

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are very excited that your child(ren) will be joining us for the Fine Art of Summer Camp 2023! In this packet, you will find important information to prepare you and your child for a fun and exciting summer camp experience.

About Our Camp

Our camp program offers a range of sessions in a variety of media and disciplines designed to excite and develop the artistic vision and creative talents of youth. Camps spark the imagination, provide S.T.E.A.M. learning opportunities, teach technical skills, promote creative problem-solving, build respect for the expression of others and inspire a life-long connection to the visual and performing arts.

Camp Location

Sessions 1-6, 8-10 are held at the Art Museum of South Texas, 1902 N. Shoreline Blvd., across from the American Bank Center, off the Watergarden. **Please park at the barge dock entrance (down the ramp from Shoreline) and come through the double-doors for drop-off and pick-up.**

Session 7 is held at the Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center, 2021 Agnes St., right off Crosstown and between 18th and 19th streets.

Before Camp

Fill out all forms and return them via mail, email or fax (Art Museum of South Texas, 1902 N. Shoreline Blvd. 78401 OR AMSTed@tamucc.edu OR 361.825.3520. Please address to the attention of the **AMST Education Department**.

Camp Staff

- Camps are taught by educated and accomplished artists/educators in a relaxed environment that encourages exploration of process and self-expression.
- Each camp session is divided into two or three (depending on camp numbers) age groups, younger and older with approximately 22-25 in each group. Full groups will have a lead instructor, 2 college-level assistants and 2 middle school and/or high school junior assistants/counselors.
- Children are accompanied throughout the museum at all times and are escorted to the bathroom door on regular breaks (assistants don't accompany a child into a bathroom stall so please dress young campers in pants or shorts that are easy to take off and put on). Assistants also help the instructor with organizing the children to share supplies, to facilitate each child's understanding of a concept, and to be an encouragement throughout the camp day.

Daily Schedule

- Campers not signed up for pre-care should not arrive earlier than 8:45. The camp day is over at 3:30 p.m.; children not signed up for after-care who are not picked up by 3:45 will be charged for after-care for that day.
- We will have a mid-morning and mid-afternoon break for snacks, games, water/bathroom.

- Camp instructors will often designate a “fun” dress-up, crazy-hair or pajama day during the camp week that is strictly voluntary. We will notify parents 48 hours in advance.

Pre-Care and After-Care

- Pre-care will be available at 7:30 a.m. for children signed up for this service.
- After-care is available, for those who signed up, only until 5:30 p.m. Please do not be late; staff is not available after this time.

Sign-In/Sign-Out

- Children must be signed in each morning and **signed out with ID** each afternoon by their parent or guardian. Please let us know in the morning if someone different will be picking them up at the end of the day.

Exhibits and Performances

- At the conclusion of each one-week session, Fridays at 2:30p.m., we invite families to an exhibition and performance to showcase what campers have learned throughout the week. Immediately after the performance, there will be a cookie and punch reception for all.
- **CRAZY ABOUT CLAY CAMPERS (Session 7)** Please remember that the clay facilities are located at 2021 Agnes in the Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center. The Center’s telephone number is #825-3600. This facility is managed by the College of Education, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi.

Dress-Code

- Please dress your child(ren) appropriately for a variety of activities including art (which may include sketching outside) and drama activities.
- Though a limited number of smocks are available, it’s best for children to wear clothing that may get stained or dirty in art class.
- Loose-fitting clothing which is easy to move around in is preferred.
- The temperature fluctuates from room-to-room in the Creation Station; we strongly suggest dressing in layers.
- **Please avoid wearing skirts or dresses unless wearing shorts underneath.**
- **No skin-tight clothing, short-shorts, or low-cut shirts allowed.**
- **Closed-toed shoes are strongly suggested for sessions here at the AMST and required for The Crazy About Clay session of camp.**
- Masks are strongly encouraged, but not required, for unvaccinated campers.

What to Bring to Camp

- **Do bring a lunch, drink and snacks each day (scholarship students who notified us of their needs are excluded from this).** Please do not send items that need to be refrigerated or microwaved.
- Do bring a sweater or jacket, if needed.

- Do write your child's name on his/her belongings.
- Do bring any medications your child must take to the check-in desk as well as written instructions for proper dosage and timing
- Do make sure to take all your child's belongings with you on the last day of camp.

What Not to Bring to Camp

- **Do not send electronic devices or toys with your child;** we have games, drawing materials, books, etc. to enjoy during break times. If you do send your child with a cell phone, he/she will not be allowed to play or take pictures with it.
- Do not bring anything not required by the camp – we will notify you in writing if a teacher is requesting the students to bring something specific.
- Do not bring alcohol, drugs (unless they are prescribed and necessary), or anything that could be used as a weapon.

Important Phone Numbers and Email

- Campers will NOT be able to be reached directly during camp. We do not allow campers to have cell phones on them unless it is an absolute emergency. Museum staff is NOT available for questions on weekends and holidays.
- **361.825.3500:** Call this number if you need to reach your child or give the Education staff a message. This is the best way to ensure your call will be answered immediately.
- **361.825.3504:** Call this number if you have any questions or concerns about the camp experience or payments. You may also e-mail us at AMSTed@tamucc.edu

Camper Expectations

- Smile
- Make new friends
- No horse-playing
- Keep hands to oneself – no hugging, tag, or touching others.
- Be accepting and welcoming of others and our differences.
- Be respectful of camp staff
- Listen
- Share and be kind to one another

All Campers MUST be able to:

- Use the bathroom independently and efficiently; clean up after themselves (no horse-playing in the bathroom or making a mess). Counselors do not enter the bathroom while campers are using it.
- Remain with their group and counselors at all time to prevent safety hazards. If a child needs one-on-one assistance, we do not have the staff available to offer this service.
- Keep up with the full day of activities without a nap or time-out.

Discipline Policy

- **Bullying of ANY kind will not be tolerated (ie. physical harm, verbal abuse, harassment, etc.)** We will contact the camper's guardian if bullying occurs, and depending on the circumstance, camp staff may ask the camper to leave for the day or for the duration of the

week. We encourage all staff, parents, and campers to report bullying as soon as possible to correct the behavior and create a safe camp environment for all campers and staff.

- When counselors and staff encounter negative behavior, we will take the following steps:
 - Summarize the expected behaviors and explain consequences
 - Discretely speak with camper; mutually agree on expected behavior moving forward
 - Have camp staff remain close to the camper to monitor behavior
 - Re-direct camper to be more involved in helping counselors or changing tasks
- We document behavioral issues with campers and use positive enforcement as much as possible. If we take corrective action, and the behavior does not improve, parents/guardians will be contacted to attempt to correct the behavior.
 - Removal from participation in camp activities
 - Taking time out with a camp counselor
 - Contacting parents to attempt to correct the behavior for a final time and/or immediate dismissal of the camper
 - Elimination from the camp for any amount of duration (half day, full day, week, etc.). No refunds in this instance.
- We strive to create a safe and welcoming environment for children from all backgrounds. We recognize that each child is an individual and will respond to camp activities in different ways. If you have suggestions for strategies which may help us to communicate with your child during challenging/emotional moments to help them have the best experience possible, please share them with us. We try to incorporate these methods along with best practice whenever possible.
- It is very important to let us know if there are any medical or behavioral issues with your child that will affect his/her participation and how we interact with him/her. We want to give each child the best experience possible.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

Cancellations with full refund minus a \$50 processing fee are accepted, in writing, up to 30 days before the first day of the camp session. **Tuition is not refundable for cancellations received less than 30 days prior to the camp session.** No refunds due to illness or weather conditions although every effort will be made to reschedule classes canceled due to hurricane threats/conditions.