

Summer Day Camp Frequently Asked Questions

What do the youth do during Summer Day Camp?

We offer multiple camps with different themes so every camp track is different! Some focus on gardening and growing food. Others focus on cooking a variety of meals with various farm fresh ingredients or connecting with the natural world. Most camps use play and creativity to build connection to the gardens and ecosystems around the American River Ranch. Little Sprouts session is geared towards little ones exploring the farm and engaging with all of their senses. All camp sessions are immersive and hands on, guiding campers naturally towards learning and growth. Camp curriculum is flexible and educators may adapt plans based on the interests and desires of a camp group.

How do I sign up for Summer Day Camp?

We prefer that participants register and pay on Soil Born Farms website. You will receive a confirmation email when you have registered. You must complete an online Registration Packet in order to finalize your registration. It is necessary that all campers complete the Registration Packet as soon as possible in order to complete the registration process. Campers cannot attend camp if they do not have one on file at least one week in advance.

What if I need to cancel?

If you must cancel your registration you will be eligible for a full refund (minus a \$25 processing fee) if the cancellation is made at least 3 weeks before the camp starting date. Cancellations received with less than 1 weeks' notice will not be eligible for any refund unless a replacement is available to take your camper's spot.

Do you offer financial assistance?

Yes. For those hoping to receive financial assistance we require a completed Scholarship Application along with a completed Registration Packet. Please submit necessary paperwork as soon as possible. Your financial information will be kept confidential. As a non-profit we have limited amounts of scholarship funds so please consider paying any amount you can, it all helps! Soil Born Farms works hard to make sure that each family's needs are met as best as we can and staff will contact applicants as soon as possible to let them know what we can award. If you would like to be considered for financial assistance, please contact us at youthprograms@soilborn.org.

Where does Summer Day Camp take place?

All Summer Day Camp sessions take place at the American River Ranch. Some camp sessions will venture to Cordova Creek or the American River Parkway but drop off and pick up is still at the American River Ranch.

Where is the American River Ranch?

The address is 2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. There is a visitor parking lot to the right of the driveway. Please park in the lot and walk your camper up to the check in table to sign them in every morning.

What time is Summer Day Camp?

All Summer Day Camp sessions are from 8:30am to 12:30pm except for the Little Sprouts session which is from 9:00am to 11:30am.

Do you have before and after care?

No, at this time we are unable to offer before or after care for campers. Please drop off your camper no earlier than 8:15am and pick up your camper no later than 12:45pm.

How many campers are in a session?

There are 20 spots available for each camp session offered other than Little Sprouts which is limited to 15. These numbers allow us to maintain a high camper to staff ratio to ensure safety and high quality programming.

Can siblings be in the same camp?

Yes, as long as they are in the same age group session we are happy to have siblings in the same camp.

Can a camper attend a camp if they are outside of the designated age range?

No. Camps are geared specifically for different age groups, and in order to deliver high quality, age appropriate experiences we cannot make exceptions or accommodations. We also offer multiple camp sessions that span different age brackets. Please note that for camps that are broken up by grade level, we mean for students to be at the typical age of that grade level – incoming 1st-3rd graders should be ages 6-8, incoming 4th-6th grade should be ages 9-11, etc.

Do you let campers swim while at the American River?

No we do not. It is the law that children under 13 years old wear a life jacket, so we provide life jackets even when only putting our feet in the water or playing near the water's edge. We do not let kids swim but will bring water blasters down to the river and spray campers who want to get wet. We will also visit Cordova Creek and let campers wade in the safe, shallow waters of the creek.

Is there a snack offered during camp?

Yes, we offer a farm fresh, seasonal snack every day of camp. Introducing students to healthy fruits and vegetables is very important and we source as much food from the farm as possible.

Some snacks include melon, peaches, cucumbers, carrots and hummus, salads and trail mix. Please pay extra attention to the dietary needs section of the Registration Packet so we can make accommodations if necessary.

Can I send my camper with their own snack?

Yes! Our snacks are sometimes on the smaller side, so we recommend that campers have their own snack as well to round things out. We will only eat at designated snack times determined by Soil Born Farms staff. Please provide peanut-free snacks!

What should my camper bring with them?

Campers should come wearing sunscreen and should bring a hat, water bottle and any other clothing required to be comfortable in the heat. Campers must wear close toed shoes as well. Whether cooking or gardening or hiking, campers may get messy, so they should wear clothes that are okay to get dirty.

How should youth prepare for Summer Day Camp?

No experience or prior knowledge about gardening, cooking or hiking is required for any of our camps. We ask that youth come with an open mind, curious spirit and willingness to engage in new and potentially challenging experiences.

Covid-19 Policies at SBF

Our farm follows all CDC and local guidelines when it comes to Covid-19 safety. Our team of educators are all vaccinated, boosted and wear masks, and we promote vaccinations for all students. Please note that our class policies are subject to change as CDC guidelines, local guidelines, and our farm's policies are updated throughout the year. You will receive our updated policies in a welcome email closer to your camp's start date. If you have further questions regarding our Covid-19 policies, please feel free to contact us at youthprograms@soilborn.org.

Covid-19 Policies as of February 2022

We require that participants wear a well-fitting mask at all times when participating in programs at our farm, preferably an N95, KN95, or layer a surgical mask under a cloth mask, especially during the current Omicron surge. If students are in need of a mask break, they may do so when doing an independent activity away from others (such as a sit spot). We will be practicing other safety measures as well, such as distancing, sanitizing materials between uses, and not sharing supplies when possible. We will be doing a short symptoms check when students arrive at the farm, however if your camper or anyone in your household is displaying cold or flu symptoms of any sort, please do not come to the farm.