

Family Guide 2022

Austin Sunshine Camps



**Austin
Sunshine
Camps**



Welcome

Welcome to the Austin Sunshine Camps Family! We are **thrilled** that your child is going to join us for the #bestsummerever! This guide will give you information about what your camper can expect this summer, and what you need to do to prepare! As always, please email programs@sunshinecamps.org with any questions! LET'S GO CAMP!!!

Statement of Rights & Dignity

Austin Sunshine Camps is committed to creating a culture of inclusion and connection. We are able to grow and learn better together with a diverse community of families, campers, staff members, volunteers, and other stakeholders. The collective sum of the individual differences, life experiences, and knowledge we all bring to Austin Sunshine Camps makes us better as an organization. As a camper or family member, we respect and welcome the unique contributions that you bring in terms of education, opinions, culture, ethnicity, race, sex, gender identity and expression, nation of origin, age, languages spoken, veteran's status, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation and beliefs.

Program Goals

- At Austin Sunshine Camps, we believe in the power of camp. Austin Sunshine Camps strives to build an intentional community, rooted in compassion, that is wildly creative and FUN!
- Austin Sunshine Campers will have the opportunity to **Grow, Connect and Explore!**
- At the end of your child's camp experience at Austin Sunshine Camps, we hope for the following:
 - Your child will depend less on other people for solving problems and their day-to-day activities and believe that they can be successful in the things they do
 - Your child will develop skills in making friends and working in groups
 - Your child will be more curious, inquisitive and eager to learn new things
 - Your child will feel a greater attraction to nature and feel welcomed and supported at camp

Key Program Changes for 2022

Austin Sunshine Camps has provided free fun-filled overnight summer camp programs for the children of the greater Austin area since 1928. There are some key changes for this summer that we want to make sure everyone is aware of.

- Starting in 2022, camp will be **10 days and 9 nights** long!
- Campers will need to have a short evaluation filled out by a non-family member (such as a teacher) to ensure camp readiness.
- Families will have the choice to put their child in one of three cabins: boy, girl, or all-gender.
- And, we're back at Lake Travis for summer 2022!
 - Ages 8-11 will be at Zilker Park, and ages 12-15 will be out at the Lake!
 - Camper drop-off/check-in for campers at each location will take place directly at their respective camp location (see drop-off section for more details)

Cabins and Facilities

- Zilker Lodge ([2225 Andrew Zilker Rd, Austin, TX 78746](https://www.austintexas.org/visit/directions/zilker-lodge))
 - Campers Ages 8-11
 - Zilker Lodge is a 20,000 square foot lodge in the heart of Zilker Park with 12 cabins inside.
- Lake Travis ([5001 Shaw Drive, Marble Falls, TX 78654](https://www.austintexas.org/visit/directions/lake-travis))
 - Campers ages 12-15
 - Lake Travis is a rustic campground located in Marble Falls with 5 standalone cabins.
- Both
 - Families will have the choice to put their child in one of three cabins: boy, girl, or all-gender.
 - We respect the privacy of all campers, staff and volunteers and all nudity is strictly prohibited. Changing clothes and other private activities must take place within a bathroom or shower stall.
 - Each cabin will have a maximum of 10 campers.
 - Zilker Lodge and Lake Travis have centralized bathrooms and shower areas with individual shower stalls.

Packing List

- Campers should bring:
 - Pillow
 - Sheets (twin size)
 - Blanket/sleeping bag
 - **Closed toe shoes**
 - 10 pairs of clothes
 - Pajamas
 - Toothbrush
 - Toothpaste
 - Soap
 - Shampoo
 - Other toiletries
 - **Water bottle labeled with name**
 - Sunscreen
 - Bug spray
 - Bath towel
 - Beach towel
 - Bathing suit
 - Water shoes, sandals, or shower shoes
 - Medications (**see medications section**)
- **PLEASE CLEARLY LABEL ALL ITEMS WITH CAMPER'S NAME**
- Optional items:
 - Non-smart watch (no smart watches are allowed)
 - Backpack/fanny pack/bag to carry to different activities
 - Activities for cabin time (we will have plenty provided, but if you want to bring your own!)
 - Books/Games/Coloring supplies/Journal
 - Things to decorate your cabin/bunk
 - Fun/nice clothes for our Dance Night
- **During check-in, all bags will be checked to ensure that we have collected all medications and food, and make sure there is none of the following in the bag:**
 - **Cell phones** & other electronic devices, including smart watches
 - Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or nicotine products, including **vapes or e-cigarettes**
 - Weapons - including pocket knives or anything sharp
 - Snacks/food - unless for specific dietary needs
 - Money/Valuables/Jewelry
 - Fireworks/Matches/Lighters
- Campers will also not be able to bring any of the above items into camp on their person, such as in their pockets.

Medications

- All medications should be listed on your health form on your CampBrain account prior to arrival at camp (<https://asc-camp.campbrainregistration.com/>)
 - All medications must be checked in with the camp health officer. **This includes vitamins or supplements.**
 - All medications, including prescriptions, over the counter medications, and vitamins/supplements **must be in their original packaging and must be labeled with the camper's name.** No camper may bring medication into camp that is not so labeled.
 - During check-in, the camp health officer will confirm details of administration and dosage of the medication with you prior to checking in the medication.
 - Campers may not keep medication on their person, and medications will all be kept and distributed by the camp nurse.
 - If you checked “yes” that your child has asthma on your application, you **MUST** drop your child off with an inhaler - unless you have a doctor's note saying they are allowed to come to camp without an inhaler.
 - If you checked “yes” that your child requires an epipen on your application, you **MUST** drop your child off with an epipen.
 - If a camper has an inhaler or epipen, their counselor or nurse will keep it on their person at all times.

Check In

- Zilker Lodge - [2225 Andrew Zilker Rd, Austin, TX 78746](#).
 - Campers ages 8-11 will attend at Zilker Lodge and will be dropped off directly at Zilker Lodge.
- Lake Travis - [5001 Shaw Drive, Marble Falls, TX 78654](#)
 - Campers ages 12-15 will attend at our Lake Travis location and will be dropped off directly at Lake Travis.
- Both Locations
 - Check in at both locations is from 9 am to 12 pm.
 - Although the check-in process will likely be faster, please make sure you have an hour blocked off in your schedule to dedicate to checking your camper(s) in at camp.
 - **If you have children who will be attending at both locations, please feel free to coordinate with us for drop-off times outside the 9 am to 12 pm window.**
 - We will check to make sure we have all of your waivers on file .
 - We will make sure you have provided at least 3 emergency contacts.
 - **During check-in, all bags will be checked to ensure that we have collected all medications and food, and make sure there are no prohibited items in the bags.**
 - Your child will go through each check in station and will not be able to enter camp until they have been to each station.
- Health screening
 - It is important for the safety and health of everyone that campers arrive to camp in a healthy state.
 - If your child is showing signs of illness such as running a temperature, throwing up, has diarrhea, nasal drainage and/or coughing/sneezing, keep the child home and contact your camp director

- Families can prepare their campers for a successful camp experience by reading this article from the Association of Camp Nurses: "[Healthy Camp Begins at Home](#)"
- Upon arrival at camp, each camper will undergo a comprehensive health screening, to ensure that they are healthy and are ready to actively participate in a full summer session.
- In addition to receiving a COVID test, we will take every camper's temperature and screen them for additional symptoms.
- Every camper will be COVID tested before they proceed to the next steps of check in. They will be tested outside and will wait until their test is complete in the waiting area.
- If your camper tests positive for COVID, you will need to leave immediately and your child will not be able to attend camp. They are welcome to join the waiting list for a later session.
- We will check every camper's head for lice. If we have reason to believe that your camper has lice, your camper will have to leave, and is welcome to return to camp once they have had their lice treated and they pass a second lice check.

COVID-19 (subject to change) As of 2.23.2022

Austin Sunshine Camps will continue to evaluate our protocols using the most up-to-date guidance, recommendations, and requirements from local authorities and from national experts in camping and public health. We will provide families with any policy changes with regard to COVID-19 via email and through updated versions of this Family Guide.

- See above for arrival procedures related to COVID-19.
- Mask wearing will be up to the discretion of each individual. Masks will be worn to their comfort level, both indoors and outdoors.
- The lodge will be cleaned and disinfected regularly and campers will wash hands often.

General Daily Schedule

Zilker	Activity Description	Lake Travis
7:15 AM	Wake Up and Get Ready	7:30 AM
8:20 AM	Breakfast	8:45 AM
9:30 AM	Morning Activities / Team Competitions	10:00 AM
12:30 PM	Lunch	1:00 PM
1:30 PM	Barton Springs / Lake Travis	3:00 PM
3:15 PM	Rest Hour	2:00 PM
4:30 PM	Tracks	4:30 PM
5:45 PM	Dinner	6:00 PM
6:30 PM	Evening Event / Evening Campfire	6:45 PM
10:00 PM	Lights Out	10:30 PM

Tracks

- On their first day at camp, each camper will select one Track to specialize in each afternoon over the course of their camp session.
- Campers in each Track will work together on a session-long project to present at the Camper Showcase for parents and families on the final evening of camp.
- Zilker Tracks (*subject to change*)
 - Sports & Play
 - Concoctions
 - Leadership & Service
 - Music
 - Outdoor Adventure
 - Journalism/Yearbook
 - Performing Arts
 - Arts & Crafts
 - Culinary Arts
- Lake Travis Tracks (*subject to change*)
 - Sports & Play
 - Outdoor Adventure
 - Journalism/Yearbook
 - Music & Performing Arts
 - Arts & Crafts
 - Culinary Arts
 - Arts
 - Leadership & Service

Teams

- Each camper will also be assigned to one of four camp teams, which will compete in various activities each morning throughout the session.

Evening Events:

Each evening will have a unique all-camp activity or event for campers to participate in.

Night	Zilker Event	Lake Travis Event
Day 1: Mon	Opening Ceremony	Opening Ceremony
Day 2: Tues	Canoe Night/ Game Night	Scavenger Hunt / Pocket Hunt
Day 3: Wed	Austin City Limits @ ASC	Camp Olympics (Minute-to-Win it)
Day 4: Thur	Zilker Theater night/ Movie Night	Water Wars
Day 5: Fri	Campfire Song and S'mores Night	Carnival Night
Day 6: Sat	Carnival Night	Campfire Songs and S'mores Night
Day 7: Sun	Night Walk	Movie Night
Day 8: Mon	Dance Night	Cabin Talent Show
Day 9: Tues	Canoe/ Game Night	Dance Night / Closing Fire
Day 10: Wed	Camper Showcase at 6:30pm (Parents Welcome to start arriving at 6:00pm!)	Camper Showcase at 6:30pm (Parents Welcome to start arriving at 6:00pm!)

Camp Activities & Inherent Risks

Below are the activities offered at camp, inherent risks associated with each activity, and degree of difficulty or physical challenge associated with each activity. If you have concerns about your child's participation in any activity, please contact us at programs@sunshinecamps.org.

Activity	Risks Related to Activity (if applicable)	Degree of Difficulty or Physical Challenge
Swimming at Barton Springs	Drowning, slipping, head/neck/spinal injuries, cutting or injuring feet or other body parts on rocks underwater or on shore	Low difficulty, water is so shallow campers can stand
Swimming in Lake Travis	Drowning, slipping, head/neck/spinal injuries, cutting or injuring feet or other body parts on rocks underwater or on shore	Water depth fluctuates due to being downstream from a dam, but all campers are required to wear a properly-fitted lifejacket while swimming
High ropes	Falling, getting splinters, equipment falling, critters hiding in equipment, hitting head or other body part on equipment	Low difficulty, no skill required to try elements. To complete elements, moderate difficulty. Must be able to climb and balance.
Low ropes	Twisting ankles, getting splinters, falling, critters hiding in equipment, hitting head or other body part on equipment	Low difficulty, teamwork is skill most required. Some balance may be required.
Playground	Falling, hitting head or other body part on equipment	Little to no difficulty.
Sports	Falling, colliding with another camper, getting hit with balls/equipment	Little to no difficulty. To do more advanced portions of the activity, some strength and mobility may be required.
Crafts	Getting cut with scissors, getting poked with needle, getting burned with iron or hot glue gun, inhaling paint fumes, falling off stepstool or ladder	Little to no difficulty for most projects. Some projects require learning a skill such as sewing stitches.
Outdoor Cooking / S'mores	Burning self with fire/cooking elements, cutting self with knife, allergic reactions to food	Little to no difficulty.
Canoeing	Falling in water, drowning, hitting head or other body part with paddle or canoe, getting lost	Low difficulty. Ability to paddle.
Archery	Getting hit with arrow	Low difficulty to try this activity. Higher difficulty to successfully hit targets. Skill can be learned with practice.
Hiking	Getting lost, rolling an ankle, falling	Low difficulty. Some hikes may be faster paced for a group of older and more physically fit campers.
All camp games	Colliding with another camper, falling	Little to no difficulty. Some games may require physical elements such as running, picking things up, and moving about.

Swimming and Waterfronts Procedures

Campers at Zilker Lodge will be able to swim in Barton Springs, as well as take part in Canoe Night.

- All Zilker Lodge campers will wear lifejackets while participating in Canoe Night and while in deep areas of Barton Springs.

Campers at Lake Travis will have afternoon waterfront activities in Lake Travis, including swimming, canoeing, and kayaking

- All Lake Travis campers will wear lifejackets while participating in any activities taking place in the waters of Lake Travis.

Camp staff members are lifeguard certified and will be on duty during all waterfront activities.

Check Out

- Check out is on the 2nd Wednesday evening (Day #10) of each session, immediately following our Camper Showcase, which will begin at 6:30 pm.
- Please do your best to be on time (aim to arrive between 6:00pm-6:15pm). We cannot complete camp close out until all campers have been picked up.
- If you need to check your camper out early or have campers at both locations, please feel free to coordinate with us for alternate pick-up times.
- The person who checks out your camper must be on the emergency contact list. You may edit your emergency contact by emailing programs@sunshinecamps.org.

Sunshine Camp Policies:

- Weapons: We are a Weapon-Free Zone, and therefore weapons of any kind are not permitted on ASC's property, whether concealed or open-carry.
- Alcohol and drugs
 - ASC will adhere to a zero tolerance policy for drugs and weapons. If these items are found in a camper's possession it will result in immediate dismissal from camp.
 - Employees and volunteers are prohibited from reporting to work or working while using illegal or unauthorized drugs or alcohol.
 - In addition, employees and volunteers are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful or unauthorized use, manufacture, distribution, sale or possession of illegal drugs and alcohol in the workplace including: on organization paid time, on organization premises, in organization vehicles or while engaged in organization activities.
- Tobacco
 - Smoking and the use of any tobacco products of any kind, including e-cigarettes and vapes, are not permitted on the premises of any ASC facility. ASC's Zilker Park facility is located in a public park in the City of Austin; the City of Austin prohibits smoking in parks and other public outdoor spaces.
- Vehicles
 - Generally speaking, campers are not driven by Austin Sunshine Camps employees. This should only happen in case of emergency.
 - In case of an emergency, a camper may be transported via ambulance. Families will always be informed when this is happening.
- Animals

- Animals including but not limited to dogs, cats, fish, birds and turtles may be present at camp. If a child has a severe allergy or fear of such animals, the parent/guardian should disclose this to camp staff to make arrangements for the camper to have a safe and healthy camp experience.
- As the camps are located in a natural environment, campers may come into contact with wild animals such as snakes, lizards, birds, foxes, armadillos, and more. Campers should avoid contact with all wild animals.
- Personal Property
 - Austin Sunshine Camps is not responsible for any personal belongings left in a vehicle or at camp. This includes phones, computers, cameras, sports equipment, or other personal items.

Family Communication

It is generally our policy to communicate with you often. If there is ever a question about whether or not to communicate with a family member, we will err on the side of calling or texting you. It is our policy that family/guardians must be notified by health care staff or a camp director if a camper experiences any of the following:

- Temperature over 100°
- Experiences digestive issues for 24 hours or more
- Breathing difficulties
- Loss of consciousness
- Requires the administration of emergency medication (inhaler, epinephrine)
- Needs medical attention beyond the scope of what is available at camp

Health care staff are not limited to the above scenarios and may contact a guardian to gather more information regarding a child's condition or health history or at their own discretion when considering the participants' symptoms or condition.

It is mandatory that either the parent or guardian or an emergency contact on the child's application be able to pick up the child from camp within two hours for any reason.

Restorative Practices

At Austin Sunshine Camps, we strongly believe in the power of compassion in building a trusting, kind community, both at ASC and beyond. We use a proactive behavior management and community-building system known as Restorative Practices. Restorative practices helps to:

- reduce harmful behaviors and bullying
- strengthen our camp culture
- restore relationships and repair harm

We use:

1. Proactive relationship-building with campers, families, and staff
2. Community-building circles
3. Peace-making circles and conversations

Campers who are unwilling to engage in Restorative Practices at Austin Sunshine Camps, or engage in behaviors that are unsafe to themselves or others, will be asked to go home for the week and try camp again the following summer.

Mail and Communicating with Your Camper

- Letters and care packages may be dropped off at arrival with the name of your camper, and the date you would like the package to be delivered.
- **Please do not send any food to campers.** Food in cabins invites unwelcome visitors (animals!). Additionally, camp is a nut-free zone. Any food or candy containing nuts or processed in a facility with nuts will be taken and returned at the end of camp.
- When providing care packages for your camper, consider items such as: books, cards, address books, small stuffed animals, and/or items to share with the cabin.

Cabin Notes Emails

- This one-way communication is just like sending a letter except it will be delivered a bit quicker and no stamp or payment is required! Cabin Notes are delivered each day after lunch.
- Simply use this link and start typing! <https://ascprograms.wufoo.com/forms/ztnj8u91hqnfzr/>

Volunteers

- Throughout the summer, many trained and background check volunteers will be participating in camp.
- Many of our wonderful volunteers are from the Young Men's Business League (YMBL). YMBL is a social service organization for young professionals, which actually founded ASC in 1928! For over 100 years, the YMBL has built today's young professionals into tomorrow's leaders by creating connections, fostering leadership development, and serving the Austin Sunshine Camps.
- Parents and guardians are also welcome to volunteer. Those who are interested can contact volunteer@sunshinecamps.org.
- Anyone who volunteers three times with ASC is eligible for 50% off tuition for the duration of their undergraduate and/or graduate degrees at Strayer University!



ASC Leadership Contact Information

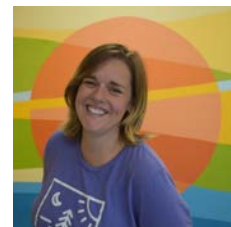
- It is important to us that our families be able to communicate with our staff.
- All staff members, including leadership staff, are actively involved in the daily camp programming, and are often away from our desks and phones. Please be aware that we may not be able to answer phone calls or emails immediately, but we will return your call within 4-6 hours.
- For any general questions, please contact us at programs@sunshinecamps.org or [512-472-8107](tel:512-472-8107)
- For questions related to a specific camp location, please contact the following individuals.



Zilker Park Program Director
Alex Cruz
alexcruz@sunshinecamps.org
512-472-8107



Lake Travis Program Director:
Jacob Summer
jacob@sunshinecamps.org
512-505-0908



Chief Programs Officer:
Jessica Foulke
jessica@sunshinecamps.org
512-472-8107