, the Camp Supervisor team will coordinate with you to schedule a pickup time at the Marine Academy entrance. If you would like an item mailed back to you, please send an email to camps@cmaquarium.org with a pre-paid shipping label for our team to use when returning the item to you.

For items lost within the Aquarium and not reported to camp teachers, Clearwater Marine Aquarium's dedicated lost and found service is available at the Guest Experience desk inside the Aquarium.



CAMP RULES & BEHAVIOR POLICIES

To ensure a safe, positive, and enjoyable camp experience for all, families and campers must review and follow these rules. By registering for camp, you and your camper agree to adhere to these guidelines. Failure to follow camp rules may result in consequences, including dismissal from camp. Any form of bullying, whether physical or emotional, is not tolerated and may result in immediate dismissal. We ask that you review these rules with your child(ren) before camp begins.

CAMP RULES

1. Follow directions from all CMA staff at all times.
2. Stay with your assigned camp group at all times.
3. Walk to all areas—running is not permitted.
4. Respect others with your words and actions. Swearing, teasing, lying, hitting, touching, horseplay, or bullying is strictly prohibited.
5. Respect the animals and their environments.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

CMA focuses on creating a positive environment through encouragement, redirection, and self-discipline. Campers are expected to follow the rules to maintain a safe and inclusive learning atmosphere. The primary goal is to prevent disciplinary issues and protect the well-being of campers, staff, and animals. In the event of a rule violation, the following actions will be taken:

1. First offense: After a discussion with the camper, a written warning is issued by the camp teacher. Parents/guardians will receive a Note of Unsatisfactory Conduct detailing the incident and any corrective steps.
2. Second or serious offense: CMA staff will discuss the behavior with the camper, including its impact on the group. Parents/guardians will receive a Note of Unsatisfactory Conduct outlining the incident and corrective steps. Continued inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and may result in dismissal from camp without a refund.
3. Repeated or severe offenses: Campers may be dismissed from camp without a refund. Management staff from the Education Department will make the final determination.

CMA reserves the right to bypass steps in the discipline process when deemed necessary to ensure safety. By registering for camp, you are agreeing to comply with these camp rules and discipline guidelines.



ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Florida is prone to thunderstorms, tropical storms, red tide, and hurricanes. There may be times when normal camp schedules need to be altered due to inclement weather or unsafe water conditions, such as high winds, heavy rainfall, or extremely high tides rendering the water unsuitable for activities like snorkeling or kayaking. In these instances, Clearwater Marine Aquarium has indoor classroom activities prepared to ensure campers continue to have a fun and educational experience. For camps that include snorkeling, traveling, kayaking, animal encounters, or other outdoor activities, our staff will adjust schedules and programming as needed for the safety of all participants. We will make every effort to resume normal camp schedules as soon as weather or water conditions allow. However, because Clearwater Marine Aquarium does not control the weather, water quality, or sea conditions, we cannot guarantee that all outdoor activities will take place every day. **No full or partial refunds will be issued due to missed outdoor activities caused by inclement weather or poor water conditions.**

In the rare event that Clearwater Marine Aquarium must close due to a hurricane or other emergency situation, please check cmaquarium.org for updates regarding camp operations.

BOATING & SNORKELING SAFETY

Clearwater Marine Aquarium is committed to providing a safe and supportive experience for all campers during all activities. In accordance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations, life jackets are not required to be worn on CMA vessels; however, life jackets are available for camps that include boating and snorkeling. Our camp boats are U.S. Coast Guard-certified and equipped with railings and essential safety features.

Campers participating in snorkeling will be provided with a snorkeling vest. If you would prefer your camper to wear a life jacket instead, please inform Camp Staff during morning sign-in. Snorkeling activities take place in shallow, standing-depth water, and no prior snorkeling experience is required. However, all campers must be able to swim in order to participate. By registering, you confirm that your camper is in good physical condition and can adapt to the challenges snorkeling can present.

KAYAKING SAFETY

Before kayaking sessions, Camp Teachers will provide instruction on basic paddling techniques and proper equipment use. Per U.S. Coast Guard regulations, life jackets are required for all kayaking participants—no exceptions. Kayaking is a physically active experience, and campers must be able to paddle, sit for extended periods, and adapt to the physical challenges kayaking may present.



ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

CAMP RESTROOM PROCEDURES

Clearwater Marine Aquarium prioritizes the safety and well-being of our campers through our comprehensive restroom policy. Our commitment includes constant supervision by camp staff and interns during restroom visits, ensuring a secure environment. With measures like open doorway audio supervision, a maximum limit of three campers at a time, and a strict privacy and buddy system, we aim to prevent overcrowding, enhance safety, and foster an inclusive atmosphere. Our inclusive restroom policy aligns with our dedication to creating a comfortable experience for all campers, respecting their gender identity and privacy preferences.

1. **Accompaniment and Safety Checks:** At least one paid camp staff member will accompany campers to restrooms, ensuring constant supervision. Staff or interns will conduct safety checks to ensure restrooms are free of suspicious individuals before allowing children to use the facilities.
2. **Supervision:** Staff or interns will stand in the open doorway of multi-stall restrooms, providing audio supervision while respecting children's privacy. Camp staff or interns will monitor the number of campers inside restrooms, with a maximum limit of three at a time. This helps prevent overcrowding, promotes a safer environment, and ensures that staff can effectively monitor to reduce the risk of accidents or unwanted incidents.
3. **Privacy and Buddy System:** Camp staff will clearly communicate expectations for restroom use and changing clothing to occur in private areas, such as individually locking stalls, to honor each camper's need for privacy. Except in emergency situations, staff, interns, or volunteers should never be inside a restroom stall with a camper. If assistance is required by a camper, another adult must be present, and the door should be held open. Children of any age should always be accompanied by a buddy and a staff member when using Clearwater Marine Aquarium restrooms (excluding the Marine Academy floor) or during off-site field trips. Campers must always be accompanied by a buddy and a staff member must be stationed in the open doorway of multi-stall restrooms in these situations.
4. **Inclusive Restroom Policy:** Clearwater Marine Aquarium's policy is that team members and guests should use the facilities that correspond with their gender identity. (For example, a person who identifies as a man should use the men's restroom, and a person who identifies as a woman should use the women's restroom.) All team members and guests should determine the most appropriate and comfortable options for themselves. If a camper is uncomfortable using a gender-specific restroom or desires increased privacy, staff will work with the camper to find an option that ensures their comfort. Campers may opt to be escorted to single-occupancy, gender-neutral facilities within the aquarium by a camp supervisor. In such cases, camp staff will be positioned outside the closed restroom door to maintain supervision while respecting the camper's privacy.



ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

CAMP ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

(Jr. Animal Encounter & Animal Encounter Camps ONLY)

While all CMA camps include opportunities to observe dolphins during aquarium tours, hands-on animal encounter experiences are only offered in Jr. Animal Encounter and Animal Encounter camps. Some encounters may involve contact with shellfish or shellfish-based enrichment items. Please notify us of any shellfish allergies prior to camp so we can make appropriate accommodations for your camper. These programs also include a scheduled poolside session with an Animal Care Specialist during a working session with one of our resident dolphins.

For the safety of both campers and animals, all jewelry and loose items are strictly prohibited during any animal encounter where campers enter an animal habitat, including the Dolphin Complex. Loose items are defined as anything that could potentially fall off during the interaction, including (but not limited to) earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, watches, hair accessories, and lanyards. We strongly recommend that campers do not wear jewelry at all during the camp week, as encounter schedules may change. All personal belongings—including jewelry, hair clips, bags, phones, and cameras—must be left in a designated area before entering the encounter space. Campers who are unable or unwilling to remove jewelry or loose items will not be permitted to participate, and no make-up sessions will be offered. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

As Clearwater Marine Aquarium is a working marine animal hospital, animal health, behavior, weather, or operational needs may impact scheduled encounters. While encounters cannot be guaranteed on specific days, every reasonable effort will be made to reschedule missed sessions when possible. If a camper is absent or arrives late and misses their scheduled encounter, no make-up sessions will be provided. To support animal welfare and camper safety, encounter groups may be split, with different campers participating on different days and with different animals. Opportunities to touch, feed, or get wet with dolphins are not guaranteed during any encounter session.

For safety and operational reasons, parents and guardians may not observe animal encounter sessions, as they take place before the aquarium opens to the public. A Fintastic Photo photographer will capture the experience. Photos may be purchased through the pre-purchased Adventure Photo Package or individually via a link sent after camp by the Fintastic Photo team.





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MARINE AQUARIUM

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