

Your Guide to

# SUMMER CAMP

# 2018

Are you already dreading that last day of school? Worried about being stuck with your kids ALL SUMMER LONG? Or maybe you just need to keep them entertained.

**Send them to camp!**



**Included in this guide:**

- Camps in & around Atlanta**
- Art
- Sports
- Technology
- Nature/Outdoors
- Science
- Special Needs

Example Packing List

Camp Safety



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## About Summer Camps



For your convenience we have made a list of summer camps in and around Atlanta. There are many different camps out there including, art, science, sports, nature, art, and some general camps that have a little bit of everything. Some camps focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) and some focus on everyday things like cooking. There is a camp for everyone out there no matter, their age, size, gender, physical ability, or mental ability. We have also included some camps for children with special needs.

Most of the camps run all summer. They are usually paid weekly, sometimes daily. The prices vary from camp to camp and throughout the different age groups. Some have half day, full day, and overnight options. And there are more camps out there, this is just a small list that we have compiled.

Some things to consider when choosing a summer camps:

- Age of campers
- Girls, boys, co-ed
- Child's likes/dislikes
- Location of camp
- Half day, full day, overnight
- Price
- Dates

Be sure to read through your camp's policies, which may cover thing like:

- Discipline
- Illness & lice
- Emergency situations
- Inclusion
- Electronics, Toys, etc.
- Potty Training
- Food Allergies
- Holiday schedules and closin

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# CAMP SAFETY

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Rules will be different from camp to camp. It's important to go over these with your child(ren) before they head off to camp. Below are some general rules your child can expect to follow.

Be aware of your surroundings at all times



Use the Buddy System

Follow the camp rules



Listen to your camp leader

Use proper safety equipment



No using equipment without adult supervision

**If you have questions, ask a camp leader!**



# Packing for

# summer CAMP

Don't forget to check for a packing list. Each camp will differ on what your child(ren) should bring with them to camp, as well as what they *shouldn't* bring with them. See below for items typically brought to camp.

- Sunscreen
- Bathing Suit
- Water bottle
- Towel
- Change of clothes
- Snacks
- Bug Spray

Will lunch be provided or should you pack your child a lunch?

Are electronics allowed? (Phones, iPads, etc.)

BE SURE TO LET YOUR CAMP INSTRUCTORS KNOW IF YOUR CHILD(REN) IS/ARE ALLERGIC TO ANYTHING OR HAVE ANY TYPE OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS. PROVIDE AN EMERGENCY CONTACT JUST IN CASE.



## **General Day Camp**

These camps seem to offer a little bit of everything like education, sports, music, and more.

### **Adventures Express Camp**

Rec Center (Woodstock)

Ages 5-23

Sessions from May 29 – July 27

\$130

More info: <http://www.crupa.net/camps/adventures-express/>

### **Adventure Teen Camp (Woodstock)**

Ages 13-15

June 25 – June 29, July 16 – July 20

\$250

More info: <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/cherokee-recreation-parks/catalog?search=Teen+Adventure+Camp+%28Ages+13-15%29+Teen+Camp+June+25-29+2018>

### **Camp All-American (Johns Creek)**

Ages 5-17

Runs from May 29 – August 3

\$249/week

More info: <http://campallamerican.com/about/>

### **Camp Village (Atlanta)**

Ages 5-18

Runs from June 1 – June 26

Call for pricing

More info: [http://www.campvillage.com/ESW/Files/Camp\\_Village-Summer2015.pdf](http://www.campvillage.com/ESW/Files/Camp_Village-Summer2015.pdf)

### **Challenge Island Stem-Wars Camp**

Ages 6-11

June 11 – June 15

\$170

More info: <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/cherokee-recreation-parks/catalog?search=Challenge+Island+STEM-Wars+Camp+June+11-15%2C+2018>

**Fullers Recreation Center (Marietta)**

Ages 6-15

Camps from May 29 – July 27

\$125/week

More info: [https://cobbcounty.org/images/documents/parks/recreation-centers/Fullers/18\\_FSC\\_Reg\\_Packet\\_3.pdf](https://cobbcounty.org/images/documents/parks/recreation-centers/Fullers/18_FSC_Reg_Packet_3.pdf)

**Haverty Hollow (Atlanta)**

Ages 5-10

Camps from June 4 – July 27

\$490 per week

More info: <http://www.havertyhollow.com/>



**The Little Gym (Smyrna)**

Ages 3-12

May 28 – August 5

\$35/day

More info:

<https://www.thelittlegym.com/SmyrnaGA/parties-camps/camps#schedules>

**Oak Tree Camps (Atlanta)**

Ages 5-14

Sessions run from June 25 – July 27

Half Day: \$200/week

Full Day: \$300/week

More info: <https://www.oaktrecamps.com/registration>

**Roswell ASAP (Roswell)**

Ages 4+

Runs from May 28 – August 3

\$198/week

More info: <http://www.roswellasap.com/summer-camp.html>

**Shaping Minds (Marietta & Johns Creek)**

Ages 5-12

End of May through end of July (Call for more info)

\$119/week

More Info: <http://www.shapingminds.com/>

# Art & Theatre

## **Bee's & Quotes Creative Art Studio (Johns Creek)**

Ages 5-11

Runs from May 29 – August 3

\$236/week

More info: <http://beesandquotes.com/camps/>

## **High Museum of Art**

1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Different dates for different camps and ages (June 11 – August 3)

\$400 / week

More info: <https://high.org/summer-art-camp/tab/7th/>

## **Hudgens Center for Art & Learning (Duluth)**

Ages 5-12

June 4 – July 27

\$210/week

More info: <http://thehudgens.org/event/passport-adventures-in-art-summer-camp/>

## **Musical Theatre Camp**

Due West UMC (Marietta)

Grades 6-12

July 9 – July 13, July 16 – July 20

\$250

More info: <https://www.duewest.org/summer-camps/>

## **Summer Skies Art Camp**

The Art Place Mountain View (Marietta)

Ages 4-18

Sessions range from June 4 – July 27

Pricing depends on age and camp type

More info: <http://tapmarietta.com/art-camp/>

## **Vinings School of Art (Vinings)**

Ages 5-14

Camps running from June 4 – August 10

Pricing depends on camp

More info: <https://www.viningschoolofart.com/summer-camps.html>

## **Make, Create, Innovate**

The Art Station-Big Shanty (Marietta)

Different programs for different ages run from June 4 – July 27

For pricing and more info: <http://www.artstationcobb.org/summer-camp.html>





**Mable House (Mableton)**

Ages 4-19

Different dates for different camps (June 4 – July 27)

Price depends on which camp you choose

For more info: <https://mablehouse.org/index.php/arts-center/camps>

**Young Actors Musical Theatre Camp**

Due West UMC (Marietta)

Grades 2-6

June 4 – June 9

\$150

More info: <https://www.duewest.org/summer-camps/>



# **Nature & Outdoors**

## **The Art Barn**

Ages 5-12

Sessions run from June 4 – July 13

\$345/week

More info: <http://www.theartbarn.com/>

## **Island Ford Summer Camp (Sandy Springs)**

Ages 9-12

Sessions run from June 9 – August 3

Prices range from \$285 - \$340

More info: <http://dunwoodynature.org/activities/camps/island-ford/>

## **Chattahoochee Nature Center (Roswell)**

May 29 – August 3

Different prices and programs for different ages and grade levels

More info: <http://www.chattnaturecenter.org/camp-kingfisher/>

## **The Nature Center (Dunwoody)**

Grades K-5

Sessions run from May 29 – August 16

Half day \$210, Full day \$295

More info: <http://dunwoodynature.org/activities/camps/summer-camp-2018/>

## **Safari Day Camp**

Zoo Atlanta

Ages 4-14

Sessions from May 29 – August 3

Half day \$175/week, Full day \$319/week - \$375/week (age)

More info: <https://zooatlanta.org/program/summer-session/>

## **Summer Camp H2O**

Georgia Aquarium (Atlanta)

Ages 5-13

Camps from June 4 – July 23

Pricing ranges from \$260 - \$360 per week



# Science & Technology



## **CampMODA**

Georgia Tech (Atlanta)

Camps for 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Camps from May 28 – July 27

Pricing depends on chosen camp

More info: <http://www.museumofdesign.org/campmodasummer/>

## **Crazy About Science!**

Strem HQ (Marietta)

June 18 – June 22

\$285.00

More info:

<https://www.stremhq.com/product-page/crazy-about-science>



## **Club Scientific**

Ages 4-14

Call for dates

\$245 / week

More info: <http://southatlanta.clubscientific.com/summerCamps.php>

## **Club Scikidz**

East Cobb Presbyterian Church (Marietta)

Pre-K-9<sup>th</sup> Grade

June 4 – July 16

More info: <http://www.clubscikidz.com/camp-locations/#location-26>

## **Emagination Tech Camps**

Georgia Tech (Atlanta)

Ages 8-18

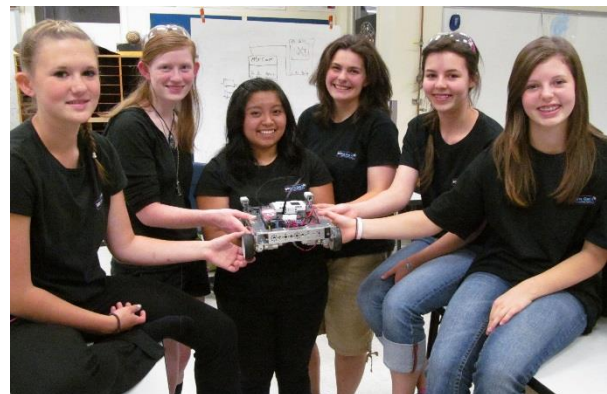
Tech, Programming, & Game Design Camps

Sessions from June 10 – July 20

Pricing depends on which camp, amount of time, and age

More info:

<https://www.emaginationtechcamps.com/summer-camp/locations/georgia-tech-camp/>



## **ID Tech**

Emory University (Atlanta)

Ages 7-18

Camps run from May 28 – July 27

Different camps for boys, girls, different age groups

Price depends on which camp you choose (Ranges for \$849 - \$1249 / week)

More info: <https://www.idtech.com/register#/reg-flow/avail-charts-filters?lid=41&rgnad=true>



## **Imagine That! And Future Tech (Atlanta, Sandy Springs, Johns Creek, Marietta, and more)**

Ages 5-14

Dates range from June - July

Different camps for different locations

Pricing and more info: <http://www.imagethatfun.com/camps/summer-camps-2018/locations-and-schedules/>

# Sports



## **Historic Banning Mills**

Ages 8 – 14

Runs from June 18 – July 20

\$295 / week

More info: <http://historicbanningmills.com/youth-summer-camp/>

## **Summer Slam Multi-Sport Camp**

Due West UMC (Marietta)

Grades K-8

July 23 – July 26

\$99

More info: <https://www.duewest.org/summer-camps/>

## **Xplosive Speed & Agility Camp**

JJ Biello Park (Woodstock)

Ages 6-15

June 25 – June 28

\$95

More info: <http://www.crpa.net/camps/sports-camps-2/>

## **YMCA (Marietta)**

Ages 5-18

Dates range from May 29 – July 27

Pricing ranges from \$185 - \$310

More info: <https://www.ymcaatlanta.org/program-locations/summer-camp/northeast-cobb.php>

## **Baseball & Softball**



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### **2018 Outdoor Summer Baseball Camp**

East Marietta National Little League with D-Bat (Marietta)

Ages 5-12

June 4 – June 8, July 23 – July 27

\$200/week or \$50/day

More info: <http://www.eastmarietta.com/Default.aspx?tabid=2104875>

### **Baseball & Softball Camp**

D-Bat (Marietta)

Ages 5-12

Camps ranging from May 28 – July 27

Contact for pricing

More info: [https://clients.mindbodyonline.com/asp/main\\_enroll.asp?fl=true&tabID=8](https://clients.mindbodyonline.com/asp/main_enroll.asp?fl=true&tabID=8)

### **Bill Melvin Pitching Camp (Buckhead & Decatur)**

Ages 4-12

Sessions from June 11 – July 27

\$250 - \$300

More info:

<https://pitchingforexcellence.wordpress.com/camps/>



### **Defensive Camp (Fastpitch softball)**

Lassiter High School (Marietta)

Ages 7-13

May 29 – May 30

\$70

More info:

<http://www.sandyplainssoftball.com/Default.aspx?tabid=221317&mid=251060&newskeyid=HN1&newsid=53792&ctl=newsdetail>

### **Hitting Camp (Fastpitch Softball)**

Lassiter High School (Marietta)

Ages 7-13

May 24-25

\$70

More info:

<http://www.sandyplainssoftball.com/Default.aspx?tabid=221317&mid=251060&newskeyid=HN1&newsid=53792&ctl=newsdetail>



### **Ninth Inning Baseball Camp (Chamblee)**

Ages 5-12

Sessions run from June 11 – July 26

\$215/week

More info: <http://ninthinningbaseball.com/summer-camps/>

### **Softball Skills Camp**

Pope High School (Marietta)

Ages 6-13

June 11 – June 14

\$120



More info:

<http://www.sandyplainssoftball.com/Default.aspx?tabid=221317&mid=251060&newskeyid=HN1&newsid=53792&ctl=newsdetail>

### **Titans Breakfast Club (Baseball, softball, & agility)**

Titans Sports Academy (Kennesaw)

Ages

Sessions in June & July

\$150 - \$250/week or \$40/day

More info: <http://titansnation.net/camps/>



### **West Cobb Girls Softball Advanced Fastpitch Skills Summer Camp**

Lost Mountain Park (Powder Springs)

Ages 7-14

June 11 – June 14

\$125

More info: <https://leagueathletics.com/Page.asp?n=161037&org=WCGSOFTBALL.COM>



### **Basketball Camp**

E33 Sports (Kennesaw)

Middle School Students

Camp 1: June 4 – June 7

Camp 2: June 18 – June 21

More info: <https://www.e33sports.com/copy-of-xsd-e33-league>



### **Basketball Skill Boot Camp (Girls)**

Rec Center (Woodstock)

Middle School Age

July 23 – July 27

\$45

More info: <http://www.crapa.net/camps/skills-basketball-boot-camp/>



**Atlanta Dance Central**

Ages 3-12 (Different camps for different age groups)  
June 4 – July 19  
Pricing depends on age and camp (ranges from \$115 - \$125 / week)

### **So You Think You Can Dance Camp**

Due West UMC (Marietta)  
Ages 6-10  
July 16 – 20  
\$135

More info: <https://www.duewest.org/summer-camps/>



## **Equestrian**

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### **Chastain Horse Park Summer Camp (Atlanta)**

Ages 4-8  
Sessions from June 4 – July 27  
\$700/week  
More info: <https://www.chastainhorsepark.org/riding>

### **East Cobb Stables Summer Camp (Marietta)**

Call about ages  
Sessions from June 4 – July 27  
\$350/week  
More info: <http://eastcobbstables.com/camp-sign-up/>



### **Sterling Equestrian Center (Marietta)**

Camps running from May 28 – July 21  
Beginner Camp: \$350 (Ages 6-10)  
Intermediate Camp: \$500 (Ages 10+)  
More info: <https://www.sterlingequestriancenter.com/calendar-of-events>



## **Football**

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### **Flag Football Camp**

Due West UMC (Marietta)  
Ages K-8<sup>th</sup>



Runs from May 29 – June 1

\$99

More info: <https://www.duewest.org/summer-camps/>

## Gymnastics



### Buckhead Gymnastics (Atlanta)

Ages 4-12

Sessions from June 4 – August 3

\$225/ week or \$45/day

More info: <http://buckheadgymnasticsandcheer.com/camps-clinics/summer-camps>

### Gymnastics & Tumbling Camp

Rec Center (Woodstock)

Ages 6-12

Sessions from July 2 – July 6

\$75 - \$140

More info: <http://www.crpa.net/camps/dance-gymnastics-camp/>



### Intown Stars Gymnastics (Atlanta & Decatur)

Ages 4+

Sessions run from May 29 – July 27

\$220-\$280/week or \$70 Full day, \$55 Half day

More info: <http://www.intownstarsgymnastics.com/summer-holiday-camps>

### Peach Pit Gym (Atlanta)

Ages 2-16

June & July Sessions

\$325/week or \$75/day

More info: <http://www.peachpitgym.com/summer-holiday-camps>

## Ice Hockey



### Ice Hockey

Center Ice Arena (Sandy Springs)

Ages 6-16

Sessions from June 18 – July 27

\$485/week

More info: <http://www.centericearena.org/ice-hockey-summer-camp/>



## Ice Skating

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### Ice Skating

Center Ice Arena (Sandy Springs)

Sessions from June 4 – July 20

Ages 4-16

Full Day \$375/week, Half Day \$255/week

More info: <http://www.centericearena.org/ice-skating-summer-camp-2018/>



## Martial Arts & Karate

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### Choi Kwang Do Camp

Ages 5-11

Due West UMC (Marietta)

June 4-8

\$125

More info: <https://www.duewest.org/summer-camps/>

### Karate

Marietta Martial Arts (Roswell & Marietta)

Ages 4+

Date Unknown

Pricing Unknown

More info: <https://www.marietakarate.com/karate-summer-camp/>



### Martial Arts Summer Camp

The Welch Martial Art Experience

Ages 5-16

June 11 – June 15

\$350

## Soccer



### Challenger British Soccer Camp

Due West UMC (Marietta)

Ages 3-14

June 18 – July 13

Ranges from \$105 - \$195

More info: <https://www.duewest.org/summer-camps/>

### Future Stars Soccer Academy

Oglethorpe University (Atlanta)

Ages 4-16

June 11 – July 20

Half day \$155, Full day \$310

More info: <http://fssoccercamps.com/camps/>



### Smyrna Soccer Club (Mableton)

Ages 7-18

Camps from June 9 – July 31

Pricing ranges from \$135 - \$165

More info: <http://www.smyrnasoccerclub.com/doclib/SMYRNA%20CAMPS%20Bundle.pdf>

### Tophat Soccer (Atlanta)

Ages 5-12

Session in June and July

\$110/week

More info: <http://www.tophatsoccer.com/>

## Swimming



### Camp H2O

Atlanta Swim Academy (Atlanta)

Ages 4-12

May 29 – July 27

\$325/week

More info: <https://www.atlantaswimacademy.com/camp-h2o>

### **Safe Splash Swim School (Multiple locations around Atlanta)**

Ages 3+

Runs from May 29 – June 28

\$150/week

More info: <https://www.safesplash.com/locations/summer-swim-camp-northcrestswimclub>

### **Sea Ventures H2O Camp (Alpharetta)**

Ages 5-12

Runs from May 29 – August 3

5-day camp \$295

4-day camp \$236

More info: <http://www.seaventures.com/swim->



## **Tennis**

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### **Harrison Tennis Camp (Marietta)**

Ages 4-17

Runs from June 4 – July 27

Pricing depends on age group (ranges from \$45-\$180)

More info: <http://www.htcjdpro.com/>

### **Bitsy Grant Summer Tennis Camp**

Ages 6-14

Runs from May 29 – June 1

Half day \$235/ week, Full day \$470/week

More info: <https://utatennis.com/bitsy-grant-summer-camp/>

### **Bulldog Tennis Camp (Athens – UGA)**

Ages 10+

Runs from June 17 – July 29

\$775/week

More info: <http://www.bulldogtenniscamp.com/>



### **Emory Total Tennis Camp (Atlanta)**

Ages 5-14

Runs from May 29 – June 15

Full day & Half day pricing (ranges from \$130 - \$335)

More info: <http://clubs.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=260216>

### **Emory University Nike Tennis Camp (Atlanta)**

Ages 9-17

Runs from June 22 – July 27

Pricing depends on age & skill level - view website for pricing

More info: <https://www.ussportscamps.com/tennis/nike/emory-university-nike-tennis-camp#detailsContent>

### **North Atlanta Tennis Academy**

Ages 6-11

Runs from May 29 - July 16

\$199/week for Half day, \$\$375/week for Full day

More info: <https://northatlantatennis.com/product/kidzone-summer-camp/>

### **Peter Howell Tennis Camp (Atlanta)**

Ages 7-17

Runs from June 4 – July 20

\$345/week

More info: <http://www.peterhowelltenniscamp.com/sessions.cfm>



## **Volleyball**

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### **Atlanta Volleyball Academy (Suwanee)**

Camps for elementary – high school

Camps run from June – July

Pricing depends on camp

More info: <https://www.atlantavolleyballacademy.com/page/show/2771405-camps-clinics-and-leagues>

### **Cobb Atlanta Volleyball Camp (Atlanta)**

Ages 5 – 18

Camps run from May 29 – July 26

Pricing depends on camp

More info:

<https://www.cobbatlanta.com/content/2018-summer-camps>



### **Emory Volleyball Camps (Atlanta)**

Grades 6-12

Camps run from June - July

Prices range depending on camp

More info: <http://www.evbcvolleyball.com/Default.aspx?tabid=25250>

### **North Atlanta Volleyball Club (Powder Springs)**

Ages 5-13

Camps run from June 4 – July 26

Prices range from \$125 - \$185

More info: [http://northatlantavolleyball.com/page/1025/summer\\_camps\\_leagues.html](http://northatlantavolleyball.com/page/1025/summer_camps_leagues.html)

### **Yellow Jacket Volleyball Camps**

Georgia Tech (Atlanta)

Grades 4-12

Camps run from July 12 – July 22

Price depends on camp

More info: <http://yellowjacketvolleyballcamp.com/>

## **Water Sports**

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### **Wake Lanier (Lake Lanier)**

Ages 8+

Camps range from June 10 – July 21

Pricing depends on age and day camp vs. overnight camp (ranges from \$750 – \$1350)

More info: <http://wakelanier.com/summer-camps/>

### **Waterlogged Camp**

Rec Center (Woodstock)

Ages 9-12

June 11 – June 15, July 9 – July 13

\$250

More info: <http://www.crupa.net/camps/waterlogged-camp-2/>



# Camps for Children with Special Needs

## **Aerie Experiences (North of Atlanta)**

Ages 8+

Sessions range from June 11 – August 3

\$650/week

More info: <https://aerieexperiences.com/camps/>

## **Alpha Equestrian Center (Woodstock)**

Ages 6+

Sessions from June 4 – July 13

\$325/week

More info: <http://www.hgtrinc.com/summer-camp/>



## **Camp Big Heart (Fort Valley)**

School Age

June 17-June 22

\$425/week

More info: <http://campbigheart.org/>

## **Camp Dream (Warm Springs)**

Ages 3-70

Sessions from July 15 – July 30

Pay what you can (donations are appreciated)

More info: <http://www.campdreamga.org/summer-camp/>

## **Camp Twin Lakes**

Camps for all ages & all diagnoses

Pricing will depend on the camp – many just ask for a donation

More info: <http://camptwinlakes.org/experience-camp/#findCamp>

## **Core Therapy Services (Decatur & Tucker)**

Ages 3-14

Sessions from June 11 – July 27

\$375/week for Half day

\$590/week for Full day

More info:

<http://mycoretherapy.com/campworkshops.html>

## **KAOS Camp**

### **Woodstock Elementary Gym (Woodstock)**

Ages 6-22

Sessions run from May 29 – July 27

\$130/week



More info: <http://www.crpa.net/camps/kaos-camp/>

**Learning on the Log (Atlanta)**

Ages 4-14

Dates available from June 11 – August 2

\$475 per week

More info: <http://www.learningonthelog.com/summer-camp>

MDE School (Marietta)

Ages 5-16

Sessions from May 29 – July 13

\$400/week

More info: <https://www.mdeschool.org/summer-camp/>

**Social Skills Summer Camp**

Art It Out (East Cobb & Vinings)

K-12<sup>th</sup> grade

\$900/week (+ \$160 for new clients)

More info: <https://www.artitout.com/summer-camp>



**Social Skills Summer Camp**

Inneractions Therapy Services (Marietta & Johns Creek)

Per-K – Middle School

Sessions from June 4 – July 27

\$875/week

More info: <https://myinneractions.com/atlanta-social-skills-camps/>



## Other Camps

### **Circus Camp (Dunwoody, Sandy Springs, Decatur)**

Ages 5+

Sessions from June 4 – July 27

Camps range from \$275/week - \$335/week (depends on location and camp)

More info: <http://www.circuscamp.org/>

### **Girly Girl Camp**

Due West UMC (Marietta)

Ages 3-6

June 25 – June 29

\$135

More info: <https://www.duewest.org/summer-camps/>



### **Little Bricks-Big Ideas Lego Camp**

Due West UMC (Marietta)

Grades 1-6

June 25 – June 29

Half day \$125, full day \$200

More info: <https://www.duewest.org/summer-camps/>

### **Magic Camp**

Rec Center (Woodstock)

Ages 5-18

June 4 – June 8

\$115/week

More info: <http://www.crpa.net/camps/magic-camp/>



### **May the Force Be with You Lego Camp**

Due West UMC (Marietta)

Grades 1-6

July 9 – July 13

Half day \$125, full day \$200

More info: <https://www.duewest.org/summer-camps/>

### **Super Hero Fun Lego Camp**

Due West UMC (Marietta)

Grades 1-6

June 18 – June 22

\$125

More info: <https://www.duewest.org/summer-camps/>



## **Questions to Ask Camp Directors**

**(Based on American Camp Association Guidelines)**

When you receive a camp's brochure or are looking it up online, you will inevitably have questions. From that first phone call or while looking at their website online, you begin developing an impression of what a particular camp is like and how it is run. More often than not, a camp may be described in nothing less than glowing terms in its brochure. The setting may be absolutely breathtaking. Activities may run the gamut from water sports to science experiments. In the end, however, it's the human equation of how those activities are operated and conducted that determines the quality of the camp. Get to know the camp director as a person through telephone conversations, correspondence, and a personal visit. Have the director describe the camp's philosophy and how the staff implements it. Have them go through a typical day at camp and procedures for emergencies and discipline.

### **What is the camp's philosophy and program emphasis?**

Each camp has its own method of constructing programs based on its philosophy. Does it complement your own parenting philosophy? Many camps actively promote competition and healthy rivalry among camp teams, as reflected in team sports. For many campers this is pure fun. Some parents feel that learning to be competitive at an early age teaches essential survival skills. However, some other parents and educators are in favor of cooperative learning. Knowing your child's personality and style of learning is valuable in selecting the right camp. If you're looking into a religious camp, does it follow your views?

### **What is the camp director's background?**

Find out how long they have been at this camp and any other camps and how long they have been working with kids. Have they had other occupations?

### **What training do counselors receive?**

At a minimum, camp staff should be trained in safety regulations, emergency procedures and communication, behavior management techniques, child abuse prevention, appropriate staff and camper behavior, and specific procedures for supervision. There is probably training specific to each camp and their locations as well.

### **What is the counselor-to-camper ratio?**

Ratios may vary between age groups and special needs of each of the campers. Generally, the ratios at resident camps range from: One staff member for every five campers ages 4 and 5; one staff member for every six campers ages 6 to 8; one staff member for every eight campers ages 9 to 14; and one staff member for every 10 campers ages 15 to 17. At day camps the ratios range from: one staff member for every six campers ages 4 and 5; eight campers ages 6 to 8; one staff member for every 10 campers ages 9 to 14; and one staff member for every 12 campers ages 15 to 17.

### **What are the ages of the counselors?**

ACA standards recommend that 80 percent or more of the counseling/program staff be at least 18 years old. Staff must be at least 16 years old and be at least two years older than the campers with whom they work. In special needs camps, 100 percent of the counseling/program staff must be at least 18 years old.

### **What are desired qualities in camp staff?**

The same qualities of trustworthiness and dependability sought by any employer are valued commodities in camp employees. Also, the ability to adapt to a variety of situations, empathy for and ability to work with camp clientele, a strong self-image and an outgoing personality are important

characteristics for camp staff. You may feel you want the staff to have specific values that are similar to your own. That will be important when picking out a camp.

**What percentage of the counselors returned from last year?**

Most camps have from 40-60 percent returning staff. If the rate is lower, find out why.

**How are behavioral and disciplinary problems handled?**

This is where the director's philosophy comes through loud and clear. Positive reinforcement, assertive role modeling and a sense of fair play are generally regarded as key components of camp counseling and leadership. Rules are necessary in any organization and the disciplinary approach taken should be reasonable and well communicated. If penalties are involved for violations, they should be applied quickly, fairly, calmly, and without undue criticism to campers.

**How does the camp handle special needs?**

If your child has special requirements, ask the camp director about needed provisions and facilities. Is there a nurse on staff? Do they have a designated place to store insulin or allergy medicine? Are special foods available for campers with restricted diets? Every question and each answer is important.

**How does the camp handle homesickness and other adjustment issues?**

Again, the camp's philosophy on helping children adjust is important. Be sure you are comfortable with the camp's guidelines on parent/child contact.

**What about references?**

This is generally one of the best ways to check a camp's reputation and service record. Directors should be happy to provide references. Google and Yelp reviews are also a good place to look.

