

Art & Nature Camp 2021 - Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some of the most common questions we get from parents. Please note that all information relating to the COVID-19 situation is subject to change, as AHS regulations and guidelines are updated.

If you have any other inquiries feel free to contact us!

E-Mail: education@leightoncentre.org

Phone: our Education Centre phone is not currently monitored, due to staff working from home. A contact number to use during camp will be provided by the start of your camp.

1. What will my child be doing during the week at summer camp?

Your child will be immersed in Art & Nature! They will spend the week as an artist, working with a variety of media (ie. watercolour, acrylic, clay etc.) and exploring the beautiful rural landscape! Our summer camp is a fun, arts immersion program designed to build your child's talents and skills as an artist.

2. What is the age range of children who attend summer camp at Leighton Art Centre?

Our summer camp is open to children and youth 6-12 years old. If your child has turned 6 by July 1, 2021, they are able to attend. This year, we plan to have 2 groups of 10 campers each week. If current AHS rules allow, we may increase the size of these groups later in the spring/summer. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, groups will be mixed ages from 6 to 12 years old. This will help ensure that children from the same households are in the same groups. Our smaller group sizes will allow for more individual attention so our awesome instructors will be able to teach to a variety of ages and skill levels.

3. Can my child be in the same group as their friend?

Maybe. For everyone's safety during COVID-19 we need to make every effort to ensure that children from the same household are in the same camp group and we will be emphasizing this when creating cohorts. You are welcome to send us a request for your child to be in the same group as a friend, but due to the strict regulations on groups sizes we cannot guarantee that we will be able to place them together. Separate groups (aka cohorts) are not allowed to interact throughout the day, nor are we allowed to move a child from one group to another once camp has started.

4. What are the hours for summer camp?

Summer camp starts at 9:30 AM and ends at 3:30 PM, Monday to Friday (no camp on August 3rd, due to the statutory holiday). We ask that you call (phone number will be made available by camp start) or e-mail our office (education@leightoncentre.org) if your child will miss any days of camp. We are unable to offer a discount for any missed days of camp. Please note that there is no before or after care available. Drop off will be available no earlier than 9:15 am and your child must be picked up no later than 3:45 pm.

5. Where are you located?

Leighton Art Centre is approximately 20 minutes southwest of Calgary, at 282027 144 Street West, Foothills AB. More information is available [on our website](#).

6. What should my child wear to summer camp?

Children should wear play clothes that they can get messy in. Please do not send them in anything nice because it most likely won't stay clean for long! The Leighton Art Centre takes no responsibility for damaged clothing. Please ensure that your child has all the layers and possible changes of clothes they will need for

the day. Camp is messy and the weather can change quickly and unfortunately, this year we are not able to lend out extra clothing.

7. What should my child bring to summer camp?

- Lunch, snacks and plenty of fluids!
- Apply sunscreen and bug spray before camp then pack them to be reapplied later in the day.
- Send your child with a hat, rain gear, and dress your child in layers. They will be outside in nature each day (sometimes in the rain) and often the morning is cool and the afternoon heats up!
- We are a rural centre. Your child will be hiking on unpaved pathways and must wear appropriate footwear and clothing (no flip flops or crocs).

7. Can my child bring electronics/cell phones to summer camp?

We ask that your child does not bring any electronics or cell phones; they may not be used at camp and they could get damaged. The Leighton Art Centre is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

8. What if my child loses something?

Please label ALL items sent to camp (clothing, lunch bags, water bottles etc.) and make a note of the personal items your child brings to camp. If you notice something missing, encourage your child to look through our Lost & Found (located in the Education Centre Office). Items in the Lost & Found are kept until Labour Day.

9. Is there a time when I can visit my child at summer camp and share in what they are doing?

We're not sure yet! In normal times, we hold a Friday afternoon art show at 2:30 pm and invite all families to attend and see what their kids have been up to all week. During Summer 2020, we had strict capacity restrictions and were unable to hold these events. If we are able to resume Friday afternoon art shows, while abiding by current AHS regulations, we'll give you as much notice as we can! If not, your child will come home at the end of the week with all their art work to share with you at home.

10. Can I visit the museum and gallery when I drop my child off or before I pick them up? Can I walk the property?

Yes, but please make note of our current hours before you come! 2021 summer hours for our museum and gallery have not yet been determined; at the time of writing we are still closed. When we are operating, we open at 10am. You are welcome to take advantage of our walking paths and enjoy our mountain views! Please remember to follow all relevant COVID-19 precautions when you visit. If you have particular concerns or you need to pick up or drop off your child outside out the usual times please contact our summer camp staff via email (education@leightoncentre.org) or by phone (# will be shared by the start of camp).

11. How will drop off and pick up work?

We're not 100% sure what the restrictions will dictate this year, but drop off and pick up will likely be similar to 2020, when each group had a separate drop off/pick up location. We'll email you in advance of your camp week to let you know where to drop your child off! If your drop off location is at the Education Centre and you would like to visit the museum or walk our property we ask that you drive over to the museum parking lot after you have dropped off your child; we will need to close the gates once all our campers have arrived. There will be a staff member at each location to greet you and sign in your child.

12. Are you offering busing this year?

Due to all the unknowns surrounding this summer's COVID-19 restrictions and our anticipated small groups, we are unable to offer bus service for the summer of 2021.

13. Will my child need to wear a mask?

At this time (early March 2021), we *think* children may not need to wear masks during summer camp, but we will follow all applicable AHS regulations that are in place at the time camp is held. Certainly campers may choose to wear masks if they are not required. Regardless of mask rules, we will be encouraging campers to maintain social distancing practices (if applicable), to spend lots of time outside, to wash their hands regularly, and to not touch their faces or share art supplies, personal belongings or food.

14. How will you be handling cleaning, hand washing, and shared supplies?

Each camper will have their own kit and storage shelf or cubby for supplies for the week so they will not be sharing communal scissors or pencils. Each kit will be sanitized by the instructor at the end of the day just in case! Each of our studios is equipped with running water and soap and we will also have hand sanitizer available for outside hand cleaning. Instructors will monitor hand washing when children arrive, before they eat, and before they get picked up at the end of the day. All shared surfaces such as tables and benches will be sanitized at the end of each day and throughout the day as we find necessary.

15. What if my child or another camper or staff member gets sick?

The first - and most important - rule is if your child is showing any symptoms, even the appearance of a mild cold, or has come into contact with someone with symptoms of COVID-19, you may not send them to camp. If symptoms appear prior to the start of your camp week please contact the Director of Education and we will provide you with a refund for your camp spot. If your child begins to show symptoms during the camp week or while they are at summer camp we are required to shut down for at least 3 days to allow for contact tracing and testing under the direction of Alberta Health Services (AHS). If that were to happen, we would contact all affected families and provide a partial refund for the missed days of camp. Staff who show symptoms or have come into contact with someone with symptoms will also be required to stay home. If there was a risk that they had come into contact with campers we would contact all affected families and proceed under the direction of AHS. Should this situation arise we would do our best to ensure timely and clear communication.

16. How will you handle difficult behaviour?

We always do our best to ensure that our summer camp staff has good training and experience with handling challenging behaviours in a group setting. We will be strictly enforcing a 3-strike policy for children who do not follow the rules. If we need to speak repeatedly to your child about following camp rules, respecting other campers' or staff's personal space, or any kind of risky or disruptive behaviour, we will contact you to come and pick up your child. If your child is ready to return the next day while following the rules, we will be happy to have them! If the problematic behaviour is developing into a pattern we will ask you keep your child at home; the safety of our campers and staff needs to be our top priority.

17. Accessibility Needs: To ask about special support or accommodations, please email education@leightoncentre.org.

18. When do you require payment?

Payment in full is required at the time of registration.

Cancellation & Transfer Policy

If you need to cancel after registration we will issue a full refund (minus a \$25 administration fee) provided you cancel at least 4 weeks prior to the start of the booked camp.

No refunds after 30 days prior to camp start date. Transfer of your child's registration to another week of camp can be discussed at the discretion of the Summer Camp staff. A \$25 transfer fee will apply to any child transferring to a different week of camp. We are unable to pro-rate the cost of camp if your child needs to miss any day(s).

Behaviour Policy

Summer camp attendees are expected to show respect to others, the Leighton Art Centre and its natural surroundings. Children are expected to follow the rules set out by the Leighton Art Centre.

Please note, the administration of the Leighton Art Centre reserves the right to remove a child from camp for behaviour that is not in keeping with the above expectations or if the child is unable to cope with the challenges of camp. We will be strictly enforcing our 3-strike policy.

Camp Hours and Parking Info

Camp begins at 9:30 AM and ends at 3:30 PM. There is no before or after childcare; please try not to arrive before 9:15 AM or after 3:30 PM.

Please park at your designated drop off and pick up location (provided in advance of your first day of camp); there will be a camp counselor at each one to greet and direct you as you sign your camper in and out. Our Education Centre does not have room for vehicles outside of drop off and pick up hours.

Please do not park on the road, also for safety reasons.