



TORONTO
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

CAREGIVER HANDBOOK

SUMMER
CAMP



WELCOME TO THE TORONTO BOTANICAL GARDEN SUMMER CAMPS

This Caregiver Handbook provides details related to the camp experience and logistics, health and safety measures, expectations of campers and families, communication and contact information. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Toronto Botanical Garden's children's programs (TBGKids) aim to offer engaging hands-on learning experiences in our Children's Classroom, the Wilket Creek Ravine and our outdoor Teaching Garden which has raised garden beds and a vegetable patch sown and harvested by kids.

Campers in our summer camps will spend their days learning in and around the garden. We prepare robust programs but endeavor to make space for following the lead of our campers. Camp programs may change if our campers would like to spend more time exploring the creek, harvesting in the garden or discovering creatures in the ravine. Included in our programming are connections to our plant, animal and human communities. Programming also includes indoor crafts and activities that further learning and provide a cool break on those hot days!

Campers will help harvest produce from the garden which are donated to the North York Harvest Food Bank. Have too much kale in your garden? Feel free to drop off extra on Wednesdays and we will add them to our donation!

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

LOCATION

Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Ave East, Toronto, ON
M3C 1P2

TIMING

Camp: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Extended Care: 8 to 9 a.m. | 4 to 5 p.m.

PARKING

Free parking for drop-off from 8 to 9:15 a.m. and pick-up from 3:45 to 5 p.m.

CAMP CLASSROOM

Your child will be assigned to one of our camp classrooms as their home base for the summer. Signs will direct you to the appropriate room based on their age range on the first day of camp.

SIGN IN AND SIGN OUT

Camp starts at 9:00 a.m. but parents can begin drop-off as early as 8:45 a.m. Campers will also be ready for pick-up by 3:45 p.m. Sign-in on Monday can take a few minutes longer as we confirm camper details.

AUTHORIZED PICK-UP LIST

All adults that are authorized to pick up must be on our pick-up list and show ID on Sign-Out. Last minute addition to our pick-up list? Please inform staff at drop-off!

CHANGES TO PICK-UP/DROP-OFF

Please call or text the camp phone if your camper needs to be picked up early. If you are late on multiple days, we will ask you to add extended care to your camp booking.

CAMP PHONE 1-437-432-1355

This is the primary contact for urgent and day of information. This is a cellphone that is carried by camp staff. We may not be able to answer a call right away so if you don't reach us, please send a text message with your camper's name, age group, and pertinent details.

EMAIL

Non-urgent messages or feedback can be sent via email to:
tbgkids@torontobotanicalgarden.ca

CANCELLATION POLICY

A full refund on camps is provided on any camp if the refund request is made in writing to education@torontobotanicalgarden.ca four weeks prior to the first day of camp. If your campers falls ill and you are requesting a refund with less than four weeks notice please note we may require a doctors note.



TORONTO BOTANICAL GARDEN

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

- Weather Appropriate Clothing
- Closed Toe Shoes
- Extra Clothing: These can be handy in case campers get muddy or wet
- Sunscreen
- Lunch and morning and afternoon snacks (nut-free)
- Refillable Water Bottle
- Watershoes (Thursday/Friday)

**Please DO NOT bring: Anything valuable or electronic toys.
Lost item? Check our lost and found box at the registration table!**

*On Thursdays and/or Fridays we explore the creek. Campers with watershoes are able to wade into the creek. Campers are not required to go into the creek and can explore along the shore

SCHEDULE

- 8 a.m.** Extended Care Begins
- 9 a.m.** Camp Sign-In, Free Play, Welcome Games
- 9:30 a.m.** Themed Activities, Games or Crafts in the classroom, Garden, Forest or Creek
- 10:30 a.m.** Snack
- 11 a.m.** Themed Activities, Games or Crafts in the classroom, Garden, Forest or Creek
- 12 p.m.** Lunch in the Classroom
- 12:30 p.m.** Free Play
- 1 p.m.** Themed Activities, Games or Crafts in the classroom, Garden, Forest or Creek
- 2 p.m.** Snack
- 2:30 p.m.** Themed Activities, Games or Crafts in the classroom, Garden, Forest or Creek
- 4 p.m.** Camp Sign-Out, Free Play
- 5 p.m.** Extended Care Ends

Check our our 'What We Did Today!' poster at the end of each day!

*Campers must be registered in extended care to join activities between 8 and 8:45 a.m. and from 4 to 5 p.m. Caregivers can drop off anytime between 8:45 and 9 a.m. and pick up anytime between 3 and 4 p.m.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

OUTDOOR PLAY

Our camp staff have the health and safety of campers top of mind, but playing and exploring outdoors may mean we cannot avoid all injuries. Scrapes from playing running games or bug bites are inherent with exploring the outdoors. Camp staff are trained in first aid will respond immediately with care for your camper should this occur.

SUNSCREEN

All campers must come with sunscreen pre-applied and their own bottle of sunscreen in their backpack. Campers will be encouraged to re-apply sunscreen at lunch.

TICKS

Black legged ticks exist in Toronto City Parks. While we have not experienced ticks at this site, education is the best way to protect your health. If we see a tick on any camper, we will call home immediately and remove it if we are able to do so safely. Additional educational information on ticks is available here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/outdoor-health>

ILLNESS

If a camper is not feeling well enough to continue with camp, we will contact the phone number listed on your registration form and arrange for pick-up. If your camper will not be attending camp, please call or text the camp phone to let us know.

ALLERGIES

Please ensure you include any health-related information including allergies on your camper registration form. If your camper uses an Epi-Pen please provide two as well as a pouch or fanny pack so your campers can carry one Epi-Pen with them at all times.

WEATHER

We do our best to explore outdoors in all weather. Campers are encouraged to come dressed appropriate for the day as we will go outside in light rain. When the summer days are very hot, we will find shady and cool ways to explore outdoors.

During extreme weather such as thundershowers, high winds, weather advisories as well as very heavy rain we will stay indoors.

FOOD AND SNACKS

Campers are not permitted to share snacks. Camp programs do include some snacks such as marshmallows on campfire days or popsicles on very hot days. These items are nut-free and alternate options (such as vegan marshmallows) are provided for those with dietary restrictions. If you would prefer your camper not have any of these treats please be sure to include this information in your registration form.

WASHROOMS

Public washroom facilities are available at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Camp Staff will bring campers in groups to use the facilities. Camp staff will not enter a stall with a camper. All campers must be able to use the facilities on their own.

An outdoor portable toilet exclusive for the use of campers is available at the Teaching Garden if campers need to use the washroom when we are outdoors during programs.

MEDICATIONS

Wherever possible, please administer medications for campers prior to coming to program. If a camper requires medication at the program please email us and we will provide a medication administration form.

BEHAVIOUR AND CAMP AGREEMENT

Toronto Botanical Garden is a Garden For All. We believe that all children deserve to enjoy and learn in nature. The camper agreement is designed to help all campers enjoy their time at camp. We encourage caregivers to review with campers prior to the first day of camp. Camp staff will start our week discussing this agreement with all campers.



WE RESPECT OURSELVES

- Campers let staff know of their physical needs (such as eating, staying hydrated, injury or illness)
- Campers let staff know if something is bothering them
- Campers stay safe by staying with the group

WE RESPECT OTHERS

- Campers commit to listening and following staff instructions
- Campers do not bully or tease other campers. Bullying and discrimination will not be tolerated
- Campers will not engage in physical conflict with campers or staff

WE RESPECT NATURE

- Campers will ask permission before picking a plant
- Campers will not hurt animals or insects

Camp staff will work with campers to help integrate the camp agreement. If a camper's behaviour continues or they engage in actions that endanger themselves or others caregivers will be informed immediately and the camper may be asked to leave the program.



MISSION

Toronto Botanical Garden connects people and plants, fostering sustainable communities and developing reciprocal relationships with nature through lifelong learning.

VISION

Toronto Botanical Garden is a garden for all; a diverse community that recognizes the life-giving role of nature, working together for a more sustainable world.