



Camp Grow



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Camp Grow 2023! Another amazing summer filled with fun and discovery here, at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, is approaching. Since most of the camp's activities are outdoor, we ask that your camper come **every day** with the following items (labelled with your child's name):

- Backpack
- Sunscreen and bug repellent (Please apply each morning before camp.)
- Water bottle (Water is available for refills so large-capacity, **heavy** water bottles are not encouraged.)
- A lunch and a snack in a lunch bag/box. (Campers work up a big appetite.)
- Sneakers. No open-toe or Croc style shoes are allowed.
- An extra change of clothes – in case campers get wet
- Raincoat if calling for rain (A fold-up rain poncho is easy to keep in camper backpacks.)
- Other helpful items are a towel, a hat, and gardening gloves.

Camp Grow Policies, and Code of Conduct are important elements of this camp packet. Please read all information prior to registering for camp and go over camp rules and expected behavior with your child. By registering for Camp Grow participants and their parents/guardians are agreeing to Camp Grow policies, parameters, and Code of Conduct.

The staff at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens wants every child who participates in Camp Grow to have a safe and enjoyable experience. Thank you for choosing Camp Grow at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens as your child's destination for summer adventure!

Jules Maloney
Program Manager
jmaloney@nvrpa.org

703-255-3631 x103

Camp, Special Accommodations

Corey Payne
Park Specialist
cpayne@nvrpa.org

703-255-3631 x100

Camp registration or withdraw



Camp Grow Information & Policies



Camp Grow Hours

CAMP TYPE	CAMP HOURS	CHECK IN TIME	CHECK OUT TIME
Half-day Camp (Sprouts)	9:00am to 1:00pm	8:45am to 9:00am	1:00pm to 1:15pm
Full-day Camps (Adventurers, Explorers, Dragonflies, Cardinals)	9:00am to 4:00pm	8:45am to 9:00am	4:00pm to 4:15pm
Art in the Gardens Mini Camp	1:30pm to 4:30pm	1:15pm to 1:30pm	4:30pm to 4:45pm

Both check in and check out require a signature from an adult (with ID) who is on the camper’s Pick-Up Authorization List created in the online camp registration process. A parent may add to this list by emailing jmaloney@nvrpa.org prior to the camp week or at the Camp Grow Check In/Out Table on the first day of camp.

Late Parent Pickup Policy

If a parent/authorized adult is more than 15 minutes late in picking a camper, a late fee of \$2.00 per each additional minute may be applied thereafter. If a child is consistently picked up late, the child may be dismissed from the program. A staff member will remain with the child for up to one hour after the program ends. After one hour, Child Protective Services will be called if parents/guardians cannot be reached.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures

Parents/Guardians may inform camp staff of schedule changes for your camper or call our Visitor Center to leave a message at 703-255-3631 x0. Most likely camp will not be at the Visitor Center during the camp day. **Parents/Guardians should plan to drop off or pick up their campers at the current location of the campers as staff is not available to leave the other campers to transport campers to/from the Visitor Center.** Please check in at our Visitor Center so our admissions staff member can contact our camp counselor for the location of our campers. Please plan for a possible 10-minute walk to reach the current camp location on Meadowlark’s 95-acre property.

WHAT DO CAMPERS NEED TO BRING TO CAMP GROW EACH DAY?

Since most camp activities are outdoor, campers should come to camp every day with the following items (labelled with your child’s name):

- Backpack
- Sunscreen and bug repellent (Please apply each morning before camp.)
- Water bottle (Water is available for refills so large-capacity water bottles are not encouraged since they are heavy to carry on our walks/hikes.)
- A lunch and a snack in a lunch bag/box for half-day and full-day camps. (Campers work up a big appetite.)
- Sneakers. No open-toe or Croc style shoes are allowed.
- An extra change of clothes – in case campers get wet
- Raincoat if calling for rain (A fold-up rain poncho is easy to keep in camper backpacks.)
- Other helpful items are a towel, a hat, and gardening gloves.

Medication and Sunscreen/Bug Spray

Staff is not permitted to administer medications or apply lotions to campers except for medical emergencies.

Illness at Camp Campers

Showing symptoms of illness will not be permitted to check into camp or must be picked up immediately if symptoms appear during the camp day.

Children's Belongings

- NOVA Parks and the site staff are not responsible for lost/stolen items.
- Personal belongings should be kept in a tote bag or backpack.
- Electronics, toys, and other similar items should not be brought to camp.

Behavior and Safety

If a child brings a weapon to camp, intentionally harms, or threatens to harm themselves or others, vandalizes property, or displays other extreme behavior, he/she will be dismissed from the program, and no refund will be given. All participants enrolled in NOVA Parks program must adhere to the Code of Conduct, which is included in this packet.

For inappropriate behavior, parents will be notified verbally and/or in writing with notification of further action. NOVA Parks reserves the right to immediately dismiss a child from any program.

Staff will never use physical punishment, be verbally abusive, force, withhold or substitute food, give any child the authority to punish another child, place a child out of visual/hearing sight, in the dark, or in an unvented place, or punish a child for a bathroom incident.

Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect

If it is suspected that child has been abused, neglected, or exploited, NOVA Parks is required to report it to Youth and Child Protective Services.

Refund Policy

There are no refunds for missed days due to changed work/vacation schedules or sick days.

Refunds, minus a \$25 administrative fee, are only permitted at least 45 days prior to the first day of your camp session.

To withdraw your child from, email cpayne@nvrpa.org.

Special Needs/Accommodations

Our staff is committed to providing a week of enriching activities that will engage all campers. Parents/guardians are welcome to communicate their children's special needs (extreme shyness, fears, learning or social challenges, services received at school, special accommodations) with Program Manager Jules Maloney at 703-255-3631 x103 or jmaloney@nvrpa.org.

Inclement Weather and Summer Heat

While most Camp Grow activities are outdoor, camp makes use of the Visitor Center and Log Cabin (both with AC) as well as gazebos, shelters, and other shady spots. All-camp water breaks are frequent, and each day's schedule is made and altered with attention to the weather and air quality.



Camp Grow Code of Conduct



To provide all participants, volunteers, and staff with a safe and positive environment at Camp Grow, the following are required.

Children must:

- Maintain personal care (toileting, changing) without staff support
- Stay with assigned group at all times
- Respect others in what is said and done
- Listen to program leaders and follow directions
- Use appropriate language
- Keep hands to oneself and maintain self-control
- Take care of their own belongings
- Use equipment and supplies in a safe and appropriate manner
- Play safe and have fun.

Teasing and bullying are not tolerated and are grounds for termination. Children should report these incidents immediately to their counselor.

Parents/Guardians must:

- Discuss the Camp Grow Code of Conduct with their child
- Sign children in and out of Camp daily and bring proper I.D.
- Be on time to drop off and pick up children
- Assist staff in resolving behavior issues
- Contact the Camp Supervisor or Program Manager immediately when issues arise.

Grounds for Immediate Dismissal (no refund given):

- A parent who refuses to follow NOVA Parks policies and rules
- A child who brings a weapon to camp
- A child who intentionally harms oneself or causes injury to another child or staff member
- A child who vandalizes the property of the camp facility, staff, or other children
- A child who steals items from the camp facility, staff, or other children
- A child who displays inappropriate behaviors repeatedly
- A child who fails to comply with the Code of Conduct.

By registering for Camp Grow, parents/guardians agree to the Camp Grow Code of Conduct. They further agree that their child is able to consistently adhere to all behaviors listed above and agree to discuss these behavior standards with him/her