



## NatureNauts Youth Camp Procedures 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Bellingrath Gardens & Home is thrilled that your child will be joining us for camp. Our camps are filled with exploration, experimentation, and most importantly, FUN! Campers must enjoy being outdoors in the summer heat, be able to walk long distances, and love being around nature and all of its creatures, great and small.

**Below are all of the details you need to know in preparation for your child's camp experience:**

### **Location/Check-in:**

You will receive an email invitation the week before your scheduled STEM camp from the mobile app Brightwheel. Through the mobile app, our Education staff manages the camp roster, shares what is going on at camp throughout the week, and contacts you with important information. If you have already signed up with Brightwheel during previous camps, you will not need to sign up again.

A parent, legal guardian, or authorized adult must check your child in and out of camp each day. Please provide the names of the approved individuals who are allowed to pick up your child on the Camp Release Form and add them to the Brightwheel app. They will need to have the app on their phone or be provided with a 4-digit code to check campers in and out.

Camp begins promptly at 9:00 am with check-in starting at 8:45 am in the Magnolia Room in the Café building. If the location for drop-off or pick-up should change, you will be notified with instructions no later than 6:00 pm the night before.

- Enter the Garden at its main entrance, 12401 Bellingrath Gardens, Theodore, AL.
- Park closest to the Café building. Parents/guardians will be required to exit the vehicle, and walk / sign in your child to camp each day.

### **Arrival at Camp:**

Garden Staff will be using Brightwheel for check-in and check-out at camp. You will scan a QR code with your app, and then follow the instructions on your screen to complete check-in. You will need to have the 4-digit code at check-in and check-out each day. Be sure to share the 4-digit Brightwheel code with any adults who have permission to pick up your child. If you will be arriving late (after 9 am), you must make prior arrangements with the teacher so we can make accommodations for someone to meet your child so he/she can join us if we are exploring the Gardens.

### **Lunch/Snack Procedures:**

Parents/guardians will provide a morning snack and lunch for the camper, plus, an afternoon snack if your child is a 8-11-year-old camper. Please separate and label each accordingly. Refrigeration and heating of food are not available. Please refrain from using glass containers in snacks/lunches and use containers or packaging that the camper can open easily on his/her own. Campers will not be permitted to trade or share food.



### **Pick-Up/Check-Out:**

5-7 Year-Old Campers' activities/lessons end promptly at 12:45 pm, and pick-up time is between 12:45 and no later than 1:00 pm. 8-11 Year-Old Campers' activities/lessons end promptly at 2:45 pm, and pick-up time is between 2:45 pm and no later than 3:00 pm each day. Parents/Guardians are asked to park in the designated parking area near the Café building, exit the vehicle, and enter the building. Again, you will scan the QR code and provide the 4-digit code for check-out.

If you need to pick up your child early, please notify the camp teacher in advance so staff will be prepared for your child's departure, so arrangements can be made to bring your child to the Café building to meet you. Campers will be located within the Gardens throughout the day.

### **Inclement Weather Procedure:**

Inclement weather may result in moving campers to an indoor location, such as the Magnolia Room. If we experience severe weather, the Gardens may be required to end camp early or completely cancel camp for the day. We will notify you of any changes or cancellations ASAP, but ideally no later than 6:00 p.m. the night before.

### **Emergency Forms/Brightwheel App Information:**

Please complete the Camp Release form. Note any medical conditions (physical or developmental) that staff should be made aware of concerning your child. Please note that due to staff limitations, we are unable to provide 1:1 services for your child. This information will also need to be added to the Brightwheel app for each child. This will only need to be done once for the entire year of 2026.

### **What to Send with your Camper:**

One camp t-shirt will be provided for each camper. Children should wear comfortable clothes that can get messy and are suitable for being outdoors all day. Closed-toe shoes are required due to the uneven terrain in the Gardens. Hats are recommended. Apply bug repellent or sunscreen before camp if desired, and the camper can reapply during the day. Parents/guardians are asked to provide the following:

- 2 Snacks (1 Morning / 1 Afternoon) & Lunch (with ice pack, if needed), separated & labeled
- Refillable water bottle or 2-3 bottles of water per day
- Spray sunscreen (*Please apply before arrival.*)
- Bug spray (*Please apply before arrival.*)
- Backpack
- Change of clothes
- Hat
- Personal hand sanitizer



To truly immerse your child in our camp experience, we ask that the following be left at home.

- iPads
- Tablets
- Gaming systems
- Toys (e.g. stuffed animals, Legos, etc.)

Cell phones are permitted as they allow your child to contact you, but we are not responsible for damage or loss. Please make sure your child is aware that cell phones are to be put away and used only for contacting parents/guardians (with permission), or for taking outdoors to use apps such as iNaturalist or Merlin. Other uses such as gaming, may result in phones being confiscated for the remainder of the day.

### **Shop at the Garden:**

You will have the opportunity to take your Camper to visit the gift shop during the week to purchase items that may extend the Camper's experience at home. Our gift shop is open from 8 am until 4 pm daily.

### **What if camps do not accommodate siblings because of age differences, or if there are no age-appropriate camps listed?**

Unfortunately, due to limitations of staff, space, and planning developmentally appropriate activities, we are not able to accommodate those outside of the specified age groups.

### **In the event that you need to cancel or transfer your reservation...**

Cancellations are subject to a \$25 processing fee per child. Refunds cannot be issued for missed class days, nor can cancellations be made less than 10 business days prior to the class. Transfer requests must be made at least two (2) weeks prior to the start of camp, and there is a \$25 transfer fee per camper. No refunds are given due to inclement weather.

***Camp Registration is incomplete until the Camp Release Form is signed. When you sign the Camp Release Form You are acknowledging that you have received and read this information in its entirety. For additional information or questions, please contact me via phone or email.***

We look forward to having your child join us for camp!

Warm regards,

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