



A facility of the St. Charles Park District

# BEST Summer EVER

## Hickory Knolls Nature Camp 2025

# Find Your Adventure!

### Entering Grades 1-2, 3-4 & 5-6

**M-F • 9am-3pm each day**

Soak up the summer sun while participating in lively group games, arts & crafts, science experiments, swimming at Otter Cove and other fun activities!

Camp is held at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center. Campers should be prepared to be outside for a majority of their day. Extreme weather days will be spent inside the nature center.

Campers will need to wear tennis shoes. We also recommend long pants and long sleeves.

### Allergy Awareness

Please keep all lunches and snacks completely **nut free.**

### Camp Communications/ePACT

As part of the District's Emergency Response Plan, it is critical that all camper information is accurate and updated in ePACT on an annual basis. All communications will be emailed to legal guardians' email addresses exported from ePACT each week. Communications regarding weekly updates to trips, weather, etc. changes will be posted to the Summer Camp Follow Your Interest.

Make sure your child's information is up to date in ePACT for allergies, medications, swimmer status, picture, emergency contacts and authorized pickup persons.

### Follow Camp Updates Online....scan here:

From [stcparks.org/camps](http://stcparks.org/camps) webpage, look for this button:

For convenience, bookmark the website.



Make sure your child's information is up to date in ePACT for allergies, medications, swimmer status, picture, emergency contacts and authorized pickup persons. **Please include an updated photo.**

### Weekly Activities

Weekly visits to Otter Cove Aquatic Park occur on Wednesdays. Friday activities will be announced via email and posted on the camp board each week. If there are any changes due to weather they will be communicated via email.

### Lost and Found

Located inside Hickory Knolls Discovery Center. Counselors will return any items they find that are labeled to campers before turning them into Lost and Found. The Park District is not responsible for any lost, broken or stolen items.

### Transfers/Refunds

For information, reach out to Emily Shanahan, Manager of Nature Programs at [eshanahan@stcparks.org](mailto:eshanahan@stcparks.org).

### Drop-off & Pick-up

Drop off and pick up will occur in the front of the building. Counselors will be ready for participants to arrive at 8:55am. Campers must be dropped off by 9:20am. Pick up begins at 3pm. To ensure groups are able to focus on daily activities, late arrival or early pick up is allowed between 12-12:15pm.

At drop off, adults will sign the participants in and indicate who will be picking up the participant. At pickup, participants will be signed out. We will ask for identification from unfamiliar pickup persons.

# Skills to Practice for Success... *(before camp begins)*

## Packing a backpack

Seems simple! But with groups of 30-40 campers, counselors will not be able to assist every camper packing up their belongings between activities. Practice zipping and unzipping, as well as putting items away.

We also encourage kids to practice opening their lunch bags and boxes, as well as the foods inside, like chip bags.

## BRING

- Water bottle, sack lunch, snack, sunscreen, bug repellent, labeled towel (and swim gear on pool day), quiet activity (book, cards, coloring, pop-its, etc.) for downtime.
- Wear tennis shoes every day. Sandals and flip flops are only permitted while inside Otter Cove.

## DO NOT BRING

- Valuables: If your child has a favorite toy or comfort item that may not be the best choice to bring to camp
- Electronics: Phones, tablets, smart watches. If electronics are a distraction, counselors may decide to hold items until the end of the day and give them back directly to pick up persons.
- We highly recommend not bringing toys (dolls, stuffed animals, etc.) or trading cards, as those often get lost or dirty.

Talk to your child's counselor if you have any questions about whether an item is good to bring.

## Communication

Each camper needs to be able to clearly communicate their needs to counselors. They need to be prepared to approach an adult when something is wrong. Have your camper practice communicating their need about using the restroom or getting water, if an injury occurs or if they need a break from a specific activity. They should also approach a counselor if there is a concern with friendships or disagreements with other campers.

## Applying sunscreen and bug repellent

Campers should come to camp already wearing both sunscreen and bug repellent. Counselors will provide time for sunscreen and bug repellent to be reapplied. They may assist with spray applications of both, but campers are expected to be able to apply both sunscreen and bug repellent on their own.

## Swim gear

If possible, on swim days send your child already in their swim gear under their camp clothes.

If your child prefers to swim with goggles, make sure they are packed in their backpack. Goggles will not be provided.

Teach your child to put their socks together and put glasses in a case to tuck into their shoes.

Life vests are generally available at Otter Cove, but under a first come first serve rule. If your child absolutely needs one we recommend having them bring their own.

## A few last words...

Summer camp is very different and much more fast-paced than regular school — in fact, your camper will probably get worn out by all the fun they're having! Tell them to take this time to learn new things and try various activities. It's okay to get dirty and sweaty! Explore new interests, and ask your camp counselors any questions you have.

Remind them they will be meeting a lot of new people and making new friends every day, so encourage them to just be themselves – obey the rules, be respectful of others and have a great time!

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## Need to contact us about camp?

Email [mbrown@stcparks.org](mailto:mbrown@stcparks.org)

## More Camp Info...

<https://www.stcnature.org/nature-camps/>

## Access ePACT & Emergency Info

<https://www.epactnetwork.com/>