

Connecticut Science Center's Vacation Science Exploration Camp Policies

Registration and Payment

Registrants will have the option of either registering their child for one day or all 5 days of camp during vacation days and for one week all five weeks during the summer. Daily/Weekly camp rates are as follows:

- \$ 62 per day (\$295 per week) for Members and Corporate Members
- \$ 65 per day (\$310 per week) for Employees of Businesses in Downtown Hartford
- \$ 68 per day (\$325 per week) for Non-Members

Early Bird Price discount will be offered for summer camp only. Anyone wishing to take advantage of the early bird price must register two months prior to the start of the first week of camp regardless of the week your child will attend. Anyone registered after May 28, 2017 will be charged the late registration fee:

- \$320 per week for Members and Corporate Members
- \$335 per week for Employees of Businesses in Downtown Hartford
- \$350 per week for Non-Members

A 50% deposit may be made at the time of registration. The full payment must be submitted **three weeks** prior to the start of the week that your child is scheduled to start camp. Payments can be made by credit card (VISA, Master Card, AMEX, and Discover). We are not accepting checks at this time.

No Refunds will be granted for absenteeism. All campers are required to attend camp for the date(s) he/she is registered. If a registrant fails to attend camp due to vacation travels or a parent decides to take that child out of camp, no refund or credit will be offered. If camp is canceled by the Connecticut Science Center payment may be applied to allow attendance during another day(s) of camp.

Student Drop-off and Pick-up

All Campers should be dropped off no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and no later than 8:45 a.m. The camp day will begin promptly at 8:45a.m. Parents/Guardians must park in the Science Center/Riverfront Garage when dropping off their children (please see parking section below for costs).

The Discovery Center is located on "Garage Level 1" so, you may have to take the elevator "down" to get to the Discovery Center. Once you have parked your vehicle, please escort your child either to the parking garage elevator and down to the Discovery Center Lobby or into the science center entrance.

Once in the lobby, Parents/Guardians should proceed left to the Community room where you will meet with CSC Vacation Science Exploration Camp Staff to sign their child in for the day.

Pick up time is between 3:30 and 4:00 pm. At the end of the day, when picking up a child, Parents/Guardians must park in the Science Center/Riverfront Garage, and proceed to the Community room.

Aftercare

We offer affordable after care from 4 to 5PM. The cost for after care is \$10 per child for Science Center members and \$15 per child for non-members. If you will be picking up your child late, we request that you inform the camp as soon as possible. In the case that a camper is not picked up

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within 15 minutes after the close of camp the parent/guardian will be contacted and charged an additional \$10 per child for Science Center members and \$15 per child for non-members.

Check-in/out

Every Parent/Guardian must sign their child in upon arrival and sign their child out during pick-up. Outside of the Community Room the Camp Staff will have sign in sheets with your child's name on it. Print your name on the line next to your child's name. No child will be permitted to leave if they have not been signed out. If you are not the person picking up the child for the day, you must fill out an Alternate Pick Up form stating the names of the persons whom you have given permission to pick up your child. When these persons arrive to pick up the child, they must present a current photo I.D.

Camper Medications

At the time of drop-off, parents should leave any medications that their child needs to take during the camp day with CSC Vacation Science Exploration Camp Staff. **Medication must be in its original container with the physician's original label. The child's name as well as the name of the medication and expiration date must also be visible on the container** before it is accepted. All medications (except for those classified as emergency medications such as inhalers and epi-pens) will be kept in a locked box until the time the campers need to take them. The locked box will be kept locked in accordance with state regulations.

In order for you to leave your child's medicine with us you must have completed the Authorization for the Administration of Medication form you received at the time of registration. State law requires that in order for any child to take medication while attending a camp, this form must be completed and signed by a physician and parent/guardian.

Children can self-administer medication ONLY if their physician as noted this on the Authorization for the Administration of Medication Form. This includes insulin, EpiPens, inhalers, etc. However, in emergency situations Camp Staff have received official training to administer certain medications. Parents should make sure they pick up their child's medication at the end of each day.

Parking

When Dropping off or picking up a child, you must park in the Science Center/Riverfront Garage.

Please do not park at the Columbus Blvd. entrance. This space is reserved for buses only.

Rates for parking in the Garage are as follows:

FREE 1st 20 minutes

\$3.00 1st hour

\$2.00 each additional hour

Acceptable methods of payment in the garage are cash or credit cards. Debit Cards that require entering a pin number cannot be accepted. Please remember to secure your vehicle when parking. The Science Center/Riverfront Garage and its affiliates, Connecticut Science Center and its affiliates shall not be responsible for any vehicle or belongings that are damaged or stolen while on the grounds.

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Staffing

Connecticut Science Center's Vacation Science Exploration Camp will be staffed by the Vacation Camp Director and Alternate Directors. In addition, there will be Connecticut Science Center STEM Educators and Vacation Science Exploration Camp Counselors. Each camp group will have 3 staff members present. STEM Educators and Counselors will run the science programs as well as all other games and activities. Every child will be supervised by camp staff at all times, and there will be at least two staff members present at all times. All camp participants are expected to show the utmost respect for the Science Center and Camp staff, and they can expect to receive respect from Science Center and Camp staff in return.

Behavior

All campers are required to sign a Behavior Agreement before attending camp.

In order to provide a safe environment for all, we expect everyone to adhere to the guidelines set in place. We also expect every camper to display respect for themselves, for each other, and for all CSC staff. Every Camper and Parent/guardian will be asked to sign a behavior agreement that will outline the accepted and unaccepted behaviors while in attendance at Camp. The Behavior Agreement is received after registration, and is also available online as well as at morning check in.

Connecticut Science Center's Vacation Science Exploration Camp will operate on a "3 strike" policy for behavior challenges during camp. This policy is as follows:

First offense: The child and the behavior challenge will be addressed by a camp staff. They will receive a verbal warning. Parents will be notified at the end of the camp day.

Second offense: The child and the behavior challenge will be documented on a second offense form. The child's Parent/Guardian will be notified and receive a copy of the form, and a copy will be kept on file.

Third Offense: The child and the behavior challenge will be addressed by a camp staff member, the child's Parent/Guardian will be notified, and depending on the offense, the child may be dismissed from camp and not allowed to return.

Some offenses may result in the immediate dismissal from Camp.

Every behavior challenge will be documented by Camp Staff. Connecticut Science Center's Vacation Science Exploration Camp staff reserves the right to dismiss anyone from camp, who displays inappropriate behavior and is a consistent disruption in the group. A camper whose behavior has been deemed inappropriate **will** be required to leave camp. This includes fighting, harassment of other campers and/or staff, vandalism of property, the use of illegal substances, stealing, disrespect of Camp Staff and/ other campers. Refunds will not be granted for any child who has been dismissed from camp as a result of their behavior.

What to Bring/ What to Leave at Home

During the camp day campers will be extremely busy. Therefore, to ensure the safety of your child, and other campers we ask that they limit the personal items that they bring to camp. If your child

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brings personal items to camp, they are the sole responsibility of the child. The use of these items during instructional time is prohibited and your child will be asked to put them away if they are seen using them at this time. Vacation Exploration Camp Staff also reserves the right to confiscate personal items (to be returned at the end of the day) if they are being used during instructional time. Connecticut Science Center, Vacation Exploration Camp Staff, volunteers etc. will not be held responsible for any items that are lost, damaged, broken, or stolen.

You may bring

Cell Phones
Digital cameras

Please do NOT bring

Laptops, Nintendo DS, PSP
IPOD, tablets, Kindles, Ipads
Other toys (ex. Lego Mini Figures)

Cell phones may only be used in the Community Room at the beginning and end of the day, or as a camera. **We are no longer permitting the use of other electronics at any point during the day.** If they are brought to camp, they will either be collected and kept in a locked cabinet or remain in the camper's bag or lunchbox.

LUNCH/SNACK

Campers should bring a bagged lunch and snack with them every day. Lunches will be refrigerated per CT Department of Health Regulations. However, there is no access to a microwave so please make sure their lunch does not need to stay warm or be reheated. According to Department of Public Health Regulations, no food item (even if it is soup or pasta) can be left outside of the refrigerator. In addition, please make sure that the lunches do not include glass bottles.

We ask that every student bring a refillable and reusable water bottle (Some type of sports water bottle preferred) with them to camp every day! To ensure the safety of every Camper that will be attending Vacation Science Exploration Camp, it is very important that everyone stay hydrated.

Campers will have 30 minutes for lunch. Due to this short amount of time, **no electronics are to be used during lunch time.** During instructional time, lunches will be stored in the CSC Community room.

Snacks will occur one time each day in the morning, depending on the activities. Campers may also back an extra snack to be eaten in the Community Room at the end of the day if they desire.

What to Wear

Campers should dress comfortably each day during camp and bring a jacket, sweater, and/or sweatshirt with them in the event they get cold throughout the day. Campers should also wear closed-toed shoes each day for their own safety. Campers may go outside for structured free time, so please make sure your child is properly prepared.

Lost and Found

Lost and found will be collected and displayed outside of the community room each day. At the end of each camp session, all lost and found items will be incorporated with the general lost and found at the Connecticut Science Center, where they will be held for 10 days. Please contact our Security Desk by calling (860) 520-2155. The Connecticut Science Center is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items or personal property.



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Inclement weather

In the event of inclement weather, Connecticut Science Center's Vacation Science Exploration Camp may open late, close early or close for the entire day depending on the severity of the weather. This allows our staff time to arrive to the Science Center as well as to ensure adequate provision of staff to maintain proper child/staff ratios. Decisions will be made in order to protect the safety and well-being of our staff, camp participants and their families.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to call the Vacation Camp Hotline at (860)520-2177 beginning at 6:30 a.m. to listen to a recorded message confirming our operating schedule for the day.

If bad weather develops after the camp day begins, Connecticut Science Center's Vacation Science Exploration Camp staff will make decisions based on the weather conditions on a case-by-case basis. If we deem it necessary to close early, every attempt will be made to call and e-mail all parents/guardians to inform them of the closing. If the weather looks threatening and you haven't received a call, please call (860)520-2177 to confirm our closing time. Please see refund policy in regard to cancellations.

DCF Neglect and Abuse policy

Connecticut Science Center and its staff, volunteers, etc. are mandated reporters if there is a suspicion of abuse and neglect in a child that is in our care. We understand that we are mandated to report any abuse or neglect and therefore must immediately report any suspicion of abuse or neglect to DCF.

Contact Information

If you need to reach a Connecticut Science Center Staff member while your child is in camp, please call:

Kathy Fitzgerald (STEM Educator/Camp Director)
(860) 520-2183 Office

Or

Tanisha Whitter (Reservation Center Coordinator/Camp Registration/Payment)
(860)520-2165 Office

Or

Vacation Camp Hotline
(860)520-2177

Or

The main line at (860)724-3623