

OFFICIAL GUIDE:
WAKE COUNTY

2019

SUMMER OPTIONS

**Camps and activities for
school-age children and teens**

An Advertising Supplement to The News & Observer and The Herald-Sun, February 2019



www.childcareservices.org

SUMMER Options 2019

Camps & activities for school-age children & teens



¿BUSCANDO CAMPAMENTOS DE VERANO O UNA GUARDERÍA?

Llamenos! Hablamos español.

Para facilitar su planes de verano, Child Care Services Association (CCSA) y el periódico News & Observer han colaborado para ofrecer Opciones de Verano 2019. Esta comprensiva guía describe clases, campamentos, y programas para niños fuera del ciclo escolar en el Triángulo y más allá.

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Simplify Your Summer Planning!

Soccer camp, art classes, or a sleep-away in the mountains? The choices are many when it comes to summer activities for your children. To make summertime planning easier, Child Care Services Association (CCSA) and the News & Observer have collaborated to offer Summer Options 2019. This comprehensive guide describes classes, camps, summer, and track-out/intersession programs for children in the Triangle and beyond.

For assistance using this guide and valuable, additional information on choosing summer camps or other year-round child care, please call CCSA's Child Care Referral Central service. Knowledgeable counselors are available to help you understand national recommendations for health and safety, licensing and accreditation systems, as well as how to recognize high-quality programs. Our services are free and available to everyone.

Ensuring a high-quality summer environment for your children is of the utmost importance and can be just one piece of a year-long balancing act to ensure that your children are in a safe, enriching environment while you work. Get the help of an expert by calling Child Care Referral Central today (1-877-327-5933) or visit our online search at www.childcareservices.org/findcare.

YOUR SUMMER CHECKLIST

Here are a few steps to follow as you search for the perfect summer setting for your child.

- 1 Begin as early as possible.** Many camps start enrolling in February and fill quickly, so it helps to begin looking early.
- 2 Decide what is important for you and your child.**
 - What activities would most interest your child?
 - What do you and your child want to gain from the camp experience?
 - Can you afford the cost? Does the camp offer scholarships/financial assistance/early bird discounts or multiple child discounts?
 - Will your child need transportation?
 - Will the camp accept a child care subsidy voucher?
 - Write down your needs, wants and wishes.
- 3 Consider different types of programs.**
 - **Residential Camps:** Children generally sleep away from home for one or more weeks and can enjoy day and evening activities. The emphasis of these programs is increasing campers' independence and self-help skills.
 - **Day Camps:** Campers arrive in the morning and return home at the end of the day, having enjoyed activities and field trips. There are some half-day options.
 - **Specialty Camps:** Campers devote a majority of their time to one activity. The staff and facilities are geared toward intensive experiences in areas such as music, sports, art, science or wilderness and adventure.
 - **Child Care Programs:** Many child care programs offer special activities and adapt their schedules to meet families' summer and track-out needs. Look for programs licensed by the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education and rated 3- to 5-stars.

ADDITIONAL POINTS TO CONSIDER

Answering "yes" to most or all of these questions, will increase your child's chance of having a successful summer camp experience:

- ☐ Is the camp licensed by the North Carolina Division of Child Development & Early Education or accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA)
- ☐ Are at least 40–60% of the camp counselors returning from last year?
- ☐ Are camp staff members trained in safety regulations, emergency procedures, behavior management techniques, specific procedures for supervision, and appropriate staff and camper behavior?
- ☐ Are there medical routines and procedures in place for emergencies?
- ☐ Do the camp's counselor: child ratios meet ACA standards? (1:5 for ages 4–5; 1:6 for ages 6–8; 1:8 for ages 9–14; 1:10 for ages 15–17)
- ☐ Is the camp director experienced and hold a higher education degree?
- ☐ Are at least 80% of camp counselors 18 years of age or older?
- ☐ Is there a parent-contact policy, and how is homesickness handled?

4 Choose the best camp for your child. You can use this publication to create a list of 4–8 camps that meet the criteria you identified in steps 2 & 3. Consider the following questions when narrowing your search:

- Is your child ready for a sleep-away experience? Be sure your child is ready for the length of program you select.
- Will the camp encourage your child to try new things?
- How structured is the program? Is it flexible or highly structured?
- What size camp community will make your child feel comfortable? Sizes can range from 30 to 500 campers.
- Is the camp equipped to handle any type of special needs your child may have? (dietary, medical, physical, behavioral, etc.)
- Does the camp follow American Camp Association (ACA) standards? The ACA is a national association that evaluates camps based on 300 health, safety areas, personnel, transportation and administrative procedures. Not all camps choose to be accredited. If you are interested in a program that is not accredited you can use these standards found at www.acacamps.org as a guide in your selection process.

5 Visit the camp site and talk with the director. Do your homework and research camps ahead of time. Some programs offer year-round activities, and it's possible to visit before the summer actually begins.

- Get to know your child's counselors and the camp staff.
- Review the camp's brochures, web site, videos and/or DVDs with your child.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions. The more you know now, the better your child's camp experience will be.

6 Ask for references. Get the names of parents with children the same age as your child who have attended the camp. Ask them:

- What did your child enjoy most about the camp?
- Is there anything you did not like about the camp?
- Would you enroll your child in this camp again?
- May my child talk to your child about the camp experience?



CHILD CARE SERVICES ASSOCIATION:

Helping children get the best start in life for nearly 45 years

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Social Media! Find us on Facebook and Twitter

Join us LIVE on Facebook each Friday at 10:00 am for **Friday's for Families**



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2019

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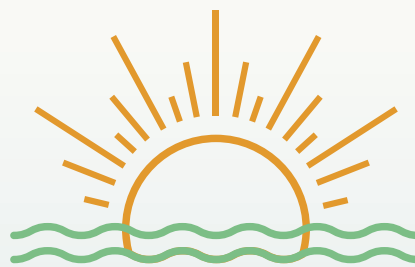


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- 2 Decide what is important for you and your child.**
 - Write down your needs, wants and wishes.
 - What activities would most interest your child?
 - What do you and your child want to gain from the camp experience?
- 3 Consider different types of programs.**
 - **Residential Camps:** Children generally sleep away from home for one or more weeks and can enjoy day and evening activities. The emphasis of these programs is increasing the independence and self-help skills of campers.
 - **Day Camps:** Campers arrive in the morning and return home at the end of the day, having enjoyed activities and field trips. There are some half-day options.
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ADDITIONAL POINTS TO CONSIDER

Answering "yes" to most or all of these questions will increase your child's chance of having a successful summer camp experience:

- Is the camp licensed by the North Carolina Division of Child Development & Early Education or accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA)?
- Do the camp's counselor to child ratios meet ACA standards? (1:5 for ages 4-5; 1:6 for ages 6-8; 1:8 for ages 9-14; 1:10 for ages 15-17)
- Are at least 40-60% of the camp counselors returning from last year?
- Is the camp director experienced and do they hold a higher education degree?
- Are camp staff members trained in safety regulations, emergency procedures, behavior management techniques, specific procedures for supervision, and appropriate staff and camper behavior?
- Are at least 80% of camp counselors 18 years of age or older?
- Are there medical routines and procedures in place for emergencies?
- Is there a parent-contact policy, and how is homesickness handled?



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- Is your child ready for a sleep-away experience? Be sure your child is ready for the length of program you select.
- Will the camp encourage your child to try new things?
- How structured is the program? Is it flexible or highly structured?
- What size camp community will make your child feel comfortable? Sizes can range from 30 to 500 campers.
- Is the camp equipped to handle any type of special needs your child may have? (dietary, medical, physical, behavioral, etc.)
- Does the camp follow American Camp Association (ACA) standards? The ACA is a national association that evaluates camps based on 300 health and safety areas, personnel, transportation and administrative procedures. Not all camps choose to be accredited. If you are interested in a program that is not accredited you can use these standards found at www.acacamps.org as a guide in your selection process.

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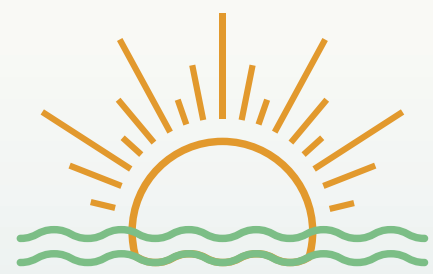
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Advertising Supplement to The News & Observer, The Cary News, and Eastern Wake News. February 2017

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