Huntsville Botanical Garden Summer Camp 2020

4747 Bob Wallace Ave. SW Huntsville, AL 35805

June 10, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Huntsville Botanical Garden is thrilled that your child will be joining us for the Huntsville Botanical Garden Summer Camp 2020, the week of June 15th-19th. The Garden is actively monitoring and structuring summer camps based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) guidelines in response to COVID-19. The information below will outline the changes to our summer camps for 2020.

Camp will be hosted completely outdoors at the Grisham Pavilion in the Blue Parking lot (weather permitting). We know some parents have concerns regarding a camp conducted completely outdoors. However, the Grisham Pavilion does provide adequate shade and is equipped with multiple ceiling fans. Campers will also have access to locations such as Nichol’s Arbor Building when they need a moment to cool down.

Inclement weather may result in moving campers to an indoor location that allows for appropriate social distancing, such as the Nichols Arbor. If we experience severe weather, the Garden may be required to end camp early or completely cancel camp for the day. We will attempt to notify you of any changes or cancellations no later than 6:00pm the night before. Please be patient with communication, as we all know how quickly weather can change in Alabama.

Program begins at 9:00am with check-in at 8:30am at the hygiene station located between the Linda J. Smith Admin Building and Grisham Pavilion. Look for the tent set up between the two locations! If the location for drop-off or pick-up should change, we will attempt to notify you of the change with instructions no later than 6:00pm the night before. Early drop-off begins at 7:30am and is available with an additional cost per camper.

To eliminate traffic congestion, parents/guardians will be required to park in the Blue Parking lot before exiting the vehicle for check-in and check-out.

A staff member equipped with PPE gear will be taking your child’s temperature with a no-contact infrared thermometer at check-in. In accordance with current CDC and ADPH guidelines, any child with a temperature elevated to 100.4 or higher will not be admitted.
Parents/Guardians will receive an email invitation from the mobile app Brightwheel. At no cost to you, Brightwheel is a secure way for Education staff to manage the camp roster digitally, share what is going on at camp throughout the day, and contact you with important information.

**If you have multiple children attending camp you will need to accept the invitation from Brightwheel for each child.**

We will be using Brightwheel for no-contact check-in- and check-out at camp. You will scan a QR code at the hygiene station with your app, and then follow the instructions on your screen to complete check-in or check-out. Please do not touch the iPad. If you are experiencing difficulties, the staff member assigned to the hygiene station will assist you with Brightwheel.

During lessons, campers will sit at a picnic table that ensures proper social distancing of six feet. Each camper will have the opportunity to select his/her seat for the week. You will need to discuss appropriate social distancing practices prior to the first day of camp with your children. For health and safety reasons, any children unable to adhere to the social distancing practices will be asked not to return to camp.

Camp ends at 4:30pm each day. Parents will be required to park in the Blue Parking lot before going to the hygiene station for checkout. Again, you will scan the QR code for checkout. **Effective June 2020, the Garden will be offering aftercare until 5:30pm at an additional cost of $10.00 per camper per day.**

The Garden is only accepting payments for early drop-off and aftercare in advance online. **No payments or registrations will be accepted at the Garden.** To register, visit [https://hsvbg.org/camps/](https://hsvbg.org/camps/)

A parent or legal guardian must sign 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 attached PDF document and add them in the Brightwheel app. We encourage, but do not insist, that the same parent/guardian drop off and pick up the child.

Effective June 2020, the Garden will no longer provide campers with snacks. Parents/guardians must provide a sack lunch, as well as a morning and afternoon snack. Campers will not have access to a refrigerator, so any lunches that must remain cold will need a cold pack. Lunches will remain with the campers at their assigned seat/table. **Campers will not be permitted to trade or share food.**

Please complete the attached fillable PDF Emergency Contact form. Note any medical conditions (physical or developmental) that staff should be made aware of concerning your child. This information will also need to be added to the Brightwheel app for each child.

Ensure that your child is appropriately dressed to spend the entire day outdoors. The Garden asks Parents/guardians to provide the following:


- Personal hand sanitizer
- Hat(s)
- Spray sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Backpack
- Camera (optional)
- Disposable water bottles (2-3 per day)

When moving through a building or gathered in the pavilion during activities that do not allow for proper social distancing, campers will be required to wear a face mask or face covering, so please make sure they come prepared. **Campers will not be required to wear mask while sitting down at their table.** Masks will also be required anytime campers are interacting with staff or guests. It will remain optional to wear a mask as we walk through the Garden. If you prefer that your child wear a mask at all times, please let us know.

You have been provided a fillable PDF mask consent form. This form allows parents to make the decision on **any additional time** that parents would like for their camper to wear a mask. As previously stated we have explored multiple health organizations’ suggested standards and consulted with professionals when making these decisions regarding the health and safety of our campers and staff.

To protect your child and our staff members from the potential spread of germs, the following items are prohibited:

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

**Cell phones are permitted as they allow your child to contact you. Please make your child is aware that cell phones are to be used only for contacting parents/guardians or taking photos of the Garden.** Because gaming on phones encourages children to gather close together, phones may not be used for playing games. Violation of this rule will result in phones being confiscated for the remainder of the day.

Campers will have the opportunity to visit the gift shop during the week. With our new policies to make the Garden a safer place for all, during COVID-19 the Garden is not accepting cash money. We suggest sending your child with the following:

1. A check
2. Credit card
3. Pre-paid visa card
4. Purchase a gift certificate from the garden’s gift shop (available in increments of $10)
   By calling 256-830-4447 EXT 222 – (we will hold the gift certificate in the gift shop for your camper)
5. Come into the gift shop and purchase a gift certificate at any time
To help prevent the spread of germs, campers will not be permitted to play with items purchased from the gift shop during camp. Items must be kept in the bag and under the camper’s assigned seat.

In order to maintain social distancing and not overcrowd the gift shop, we are unable to allow children that do not bring money to browse through the gift shop.

More information to discuss with your camper before attending summer camp:

- How to maintain a six-foot distance from other campers.
- How to put on a face mask or face covering
- If you need to cough or sneeze, do so into your elbow or a tissue, and then immediately wash your hands.
- Hands should be washed with soap and warm water, scrubbing for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, mouth, and nose.

Please sign the attached page to acknowledge you have received and read this information in its entirety. For additional information or questions, please contact Misty Hertzig at (256) 830-4447 ext.253 or mhertzig@hsvbg.org

We know summer camps are going to look significantly different from previous years, and we thank you for your patience as we all adjust to these new procedures to make every part of camp run as smoothly and safely as possible. Again, we look forward to having your child join us for the Huntsville Botanical Garden Summer Camp 2020.

Warm regards,

Misty Hertzig
Manager of Youth Programming
(256) 830-4447 ext. 253
mhertzig@hsvbg.org