22

THE MORNING JOURNAL

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THE FALCON CAMP BEACH COLOR RUN

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How to find the right fit for summer camp

Many adults fondly recall their days at summer camp. The increase in households with two working parents has made it more important than ever to find a camp to accommodate youngsters who need to remain engaged and entertained throughout over summer vacation. That reality has led to more summer camp options, but it's not always so easy finding one that's the right fit for a child.

No two children are the same and kids change quite a bit as they grow up. So a camp that worked for an older child or even one that accommodated a younger camper may not make the perfect fit this summer. With that in mind, parents can consider these tips to find the right summer camp for their children.

• Ask around. Even if no two campers are the same, it can benefit parents to ask around when shopping for a summer camp. Summer camp spots are limited and it's not uncommon for competition for available spaces to develop, which can make it more difficult to gather information. However, ask neighbors whose children have outgrown summer camp if there's one they might recommend (or would not recommend).

• **Pursue a package deal.** Though package deals might not result in lower rates, approaching a camp with the parents of your child's friend or



Summer camp provides children weeks of entertainment, camaraderie and opportunities to learn and grow.

friends may work in your favor. Kids undoubtedly will be more excited about camp if their friends will be there as well. Camp officials may see these quasi-package deals as beneficial and a quick and easy way to fill spots.

· Ask kids how they want to spend summer. Specialized camps run the gamut from sports camps focusing on a particular sport to general outdoor recreation camps to camps that cater to young musicians. More general camps offer a wide range of activities throughout the summer, and that might appeal to children less interested in specialized camps. Ask youngsters for their input before making a final decision. Involve kids in the search by showing them websites of prospective camps and asking them what they think of each one. If attending an in-person consultation, bring kids along so they can form their own impression.



• Make sure the camp suits your schedule. Kids' preferences are not the only opinions to consider. In households with two working parents, moms and dads must find a camp that aligns with their work schedule. Many camps offer half-day sessions and/or full-day sessions, but some offer just one or the other. If parents need full-day sessions, they might need to begin their search early to ensure they can secure a spot before they fill up.

• **Identify what you can afford.** Camp costs vary significantly, so parents should identify how much they can afford before they begin their search. Doing so may eliminate various camps right off the bat, saving parents precious time as they try to find a camp for their children before spots fill up. Many towns offer local camps at schools, and these may be an affordable option. Parents also should know that many camps allow them to pick certain weeks or days of the week a child will attend rather than insisting kids attend camp for the duration of the summer.

Summer camp season is right around the corner. Parents and children can work together to identify a camp that will ensure this summer is filled with fun.

Cleveland Guardians Youth Summer Camps

Entering the vibrant world of the Cleveland Guardians Youth Summer Camps is an invitation to a week filled with more than just swings and catches—it's an odyssey of growth, camaraderie, and the sheer joy of playing the game. For kids aged 6 to 14, this camp isn't just about baseball and softball; it's a about creating lasting memories, learning new skills, and having fun.

Imagine a gathering where the youngest rookies and potential future Progressive Field stars converge. This camp transcends the spectrum of experience—from those gripping a bat for the first time to the veterans of the area's top travel programs. The promise is simple: a week that leaves every player, regardless of age or skill, a better ballplayer on Friday than they were on Monday.

Safety is the heartbeat of this experience. When grouping kids, age groups are a starting point, with an additional emphasis on prior experience, ensuring each camper finds the perfect balance between challenge and confidence. Instructors carefully curate an environment where tennis balls, whiffle balls, and safety balls join regulation baseballs, fostering a fear-free space for learning and fun.

Our instructors are top coaches from around Northeast Ohio and SafeSport certified, they bring passion and creativity to every one of the 30 hours of camp. From the first swing to the final catch, these mentors guide young players in skill building, being a good teammate, Cleveland Guardians Culture, and more.

Competition is the heartbeat of any sport, and every camper gets a chance to showcase their skills. Baseball and softball competitions culminate in the announcement of top performers at the end of every camp throughout the summer, with scores proudly posted online. This all culminates in Champions Day: after the last camp of the summer, the top 10 scorers from each age group from the will be invited to

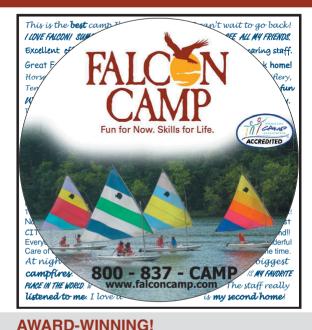


compete at the Champions Day finals with kids from all our camps throughout Northeast Ohio.

This isn't just a camp; it's a Major League experience. Each player receives an MLB-quality Guardians jersey, pants, belt, and cap. Guest appearances by current Guardians players or team alumni add a touch of big-league magic. As a bonus, every participant receives two tickets to a 2024 Guardians game, extending the experience beyond the week on the field, providing an opportunity to reunite with newfound friends.

The Cleveland Guardians Youth Summer Camps aren't just about refining skills; they're about kindling a love for the game, and the Cleveland Guardians, that lasts a lifetime.

Ohio's Premier Summer Camp



Traditional Resident Summer Camp (ages 6-16)

- Only 90 miles south of Cleveland Carrollton OH.
- For Boys and Girls separate activities with planned coed events.
- 2, 4, 6, or 8-week sessions
- Horseback riding, sailing, swimming, arts, drama, archery, riflery, nature, sports, fishing & so much more!
- Campers choose own activities within broad framework.
- American Camp Association Accredited Camp since 1959.
- 1:4 staff/camper ratio allows excellent supervision and instruction.

Young Adventurers Summer Camp (ages 6–10)

- · Special one-week intro sessions includes all camp activities
- Designed to give first time younger campers an outstanding 'first adventure'
- 1:3 staff/camper ratio allows for extra attention with living habits, meals, bedtime and social skills.

DON'T MISS OUT! Camp is filling now! TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR at www.falconcamp.com

Program Excellence Award -American Camp Association Ohio 2023 Best Parenting -Cincinnati Family Magazine

At Falcon, Good Things Happen by Design.

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

- NE Ohio Parent Magazine

-Philly.com

Parent Choice Award 2023

Selected as Ohio's "Coolest Camp"

New Friends, Incredible Fun, Great Memories at Falcon Camp

Looking for the best overnight summer camp experience in Ohio? Nestled in the woods on beautiful Leesville Lake lies an award-winning summer camp that has served Cleveland area families since 1959. Located only 2 hours south of Cleveland, Falcon Camp is widely recognized as Ohio's premier summer camp. Falcon Camp offers an eye-catching lakefront setting, a talented staff and a wide range of activities. Boys and girls ages 6-16 choose daily from a variety of activities such as sailing, horseback riding, tennis, mountain biking, theater, sports, riflery, crafts, nature study and so much more. A popular extra riding program is available in addition to the regular horseback riding program. Daily activities are gender separate with planned coed activities and divided by appropriate age/grade. The noncompetitive environment is inviting to campers who may be hesitant to

try something new, while the awards system challenges even the most experienced campers. Falcon has a strong reputation for making sure a camper's first camping experience is positive. The Traditional Camp offers programs in 2, 4, 6, and 8 week sessions. A 1:4 staff/camper ratio insures attention and instruction in each activity. Instruction is given from beginner to advanced in each area and campers are encouraged to try everything before choosing favorites. The Health Center is available 24/7 and the Kitchen serves excellent food with good variety and attention to individual needs.

Falcon also offers an exciting one week intro 'Young Adventure' program for campers ages 6-10. This unique program is designed with care to guide younger campers towards success in their first great adventure away from home. The Young Adventure program takes place inside



the Traditional Camp program and includes the same activities. A 1:3 staff/camper ratio gives Falcon the ability to keep a close eye and give a helping hand when needed. Basic skills are taught with an emphasis on safety as well as fun.

Falcon's directors are experienced and caring. Our leadership development programs for older campers and junior staff are respected SEE PAGE 5





MAJOR LEAGUE INSTRUCTION FOR KIDS 6-14

REGISTER TODAY!

FALCON CAMP

across the camping world. Our efforts to create an atmosphere of safety and healthy learning helps campers reach outside their comfort zones to feel good about trying new activities and making new friends. Falcon friendships do last a lifetime. At Falcon, good things happen by design.

Most important of all: Falcon is great fun! "Fun for Now, Skills for Life" is more than a logo phrase but is truly what happens at camp. Falcon is accredited by the American Camp Association and we are celebrating our 65th year. Campers join Falcon from across the United States and from around the world. Many references are available and everyone is welcome to contact Falcon for more information. Email info@falconcamp.com, phone 330-627-4269 or visit our website, www.falconcamp.com . This is an outstanding opportunity to experience an excellent summer so close to home!

Located at 4251 Delta Road SW in Carrollton, OH

Camp Curiosity: Summer Science Camps GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER

Welcome to Camp Curiosity 2024! We know your kids thrive on the fun of learning new things and challenging themselves with new experiences. Our week-long, summer day camps for kids in grades K-6 feature a variety of STEM themes, offering them unforgettable science adventures, new opportunities to grow their interests, and the chance to practice essential soft skills such as communication and problem-solving.

This year, we have tons of new camps with themes focusing on nature, music, space, LEGOs,

and technology, and a few returning favorites (we see you Minecraft fans!). There are new art themed

camps, and excitement over this summer's Olym-

pic Games has led to the creation of new sports

themed camps! Camp themes are available for both

grade bands (K-2 and 3-6), but specific activities are

tailored appropriately for each age group.

Sessions begin June 4 and run through the week of August 12.

Register by March 31 and receive \$20 off. Register by April 30 and save \$10. Discounts are also

available for multi-week registration, siblings, and

returning camp alumni, and discounts can be com-



bined. Members always save \$25 per camp. Beforeand after-care are available. Scholarships are also available, which allow us to provide summer camp opportunities to underserved youth.

Camp Curiosity is presented by Timken.

For more information and to register call 216-621-2400 or visit GreatScience.com.





Age Range: children of all ages with grandparent Fee: \$10/camper



LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS offers summer camps for various ages in various formats. Camps include a wide variety of activities to promote learning, recreation, and FUN outdoors! Camp registration opens for Lorain County residents on April 3 at 8 am, and is available online or by phone at (440) 458-5121. Registration will open to all others on April 10.

Camps are offered at parks throughout the county so there is sure to be one nearby. Allow your child to foster a love of nature and discover the wild side of the great outdoors. Join us for a summer camp! For more information visit loraincountymetroparks.com/summer-camps.

SESSION 1 (morning): Amherst Beaver Creek Reservation Date: Wed., August 7, 2024 Time: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **SESSION 2** (evening): Cascade Park (Elvria) Date: Wed., August 14, 2024 Time: 4 p.m.-7 p.m. **SESSION 3** (morning): Carlisle Reservation - Visitor Center (LaGrange) Date: Wed., August 21, 2024 Time: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. **SESSION 4** (evening): Vermilion River Reservation - Mill Hollow side (Vermilion) Date: Wed., August 28, 2024 Time: 4 p.m.-7 p.m.

Grandparents and Grandchildren are out of this world! Come explore nature together at one of our four park options! The program includes outdoor games, indoor games, a selfguided hike, crafts and light refreshments- All with a SPACE-THEMED twist! Bring a bag lunch (for morning



sessions) and a portable dinner (for evening sessions) and your senses of wonder and creativity! The program is open to all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required at least two weeks prior to your selected date. Please register all participants.

**Session 1, 2, & 3 Note: Building does not have stairs, and the hiking path is paved. Closed-toe shoes are advised.

**Session 4 Note: Building does not have stairs, and the hiking path is unpaved. Closed-toe shoes are advised.

Contact Andrea at (440) 865-8786 or e-mail aarriaga@loraincountymetroparks.com with any questions or food allergies.



Common Ground The Cindy Nord Center for Renewal

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commongroundcenter.org 14240 Baird Road, Oberlin, OH 44074





Common Ground Summer Camps

Quick Facts about our Day Camps

- We offer 8 consecutive weeks of day camp. Sign up for one, all eight or anywhere in between.
- Camps run Monday Friday from 9 am – 3 pm
- Financial Aid is available for both camps
- Our summer camps qualify for ACE Funding

*See individual camp age for more details.

Our Camp Philosophy

At the heart of our work is striving to enhance young people's sense of relationship with themselves, each other, and with the world. We believe that children who attend Common Ground Summer Camps gain a stronger sense of the diversity of life and possess new tools to assist them in sustaining relationships with their peers, families, and the communityat-large through understanding diversity, peacemaking, human worth, dignity, and respect, and through their role in the world.



We believe that children should have a safe and nourishing structured environment where they can grow in the company of their peers and under SEE PAGE 10

The Girl Scouts have a camp for every girl

Girl Scouts are a force of nature. They were meant for outdoor adventures. They're ready to rediscover the world – to disconnect from technology and embrace the freedom of the woods, the sky, and water. The best part,— no Girl Scout experience necessary!

Every camp adventure is different, but that doesn't mean your camper won't get a well-rounded experience! From archery, low ropes, campfire cooking and exploring nature, your girl will experience everything that makes camp, feel like camp. Whether for a day, a week, or longer, Girl Scout camp provides an opportunity to grow, explore, and have fun under the guidance of caring, trained adults.



We have a camp for every interest! We offer one-day programs and week-long day camps. We also have week-long resident camps at Camps Ledgewood and Timberlane.

If your Girl Scouts loves the water, Splish Splash may be the perfect Day Camp, but if she loves science, maybe Friends of the Forest is the perfect Week-long Day Camp for the girl who's eager to learn about animals and their native habitats! Stardust may be the Resident Camp for the astronomer in training in your life. Whichever camp themes she chooses, fun is sure to follow!

For more information visit gsneo. org/summercamp or call Customer Care at 800-852-4474.



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- OR BE ABLE TO OBTAIN AN ODE EDUCATIONAL AIDE PERMIT BY THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (ODE)
 - ABILITY TO PERFORM SCHOOL AIDE JOB DUTIES

Fun ways to keep kids occupied over summer break

Kids look forward to summer vacation every year. The last day of school gives way to less structured days when kids can spend more time outdoors and less time cracking the books.

Summer vacation can be a dilemma for parents, especially in households where both parents work full-time. A pandemic-related increase in remote working has made that problem somewhat more manageable, but even parents working from home must find fun way for kids to stay occupied until the new school year begins. No two kids are the same, so parents may need to try various activities on for size until they find something their children enjoy doing during the lazy days of summer.

• **Day camp:** Day camps provide much of the structure of school without all the homework or time spent indoors. Many parks and recreation departments run summer day camps for kids. Camps can be generalized or specialized. For example, some may offer an array of activities, including sports and nature walks, in a given day, while others may focus on a single activity, like musical lessons or science-based programs. Camps run by local parks and rec departments do not typically last all summer long, which parents should keep in mind when enrolling youngsters.

• **Reading:** Parents may be surprised by how much their children enjoy a good book. A recent poll from the National Education Association found that 70 percent of middle school students read more than 10 books a year. The National Literacy Trust reports that roughly 45 percent of children between the ages of eight and 11 enjoy reading "very much."



When suggesting to children that they read more this summer, parents can note the many ways that reading for pleasure differs from reading for school. Point out that kids won't have to submit book reports and emphasize that they can choose their own

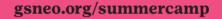
books. Depending on children's ages, introduce kids to a series like "Harry Potter," which is a set of seven fantasy novels that has helped millions of young people across the globe discover and develop a fondness for SEE PAGE 10





Girl Scouts are a force of nature.

This summer plan an unforgettable experience in the great outdoors at Girl Scout Camp.



girl scouts of north east ohio

customercare@gsneo.org | 800-852-4474



BECK CENTER For The Arts

Beck Center offers classes at the Lakewood campus in dance, theater, visual arts, private music lessons, and group lessons. All are welcome! Students of all ages and abilities learn as they create unique works of art, discover hidden talents, and have loads of fun with new friends. Beck Center has something for every interest in visual and performing arts, and for every skill level. Classes are available for fall, winter/spring, and summer sessions. Looking for free arts programming? Visit the Beck Center campus and enjoy free visual arts exhibitions all year. Looking for live entertainment? Beck Center offers professional theater, youth theater, dance performances, and music recitals on three stages. *Please call 216-521-2540 to buy tickets for the entire family to enjoy Beautiful, the Carole King Musical, running July 12 to August 11, 2024, or visit beckcenter.org for more details today.*





Get a roundup of the week that was and the week ahead in local sports delivered to your in-box every Thursday afternoon.

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SCAN ME





Grades K-6 Camps start June 3!

THE MORNING JOURNAL



Camp Curiosity Presented by



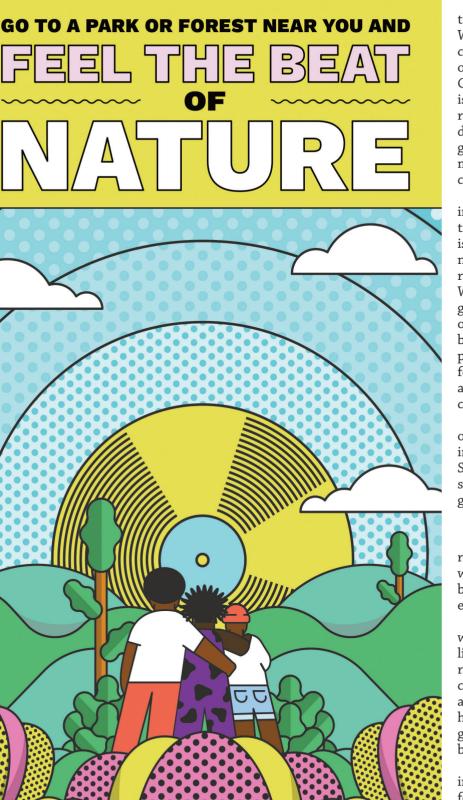


Register Now! Visit GreatScience.com for more information

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

SUMMER CAMPS 9

COMMON GROUND FROM PAGE 7



FIND A FOREST AND MUSIC INSPIRED BY NATURE AT DISCOVERTHEFOREST.ORG

the guidance of positive role models. We seek to provide a space where children are free of bullying, all forms of violence, and negative influences. Common Ground Summer Camps is a place where human dignity and respect are cherished, where children are affirmed and encouraged to grow into their full potential in body, mind, and spirit, and where children can be simply that, children.

Positive reinforcements are utilized in behavioral management and we talk campers through behavioral issues, helping to understand the natural consequences of their actions rather than responding punitively. We devote energy towards fostering group cohesiveness, in recognition of the importance of community and believing that children succeed in a positive group setting. There are very few competitive elements at camp and we emphasize the ability of each child to succeed in her/his way.

We are committed to being one of the most diverse youth programs in Lorain County. Common Ground Summer Camps are non-profit summer camps and all revenue generated goes towards operating



expenses and providing more children with an outdoor camp experience. Approximately 70% of children attending camp are able to attend with financial assistance. It is Common Ground's goal to provide a summer camp experience for children of ALL backgrounds.

Registration is NOW OPEN!

SUMMER BREAK FROM PAGE 8

reading. Weekly visits to the library, where kids can pick from hundreds of books, can get youngsters even more excited about reading.

• Play dates: Play dates are a great way to make kids happy and take a little off of parents' daily plates. Arrange routine summer play dates with children's school friends, neighbors and/or cousins. Parents can alternate hosting responsibilities so they can get work done at home and enjoy a break when it's not their turn to host.

• Find something free: Perhaps in recognition of the need for affordable, family-friendly fare, many communities now host free events for kids and their parents each week. Weekly movie nights under the stars and concerts in community squares are popular in many communities, but those same towns also may host



events specifically for kids during the daytime. A simple internet search of "free events near me" may unveil a host of activities that can keep kids happy and occupied on summer days when their schedules are open. Local libraries can be great resources for free events as well.

Summer vacation is a relaxing time for youngsters. Parents who don't want that relaxation to turn into boredom can look to various activities to occupy their children's time until a new school year begins.

Spring activities for families to enjoy together

Spring is one of the most popular seasons of the year. After several months of chilly temperatures in many regions, spring provides a welcome reprieve from the cold.

Moderate temperatures makes it much more comfortable and inviting to venture outdoors, particularly for families with children who might not adapt to the cold as well as adults. The following are some family-friendly activities that make the most of spring renewal.

Go animal watching

Flowers are not the only thing on display come the spring. Many animals, including birds, are born this time of year. Baby animals are not only adorable, they can be entertaining to watch grow. Families can spend time viewing the animals that visit their yards or surrounding parks, being careful to keep their distance. Adults may be quite protective of their young, so it's better to watch from the lens of a camera or with binoculars.

Always resist the urge to help a baby animal who seems like it was abandoned. The parent may be a short distance away gathering food or trying to avoid drawing attention to the young to deter predators.

Visit botanic gardens

If there's a botanical garden nearby, a visit in spring is a great time to soak in the beauty of nature. That's because an abundance of flowers bloom during the spring, meaning a garden will be in peak form. Visitors can meander through rows of rose bushes or tour the labyrinth of trimmed hedges. Beautiful, flowering cherry trees, with their delicate pink or white petals, also are sights to behold in spring.

Prepare a home garden

Visiting a garden is one thing, creating one at home is another. In addition to planning a vegetable garden to enjoy tasty pickings throughout summer, you can devote some property to flowers that will attract wildlife. Check with a garden center about which



flowers and plants attract butterflies and other beneficial insects. Many garden centers sell butterfly and hummingbird mixes to attract wildlife. Get out on the water

A bright, warm day is an ideal time to enjoy the open water. Spring is a season when many marinas reopen and avid boaters put their vessels back into the water. You also can venture into streams or lakes aboard kayaks or canoes, getting exercise and seeing the scenery in the process. Bring a fishing

pole along and cast it into the water for a few hours of recreation.

Make wind chimes

Enhance the garden or decor around the home by making wind chimes or other percussion items that can create beautiful music when spring breezes blow. Commercially available kits are sold, but wind chimes also can be made from items like bamboo or even strung shells.

These are just a few family-friendly activities to enjoy this spring.



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