



# AHS Humane Education Summer Camp Policy & Information Handbook

## SUMMER CAMP CANCELLATION POLICY

This policy differs from our general education program cancellation policy. For all summer day camps, cancellations made 14 or more days before the start of a camp session will be refunded, less a \$50 administration fee per registration.

Cancellations made **fewer than 14 days** prior to the start of a camp session will not be refunded. All cancellations must be in writing via [our contact form](#).

**Note:** If a camp or program session is cancelled by AHS, all registration fees will be refunded in full. Registration fees for any AHS program are non-transferable.

## About AHS Summer Camp

### Check-in and check-out

Campers must be checked in by an adult or authorized person shortly before the program start time and promptly at the end of camp. Adults picking up campers must be on the authorized pickup list. Camp staff will need to see identification of adults picking up campers. We do not offer before and after care at our sites. When you arrive, staff will meet you at the main entrance to check-in.

Camp check-in times are as follows:

Camp type	Check-in	Check-out
Full-day	8:55 AM	4:00 PM
Half-day morning	8:55 AM	12:00 PM
Half-day afternoon	12:55 PM	4:00 PM

### Health policy

**Signs of illness:** Please monitor your child for signs of illness and keep them home when ill. Participants with symptoms of infectious diseases, including COVID-19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and gastrointestinal infections should stay home and get tested for COVID-19.

**Illness while at camp:** If a participant does not feel well at camp, the camper's parent/guardian will be called and required to pick them up early. We request that parents/guardians be available by phone during camp time.

Participants with symptoms of infectious diseases, including COVID-19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and gastrointestinal infections should stay home and get tested for COVID-19. Participants should stay home until they test negative for COVID-19 and/or symptoms have subsided.

**Medications:** Animal Humane Society staff are unable to hold, store, or administer medications for campers. Because of this policy, campers will need to be capable of self-administering medications. Camp staff are willing and able to give reminders to participants with a known medication schedule. All campers who need to take medication during the camp day must fill out a medical form when registering for camp.

## Participant behavior

While campers may elect not to participate in each activity we do, campers are expected to be engaged with the group while at camp. In order to make the experience of our programs a positive one for all campers and staff, we have established the following policy to manage chronic behavior incidents, camp disruptions, and/or safety issues:

- Camp staff will document chronic behavioral or disruptive incidents during the camp day. If staff document multiple incidents involving disruption of the whole group, including ongoing verbal abuse or inappropriate language, the camper leaving the group, or refusal to follow a camp counselor's directions, a parent or guardian will be contacted.
- If camp staff notes one behavior incident in which a camper endangers themselves, other campers, or staff, a parent or guardian will be contacted. Any incidence of fighting or physical violence, including using an object as a weapon, will result in immediate dismissal.
- The use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate dismissal.
- We will support your child the best we can to make camp as successful as possible. However, campers who are consistently unable to follow our behavior guidelines after parent/guardian contact has been made, may be asked to leave for the day or dismissed for the remainder of the camp session.
- No refunds will be available to campers who are dismissed for behavioral reasons.

## Inclusion

At AHS we strive to include as many people as possible in our mission to strengthen the bond between animals and the humans who love them. We understand that our campers have different needs, and we try to help every camper have the best experience possible in our programs. During registration, please include as much information as possible regarding helpful information, strategies, or accommodation requests you may have for your child.

While we have the desire to accommodate every need, it is important for us to be upfront about our limitations as a staff: we do not currently have the capacity to offer 1:1 camper-staff support. Also, while our staff includes many skilled youth workers, we are not mental health professionals, nor are we licensed in special education.

## Preparing for camp

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### Lunch and water at camp

Campers attending full-day camps (or back-to-back half-day camps) need to bring a lunch, water bottle, and snack each day. There will be no access to refrigeration or vending machines.

Half-day campers should bring a snack and water bottle.

### Cell phone use

We will permit campers to use their phones at the following times during the day: snack break, lunch, animal times (photos only), and for specific activities as directed by a counselor. However, we encourage campers to keep phones put away so they can explore the real world around them, get to know their fellow campers, and practice patience.

### Animals

One of the most exciting parts of AHS humane education programming is interacting with animals! Campers registered for Shelter Explorers camps offered at our Golden Valley, Coon Rapids, and Woodbury locations will have brief daily opportunities for contact with dogs, cats, or critters.

Our St. Paul — University Avenue site is a veterinary and training center and not a shelter where animals live day and night. **Camps offered at our St. Paul location will not feature daily interactions with animals.**

## What to wear and bring to camp

- Clothing that is appropriate for active, sometimes messy activities. Summer campers will be provided with an AHS T-shirt which can be worn anytime during the week. Camp activities will proceed rain or shine, so bring weather appropriate clothing as needed.
- Athletic or closed-toe shoes are required for many areas of our sites. For safety reasons, campers wearing sandals or crocs will not be able to participate in some activities.
- Bring a lunch and snack, including beverages, each day as needed for your specific camp.
- Refrigeration is not available nor are vending machines.
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen. Campers are responsible for bringing and applying their own sunscreen (full-day camps only).
- Medications (please see [medication policy](#)). Campers are responsible for keeping it in their possession and administering their medications.

## What not to bring

We discourage campers from bringing anything of value to camp. This includes money, toys, cell phones (see [cell phone policy](#)), etc.

Animal Humane Society is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen equipment brought from home. Please label all personal items with your child's name.

Campers should not bring weapons, drugs, or alcohol. If this occurs, the parent/guardian will be contacted for immediate pick up and camper dismissal without a refund.

## Registration FAQs

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### What can I do to prepare for registration?

There are a few things you can do to prepare in advance to make the registration process as easy as possible. Review our [registration tips](#).

### How will I know if my registration is complete?

When you register your child for camp, you will create an account with your family's information. Please keep your account login information for future use. Receipts can be accessed via your account, as they are not automatically provided in your confirmation email.

### Why didn't I receive a confirmation email?

A registration confirmation email will be sent to the email address you used to create your account. Occasionally our emails will be flagged as an unknown sender/spam. Please make sure to check your spam folder if you don't receive a confirmation message shortly after completing registration. It is also a good idea to add [education@animalhumanesociety.org](mailto:education@animalhumanesociety.org) to your email account's trusted senders list.

### Which grade level should I register my child for?

For summer camp, please register your child for the grade they will be entering in the fall.

Camp activities are tailored to grade levels. Making exceptions to our grade level groupings poses challenges for campers and staff. To maintain the best camp experience for everyone, we do not make exceptions to the camp grade levels. Please do not register your camper for camp sessions outside of their grade level.

### **Can I register my child for more than one week of AHS Summer Camp?**

We only allow a child to register for one session of each AHS camp program per summer.

While campers cannot repeat the same program multiple times, they are welcome to experience each of our four summer camp programs once as space allows.

This summer we are offering four distinct programs:

- AHS Shelter Explorers (full-day camp)
- Animal Art Adventures (half-day camp PM)
- Animal Science Explorers (half-day camp AM or PM)
- Exploring Animal Careers (half-day AM camp; grades 7–8, 9–10 only)

### **All of the sessions for my child's age group are full. Will you be adding more camp sessions?**

Unfortunately we do not have the available space or staff required to offer additional camp sessions. You may add your child to the waitlist for your desired camp when you log in to register, and an AHS staff member will contact you if a spot opens up.

### **How does your waitlist work?**

This year, our waitlist will open on March 1, a few weeks after camp registration begins.

We experience a high demand for our camps each year, and we know that not everyone will get into their first choice, or even get into a camp at all. Our waitlists can be very long, and we ask for patience as we work our way through filling openings and changing registrations. You will be contacted by AHS staff if a spot opens up that you are waitlisted for.

### **My child would like to attend camp with a friend. Will they always be grouped together?**

Each camp day includes activities for the full group as well as small groups. These groups are shuffled regularly to encourage interaction with new friends throughout the week. Campers who attend with friends will have plenty of opportunities to be together, but we do not guarantee they will do every activity together.

### **What's included in the camp registration fee?**

Your camp registration fee includes all materials and activities completed throughout your week at camp. Additionally, summer camp participants are provided with a T-shirt. Campers are required to bring their own water bottle and lunch every day.

### **Do you offer camp scholarships or financial aid?**

Animal Humane Society is currently unable to offer scholarships or financial assistance for programming. If you receive a scholarship from an outside organization please reach out to us at [education@animalhumanesociety.org](mailto:education@animalhumanesociety.org) and we can help coordinate payment.

### **I don't have a credit card/would prefer to pay with a check. Can I register by mail?**

In short, no. Because we require full payment in order to complete camp registration, we ask that everyone complete registration using our online portal. You may use a debit card or pre-paid Visa/Mastercard gift card if you do not have a credit card. Please call us with questions regarding this policy at 763-489-2220.

#### **For more information**

[animalhumanesociety.org/education](http://animalhumanesociety.org/education) | 763-489-2220  
[education@animalhumanesociety.org](mailto:education@animalhumanesociety.org)

