

Eligibility

Children who have completed Kindergarten through 6th grade are eligible to participate. Registration is on a first come first serve basis, and space is limited. Due to planning and balance of the group the program is unable to accept “drop-in” campers.

Hours and Sign in/Sign out

2019 Camp begins on Tuesday May 28th - Friday August 9th.

SPARC is closed the week if July 1st -5th.

Camp hours are from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Friday. The parent must sign the camper in and out with his/her counselor each day. Should someone who is not on the list need to pick up the camper, the parent/guardian must notify ***in writing*** or ***by phone*** as to who is to pick up the child. A picture ID **will be required** to sign out a camper. If camper is going to be absent please call us and let us know.

Fees and Payments

The cost for SPARC Summer Camp per child is \$1100 for the entire summer. A \$100 payment is due upon registration.

A weekly payment schedule of \$125 will be implemented for the remainder of the summer. The payment schedule dates are: June 3, June 10, June 17, June 24, July 8, July 15, July 22 and July 29.

Please note the second child will have their registration fee of \$100 waved as their second child discount upon registering for camp. Payments of \$125 will resume on each Monday previously noted. If payment is not received, we will go on the assumption that your child will not be attending the remainder of the summer.

Therefore, we will offer that vacant spot to a child on our waiting list. Checks are to be made out to the City of Gulf Shores. We also accept all major credit cards. The register receipt provides proof of payment. Please retain these for your records. ****All fees are non-refundable.****

Children picked up after 5:30pm will be charged a \$10 late fee per child per day. No exceptions. Please call the SPARC Front Desk, 251-968-9813, if pick up is delayed.

What to Wear and Bring

For safety reasons, please have your camper wear tennis shoes. NO sandals, flip flops, open toe shoes, or cleats. Closed toed crocs with a back strap are acceptable. Label everything brought to camp. Pack a dry towel, sunscreen and swim suit each day. Use the camp bag for clothing. CHECK CAMPER'S POSSESSIONS DAILY.

Field Trips

Campers will travel for field trips via City vans and school buses. The trip destination will be listed on the camp schedule. Campers MUST arrive 30 minutes before the field trip is to depart. Field trip fees are included in your camp fee. Drop off and/or pick-ups are not allowed at any field trips due to bus/van capacity and safety reasons. If your child is checked-in to SPARC after his/her group has left, your child may stay with another group until his/her group is back to the Cultural Center.

Disciplinary Actions and Procedures

Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated at SPARC Summer Camp. The camper(s) will be informed immediately if a Counselor feels they are doing something unacceptable. It will be explained to the camper why the action is inappropriate and they will receive a warning not to continue that behavior. If the Counselor(s) do not feel the camper is trying to restrain or he/she continues to interrupt the activity, the child will be placed in a timed “time-out”. If the interruptive behavior continues, the parent/guardian will be asked to come and pick-up the child for the day. A meeting with the Counselor(s) and Program Coordinator may be scheduled to discuss the child's behavior with the parent/guardian. If the behavior continues, the child will be asked to leave camp the rest of the week with no refund.

If no improvement in behavior is seen upon return, the camper may be dismissed from the program. If a child brings weapons to camp, intentionally harms a staff member or other child, vandalizes property, or steals from the program or others, he/she may be dismissed from the program immediately without further warning or notice.

Because of the ages of our campers, each child is expected to use the restroom on their own and clean up after themselves in the case of an accident. Counselors are not trained to accommodate special needs children. All special requests should be submitted to the GSES 21st CCLC Site Manager, Gay James at gjames1@bcbe.org.

Schedules

The schedule of events and activities is provided to the parents on the first day of each week, if not sooner. Please look at the activities planned for each day. The schedule is subject to change due to weather, availability of transportation, or at the request of management of the trip destination. Parents are advised of changes via email/remind me app. We encourage all parents to have an up to date email for this reason. The front desk will have up to date information.

Children are required to participate in all daily activities, crafts and field trips. It is important that you make sure your child arrives on time with a swimsuit, proper shoes, and supplies.

Lunch and Snacks

Each camper needs to pack a nutritious lunch, a morning snack and an afternoon snack. This food should not require heating or refrigeration. All lunches and snacks should be in a sturdy lunch box or sack with camper's name. Be sure to send a lunch, snacks and drinks each day. We do not allow campers to purchase from vending machines. Due to several children with peanut and other nut allergies we ask parents to please be cautious when packing lunches and/or snacks. ***NO PEANUT/NUT PRODUCTS PLEASE. We have campers***

*with severe allergic reactions to nut products. **WE ARE A PEANUT /NUT FREE FACILITY.***

Locations

SPARC Summer Camp is off of County Road 6 at the Cultural Center. Each day, normal drop off and pick up times will be at the Cultural Center. However, if you choose to drop off late or pick up your child early, campers may be at other locations on a field trip. Like, swimming at the Bodenhamer Rec Center or the Gulf Shores Kids Park, located next to the Bodenhamer Rec Center. We ask you to please try to drop off no later than 9am on scheduled field trip days. Drop off at the field trip site is not allowed due to bus/van capacities and safety reasons. Please look over the daily schedule to know where your child will be during specific times and days.

Personal Possessions

Campers should not bring valuables or other cherished items to camp. The City of Gulf Shores is not responsible for lost, broken or missing items. Items that are turned in are put in the lost and found at the front desk of the Cultural Center. Computers, iPods and other electronic devices will not be permitted for use in programming. Any of these items will be taken up by counselors and returned to parents by request.

Illness/Lice

*For the safety of your child, campers and counselors, please keep your child home if he/she is ill. A camper who has a fever (99+), vomiting, or diarrhea within 24 hours of the next camp day should remain at home. Should your child become ill at camp, the parent will be called to pick them up. If a parent is called to pick up a sick child 2 or more days in one week, a doctor's release will be required before returning to camp.

*If a camper has head lice they must be removed from the other campers immediately in order to avoid an outbreak. Parents will be notified to pick up their child. If your child was diagnosed

with head lice, he or she can come back with a doctor's note confirming that the lice removal has been completed. Your child must be lice free before he/she can return to summer camp.

Medications/Epinephrine Pen

*The SPARC Summer Camp Coordinator or Counselors are **NOT** allowed to administer any medication.

*We have campers with severe allergies. Therefore, if a camper needs the assistance of an epi-pen, an (EPINEPHRIN AUTHORIZATION FOR MINOR) form needs to be filled out by child's doctor and parent. We ask parents to bring an Epi-Pen and leave it at SPARC throughout the summer in case of an emergency. It will be stored in a locked Epinephrine Pen cabinet with the corresponding medical information and picture of the camper.

About Us

All of our counselors are trained and certified in CPR and First Aid. The counselors are encouraged to openly communicate with parents/guardians about your child's daily behavior, progress and successes. If at any time you have a question, suggestion or concern, you may contact the Program Coordinator Amanda Deckard at 251-968-4419 or adeckard@gulfshoresal.gov

Contact Us

Cultural Center
19470 Oak Road West, Gulf Shores
251-968-9813 – Front Desk

Nicole Ard – Recreation Manager
251-968-1424 – Office
nard@gulfshoresal.gov - Email

Ralph Pereda – Programs Supervisor
251-968-9812 – Office
rpereda@gulfshoresal.gov – Email

Amanda Deckard – Program Coordinator
251-968-4419 – Office
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2019 Parent Manual

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SPARC Summer Camp
Cultural Center
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