

Colorado Academy Summer Programs

Camper & Parent Handbook



Summer 2023

Dear Parents,

Thank you for sharing your child with us this summer at Colorado Academy (CA) Summer Programs. To be sure your child has the best of times with us, and to find answers to any specific questions of your own that you might have, please read through our Parent Handbook. Our goal is to provide you with as much information as possible about the operation of the Summer Programs. Please take the time to read through the Handbook carefully and become acquainted with our policies and procedures.

I look forward to working with you and your child this summer.

Sincerely,

Jenny Wilczewski
Director

Goals and Objectives of Colorado Academy Summer Programs:

- To offer enriching, challenging, and satisfying summer experiences for children.
- To provide a safe, secure and supportive environment in which each child feels confident to explore, play, develop skills and learn.
- To treat each child with respect, honesty, kindness and good will.
- To enable each child to feel satisfied and fulfilled by his or her experience at Colorado Academy Summer Programs every day.
- To support and strengthen families by positive, supportive communication
- To create and maintain a culture that promotes mental health, social, and emotional well-being.
- To implement strategies that support positive behavior and pro-social peer interaction.
- To provide individualized social and emotional intervention supports for children.

Camp Character

Camp Character at Colorado Academy Summer Programs is based on respect for the rights of others, kindness, awareness, safety, and pride in our program. Behavior is governed by two rules: you cannot hurt yourself, and you cannot hurt others. All campers are expected to act with integrity and to demonstrate the following characteristics:

- **Respect** – Uses good manners. Be considerate and polite to others.
- **Responsibility** – Takes care of self and belongings and can be counted on by others.
- **Honesty** – Truthful in the things we say and do.
- **Kindness** – Nice to others.
- **Good Citizenship** – Doing things which are helpful to your campers and families.

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Important Telephone Contact Information

Summer Camp Office	303 914-2531
Before and AfterCamp	303 914-2556
Transportation Department	303 914-2540

Colorado Academy Summer Programs is located at:
3800 South Pierce Street
Denver, CO 80235
Email: summer.programs@coloradoacademy.org
Website: www.coloradoacademysummer.org

Director of Summer Programs: Jenny Wilczewski

After Camp

After Camp is located in the middle school building. The telephone number for After Camp is (303) 914-2556. After Camp is in session from 3:45 to 6:15 p.m. on all the days that the camp is open. Fees for After Camp are \$13.00 per hour, calculated to the nearest quarter hour. Families who pick up children after 6:15 p.m. will be assessed a charge of \$3.00 per minute beginning at 6:16 p.m. Parents are billed After Camp at the end of the summer.

Arrival/Departure

Because no adult supervision is provided, campers should not arrive at camp before 8:45 a.m., nor depart after 3:45 p.m. It is not appropriate to leave children unsupervised on the campus outside these hours. Children who arrive early need to be signed in to the Before Camp program by an adult. Children who are left at camp after 3:45 p.m. will be taken to the After Camp program in the middle school, and parents may pick them up there. Usual After Camp charges will be assessed.

Attendance: Absences, Attendance Checks, Arrival, Departure, Late Arrival, and Early Dismissal

Absent From Camp: If your child will be absent for the day, please let us know by emailing or calling the camp office. If the absence is illness related, please share as many symptoms as possible.

Attendance Checks: Attendance checks are performed regularly and during every transition.

Drop Off and Pick Up:

Drop-off and pick-up information will be shared with parents prior to the first day of camp.

Late Arrival: Should you need to bring your child to camp after the day has begun, please call the camp office prior to the beginning of camp to arrange the late arrival.

Early Dismissal: Should you need to sign your child out early, please call the camp office to arrange the early dismissal.

We only release campers to parents or to an adult whom you have authorized by prior written request. Identification, or a camper pass, will be required.

Before Camp

Before Camp is located in the middle school building. The telephone number is (303) 914-2556. Before Camp is offered from 7:00-9:00 a.m. on all the days that the camp is open. Fees for Before Camp are \$13.00 per hour, calculated to the nearest quarter hour. Parents are billed Before Camp at the end of the summer.

Birthday Parties

We love to celebrate birthdays at camp. Due to allergy concerns, please do not send edible birthday treats with your child. You are welcome to send stickers or other related items for each child in the group. Please contact the camp office to confirm the number of campers in your child's group.

Bus Riding

Camper responsibilities:

1. The driver has full responsibility for the safe operation of the bus, therefore, campers **MUST** comply with driver requests
2. Campers must remain seated at all times.
3. Campers must not move to board or exit the bus until it is completely stopped and the door is open
4. The same courteous conduct expected at camp should be observed on the bus. Conversation is permitted, however, shouting, running and fighting are not.

Horseplay such as the following will not be tolerated:

- a. extending arms or head from bus window
 - b. shouting at passersby
 - c. throwing any object out of the bus or within the bus
 - d. unnecessary conversation with driver
 - e. littering
 - f. foul language
 - g. any conduct that is distracting to the driver, or threatens the safety of other passengers, will not be permitted
5. At the discretion of the driver, seat assignments may be made. Campers may not reserve seats or prevent other students from sharing available seats
 6. Campers may not exit through the emergency door unless a bona fide emergency exists.
 7. Be kind, especially to new or younger campers
 8. Keep track of your belongings
 9. Campers must be on time and ready to board when the bus arrives. Many times the driver has stopped traffic on the street for loading and is not in a position to wait. Also, waiting for late riders causes the bus to run behind schedule and arrive at camp late. In fairness to those who are on time, drivers are instructed not to wait for late riders
 10. Repeated failure to observe and carry out bus riding responsibilities may result in a suspension of bus riding privileges.

Parent Late for Pickup at Bus Stop: Camp policy is never to leave campers off at an unattended bus stop unless parents have made such a request in writing. If an adult is not at a stop, the child will remain on the bus and return to Colorado Academy. If you are late getting to the pickup point, please call the

Academy bus service as soon as possible. **(303) 914-2540**. The individual on duty can tell you where you might be able to meet the bus at a later stop or make arrangements for you to pick up your child at the AfterCamp program when the bus returns to campus.

Missed Bus: Should you miss the morning bus, call the bus service at **(303) 914-2540** and try to make arrangements for a pickup farther down the route. If such arrangements cannot be made, we would appreciate you bringing your child to camp. We do not want any child to have to miss a day of camp.

Camp Hours

Summer program hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 5, 2023 – July 28, 2023.

Children must not be dropped off before 8:45 am unless they are attending the BeforeCamp program, which begins at 7:00 a.m. Children who are not picked up by 3:45 p.m. are sent to AfterCamp, our after camp care program, and may be picked up there. Regular AfterCamp fees will apply.

Camp will not be in session on Tuesday, July 5, 2023.

Changes and Cancellations

In the event that Colorado Academy (CA) cancels a program for COVID-related or other reasons, all deposits and fees paid will be refunded. If the closure is for a partial week, the refund will be prorated.

Colorado Academy Summer Programs will follow Jefferson County's guidelines on mask wearing. Refunds will not be issued to families that cancel programs as a result of a change to the mask wearing policy.

In the event a family cancels a camper's registration, the following cancellation policies apply:

- Cancellations prior to March 31, 2023 will receive a full refund, less a \$50 Administration Fee for each week registered.
- Cancellations made from April 1 through April 30, 2023 will receive a full refund, less a \$75 Administration Fee for each week registered.
- Cancellations made after May 1, 2023 are non-refundable; however, a credit (less a \$100/week Administration Fee) can be applied to camp programs in 2023.

Cancellation due to illness

If your child is unable to attend camp due to illness, every effort will be made to reschedule your child's camp week to a later week this summer, or a credit will be offered for the following summer.

Changes

- After April 1, any programming changes are charged a \$25 change fee.
- Last minute programming changes (made after 9:00 a.m. the Friday before your child's camp week) are charged a \$60 change fee.)
- We are unable to make programming changes during your child's camp week.

Any changes or cancellations to your child's camp schedule must be emailed directly to:
summer.programs@coloradoacademy.org.

Children not Picked Up from Camp

Should a child not be picked up from camp or AfterCamp, attempts are made to reach either parent by telephone or cell phone. If unsuccessful, the child's camp application is referred to, and alternate adults who have volunteered to accept responsibility are contacted. Should all of these measures prove fruitless the camp director will notify the local police department. The child will be supervised at the AfterCamp program until 6:15 p.m., and after that by the camp director.

To save us a lot of worry, please keep the camp office informed of any delays in your schedule. The direct line to the office is (303) 914-2531.

Children with Special Needs, Services Offered

If your child has special needs or accommodations, please contact the camp office. A primary concern of the camp is the safety of both the individual involved and all other campers, consistent with the mission of the camp and its programs.

Clothing and Other Gear

Participants in CA Summer Day Camp need a swimsuit, towel and swim goggles (The camp will provide goggles when necessary.) All campers should bring a full water bottle, sunscreen and a visor or brimmed hat. **All clothing items should be labeled with the child's first and last name.** We make every effort to return misplaced items to campers. Campers should wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

The camp provides tennis racquets for all children. We encourage you not to send a racquet with your child. We try but rarely have much success finding lost racquets.

Discipline

Treatment of Children: At the time of hiring, again at staff orientation, and regularly during the camp season, all counselors are reminded of the appropriate treatment of children. Our staff completes orientation training on policies and procedures, child abuse laws, discipline, social and emotional health, and child development. Over 15 hours of training are provided before summer begins.

Behavior Contract: Steps taken for serious behavior problems may include written reports with behavior contracts, additional positive reinforcement, and discussions with parents to create a plan for change.

Discipline is appropriate, constructive and educational in nature and may include such measures as diversion, “sitting out”, talking with the child (at eye level), and praise for appropriate behavior. “Sitting out”, when used as a discipline, is brief and appropriate for the child’s age and circumstances. The child is within hearing and vision of a staff member.

Children are not subjected to physical or emotional harm or humiliation.

Corporal or other harsh punishment, including but not limited to pinching, shaking, spanking, punching, biting, kicking, rough handling, hair pulling, or any humiliating or frightening method of discipline is **absolutely** forbidden.

Punishing a child for toileting accidents is forbidden.

Food is not denied to or forced upon a child as a disciplinary measure.

Verbal abuse and derogatory remarks about a child are not permitted.

Removal of a Child from Camp: Colorado Academy reserves the right to dismiss a camper from the activities of the Summer Programs at any time if, in the sole judgment of CA, the camper presents a safety concern, is disruptive or otherwise conducts him or herself in a manner detrimental to the activities of the CA Summer Programs. Behavior or actions which may be cause for dismissal may include, but are not limited to, repeated breaches of discipline, the child is not socialized well enough to function successfully at camp, bullying or other forms of harassment.

Additionally, CA reserves the right to dismiss a student from enrollment at any time if, in the sole judgement of CA, the parent(s) or guardians(s) fail to abide by the standards of conduct, policies, rules and regulations of Colorado Academy currently in effect including, without limitation, the policies as described in the Colorado Academy Summer Programs Camper & Parent Handbook. Prior to dismissal of any child, an early childhood mental health consultant or other specialist will be consulted. Parents will be contacted, via telephone, if a child will be withdrawn from the program.

Colorado Academy Summer Programs will not refund fees in the event of enforced withdrawal and any unpaid balance will remain payable in full in accordance with the payment schedule.

Everyday Preparation for Camp:

- Be sure to provide your child with a large, nutritious breakfast before arriving at camp.
- Do make sure your child gets adequate sleep. The days at camp are very busy and much more physically demanding than a school day. For most children at least 10 and preferably 12 hours of sleep are necessary.
- Cover all exposed parts of your child's body with *sunscreen* before they leave the house in the morning. A healthy dose of lip balm is also a good idea. Day camp counselors and teachers will remind campers to reapply sunscreen throughout the day. Please pack additional sunscreen (spray is requested) in your child's backpack. If your child forgets to bring sunscreen, we have sunscreen available in the camp office. We use Rocky Mountain Sunscreen, Broad Spectrum SPF 50. According to licensing guidelines, we are only able to provide our sunscreen if a sunscreen authorization has been signed by a parent or guardian.
- Make sure all of your **child's clothing is labeled with his or her name**. Every year we turn over a huge supply of clothing to charitable agencies because we cannot identify the owners.

Filing a complaint about Child Care

Should a parent/guardian or staff member wish to file a complaint concerning suspected licensing violations on the part of Colorado Academy Summer Day Camp, they may do so by contacting:

Division of Child Care
The Colorado Dept. of Human Services
1575 Sherman St.
Denver, CO 80203-1714
(303) 866-5958

Field Trips

Colorado Academy Traditional Day Camp does not take field trips.

Health Concerns: Illness, Accidents, Dispensing Medication, Immunization Records and Tuition Payments and Refunds because of Illness

Health Concerns: In compliance with state regulations the camp will notify the Department of Human Services of any accident or illness occurring at camp that results in medical treatment by a physician or other health care professional, hospitalization, or death within 48 hours.

Similarly the camp will report to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment any communicable illness; including but not limited to measles, mumps, diphtheria, rubella, tuberculosis, shigella, hepatitis, meningitis, salmonella, and giardia; contracted by a staff member or a child in our care. The camp will also report this information to the parents/guardians of the campers that might have been exposed via an email or phone call.

Campers' Illnesses, Accidents, and Injuries: Campers suffering minor injuries and illnesses are brought to the camp office where basic care is given. State regulations do not permit us to use non-prescription medications without doctor and parent approval.

Children who feel ill are encouraged to lie on cots in the nurse's office. Often a short nap improves matters considerably. When necessary, parents are notified by the camp nurse via telephone, and we will consult on the appropriate action to be taken. If a child must go home early due to illness, children should be picked up within 30 minutes.

In the case of a severe injury the child is not moved unless a greater danger is present. The camp office and the camp director are notified immediately. Any counselor at the scene renders immediate assistance. A staff member qualified in CPR/first aid is notified immediately and reports to the scene and renders aid. The camp office staff dials 911 and seeks immediate outside assistance. The camp office staff notifies the parents of the child involved and keeps them up to date as information is gathered. Should a trip to the emergency room be required, one of the child's counselors rides in the emergency vehicle and a member of the camp office staff follows in a car.

Dispensing medication:

Colorado Academy contracts for school nursing services with the Children's Hospital. Through training and supervision by a registered nurse from the Children's Hospital, CA Summer Programs personnel are delegated the authority to dispense medication to students. The summer programs office must have on file a Medication Administration Permission form signed by both a physician and a parent before we can dispense either prescription or non-prescription medication. Medication may be administered to students by the school nurse, health assistant, or other school designee only when the following requirements are met. For purposes of this policy, the term "medication" includes both prescription and non-prescription medication. The term "non-prescription medication" includes but is not limited to over-the-counter medications.

1. Medication, both prescription and non-prescription, shall be in the original properly labeled container. If it is a prescription medication, the student's name, the name of the medication, dosage, how often it is to be administered, and the name of the prescribing health care practitioner shall be printed on the container.
2. The school shall have received written permission to administer the medication from the student's health care practitioner with prescriptive authority under Colorado law.
3. The school shall have received written permission from the student's parent/guardian to administer the medication to the student. Preventative measures such as use of sunscreen or bug spray require parent/guardian authorization only.

4. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for providing all medication to be administered to the student including over-the-counter medication. Additionally, parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring all medications are not expired.
5. All medications must be picked-up by parents at the end of the summer programs session. Medications not picked up by the last weekday in August will be discarded.

Self-administration of medication for asthma, allergies or anaphylaxis

Campers may be granted the privilege to self-administer routine medications on a case by case basis in consultation with RN, parents, and the student. Approval will be granted based on a number of factors including a camper's age, level of responsibility and demonstrated skill level necessary to use the medication. An individual health care plan must be on file for medications related to asthma, allergies or anaphylaxis and the plan must address carrying and self-administering emergency medication. A Self-Carry Authorization Form must also be completed by a camper and their parents.

Immunization Records: On or before the first day of camp, we must have the original, state-issued, copy of your child's immunization record on file.

Tuition refunds due to absences caused by illness: Refunds cannot be made for missing camp due to illness. If an entire week is missed, the camp will offer another week at no additional charge if space is available. A doctor's note is required.

Harassment/Bullying

Colorado Academy is dedicated to fostering an environment that promotes kindness, acceptance, and embraces differences among individuals. Therefore, CA will not tolerate any type of harassment or "bullying" against any person for any reason. Harassment includes, but is not limited to: slurs, jokes, comments, teasing, and other offensive conduct relating to race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, citizenship, or disability. Harassment also includes unwanted, offensive sexual conduct. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical or verbal aggression (hitting, kicking, taunting, teasing, threatening, ridiculing, etc.), relational aggression (harming or threatening to harm relationships or acceptance, friendship, or group inclusion), emotional aggression (teasing, threatening, intimidating others).

Bullying or harassment can occur through any type of communication method, including face-to-face communications, phone, text, email, postings on social media, camera phones, or other forms of technology. The communications can be direct or indirect, such as through friends or others. Any type of offensive conduct, whether on or off campus, or on a School bus, can create an uncomfortable environment.

All concerns relating to harassment or bullying should be reported immediately to the Director of Summer Programs. We also expect that anyone, whether student, faculty, staff or family member who witnesses, or has knowledge of an incident of bullying or harassment, will report the incident to administration immediately. When the School administration becomes aware of harassment or bullying, the situation will be promptly investigated. Any student or adult found to have violated this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal from program activities for serious violations, and

could face potential legal consequences. No adverse action will be taken against any person who makes a good faith report of harassment or bullying. However, students and parents found to have made false or frivolous charges of bullying, sexual or other harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, including, without limitation, the possibility of suspension or expulsion. Retaliation in any form against anyone for making a good faith complaint under this policy or for participating in an investigation is strictly prohibited.

Inclement and Excessively Hot Weather

During inclement weather, outdoor activities are moved into the Academy's athletic building. During unusually hot spells, fewer active games are played, and more time is spent in the shade around campus.

Inappropriate Items

Campers are not allowed to have items at camp that pose risks or will disrupt some aspect of the camp day. Such items include, but are not limited to: skateboards, roller blades, weapons, firecrackers, matches, lighters, slingshots, water pistols, pagers, alcohol, drugs, cell phones, personal sports equipment, animals, electronic games, i-pods. If your camper intends to bring an item that you are in doubt, please contact the camp office for our opinion.

Also be aware that campers are encouraged not to bring items of great value to camp. The lockers do not lock and security cannot be guaranteed. If items of value must be brought to camp, please ask your camper to stow them in the camp office, and we will do our best to keep them secure. The camp is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Lockers

Lockers will not be used in 2023.

Lost and Found

Lost items or misplaced items are collected in the camp office. Please give us a call about missing items and we will do our best to locate the item. All unclaimed items at the end of the summer will be donated to a local charity.

Lost Children, Procedures for

Should a camper be discovered to be missing the following procedures are observed:

- The camp director and the camp office staff will be notified immediately.
- All possible adult witnesses will be questioned as to the child's most recent whereabouts. Should there be any question as to whether or not the child came to camp or if the child might have been picked up by a parent, the camp office staff will contact the parents for information.
- A thorough search of the campus will be conducted by members of the camp office staff, two counselors from the color group of the missing child, and at least one counselor from each other color group.
- At least two staff members will be asked to drive around the city block that surrounds the campus and conduct a search.

Should the child still be missing after a thorough search by camp personnel the following procedures are followed:

- The camp office staff will dial 911, report the incident, and ask for assistance
- The parents of the child involved will be notified by the camp office staff and be invited to aid in the search
- The search will continue under the guidance of local authorities.
- Upon completion of the search, the camp office staff shall submit a written report within 48 hours to the licensing section of the State Department of Social Services. The report shall be made in accordance with State Regulation 7.712.54 section F.

Lunch and Snacks

Hot and cold lunches are provided daily for full-day campers. If for medical or other reasons, a camper needs to bring his/her own food to camp, it will be stored in the camp office cooler as needed. If the food is non-perishable, the camper may carry it during the day or leave it in the camp office. Campers will be supervised by camp counselors while at lunch and during transition to their next camp block.

Daily snacks are provided in the Rainbow (5-year-old) program. Parents of older children are encouraged to pack peanut-free snacks.

An afternoon popsicle or ice cream snack is provided daily.

Ordering food from off-campus is not allowed.

Natural Disasters/Emergency Procedures, Action Plan

In the event of a natural disaster on the campus, the following procedures are followed as appropriate as soon as the camp director or her assistant determines that all danger is past:

- Counselors with CPR/First Aid training are to report to each shelter area and administer treatment to the injured as needed
- First aid kits are issued from the athletic building
- Police, fire and ambulance services are notified as rapidly as possible
- Local radio and TV stations are notified and asked to broadcast the information. Especially if electricity is out and the phone system inoperable

- Camp staff will attempt to reach parents by phone and notify them of the situation as well as information about the welfare of their camper.
- If the situation poses no apparent danger parents will be asked to pick up their children at the camp or an off-campus location that will be communicated to parents.

The camp director and available camp staff will remain until all children have been picked up, or transported to emergency care facilities.

Emergency Notification and Planning for Fires, Natural Disaster and Emergency Drills:

The safety of your children remains our paramount priority while your children are in our care. For disaster preparedness, we hold fire, tornado and natural disaster drills with staff at the beginning of the summer. Furthermore, the counselors are equipped with radios or cell phones for campus wide communication and alerts. Any emergency information or instructions for faculty and staff are sourced from the camp directors. Appropriate care will be given to children with special needs or children with disabilities to ensure that the physical and emotional needs of all children are met during an emergency situation. Handicap accessible shelter areas and bus transportation are available when necessary.

Evacuation/Shelter/Lockdown/Active Shooter Plans: Colorado Academy has a written protocol for emergencies. Our staff has been trained in these procedures and reviews them annually. Furthermore, our staff meets with campus security and operations personnel to discuss and practice emergency procedures for the children and staff.

Parent Communication

We believe the best way to ensure a successful camp experience is to work together as a team. We encourage parents to communicate concerns or other information to the Director. The Director will contact parents, via email or phone, to communicate concerns or questions regarding a child's progress, social, emotional, and physical needs. .

Participation in Camp Activities

We encourage children to participate in all activities. If you wish for your child to be excused from particular activities, you need to inform the camp in writing. The camp will inform you if your child consistently refuses to participate in particular camp activities without written permission.

Personal Belongings

CA is not responsible for campers' lost, stolen or damaged personal belongings. Campers should not bring electronics of any type to the program.

Program Ages

Our program enrolls children, ages 4 through 16.

Program Fees

Please refer to our registration page to view all program fees for the summer of 2023. A deposit of 40% is due at the time of registration. The balance is by May 1, 2023.

Sexual or Other Abuse

State regulations regarding the reporting of child abuse are very stringent. The following requirements apply to Colorado Academy Summer Day Programs, and we will comply with them fully.

Any staff member of the child care center who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or who has observed the child being subjected to circumstances or conditions which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect shall immediately report or cause a report to be made of such fact to the county department of social services or local law enforcement agency.

The investigators, who are staff members of the county department of social services or a law enforcement agency, of an allegation of child abuse shall be given the right to interview staff and children in care, and obtain names, addresses, and telephone numbers of parents of children enrolled in the school-age child care program.

Any report made to the law enforcement authorities or a county department of social services of an allegation of abuse of any child at the school-age child care program shall result in the immediate suspension of the alleged perpetrator. Such suspension shall remain in effect pending the outcome of the investigation by the appropriate authorities.

Staff/Child Ratio

The State of Colorado's minimum standards for staff to school age child ratio is 1:15. Colorado Academy Summer Programs strives to maintain a ratio of 1:7.

Telephone Messages

Campers may use the telephone in the camp office to contact parents. Telephone use for social reasons is not permitted.

To leave messages for a camper call the camp office at (303) 914-2531. Messages are forwarded from there to the head counselor and then to the camper.

Television and Video Viewing

Television viewing is not a regular camp activity. Occasionally, if a full day of rain is experienced, the afternoon free swim period may be replaced by watching movies. Such movies are G rated, and the emphasis is on Disney type feature length cartoons. The day camp does not engage in media or internet usage.

Visitors

Visitors to Summer Programs (not visitors to Colorado Academy), must sign in at the camp office. The sign-in must include name, address, and purpose of visit. The camp office will maintain a record of all visitors to the camp.