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Exciting Camps and Activities for Summer 2023

BY GEMMA ALEXANDER (/AUTHOR/GEMMA-ALEXANDER) |
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Time to plan your summer of fun!

Knock on wood, 2023 looks to be the year of the new normal. After three years of pandemic adjustments and disrupted school schedules, we can start planning ahead again, and kick forward to few things as much as summer vacation. Lots of summer camps are already

registration, so it's not too early for you to start making summer camp plans. No matter what your child is into, or what your schedule and budget allow, this guide will help you find a camp to give them a summer they'll never forget.

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Grand Adventures in the Great Outdoors

Kids spend all winter in the classroom, but there is so much they can learn from the natural world. These adventurous camps get kids outside and learning skills they could never do in a classroom.

Trackers Seattle (<https://seattle.trackersearch.com/>) (Kenmore)

This year-round outdoor skills school partners with Kirkland Parks & Recreation to offer summertime day camps during which kids can learn wilderness survival skills, archery, fire, and more. Trusting kids with knives and fire, Trackers camps are grounded in a community with from four to eight peers forming a Trackers team, and teams combining to form a fellowship.

Ages: 6+

Cost: TBA (check their website for 2023 info)

Camp Nor'wester (<https://norwester.org/>) (Johns Island, San Juan Islands)

Camp Nor'wester's outdoor residential camps give children significant skills and insights in a caring and supportive atmosphere during each monthlong session. Taking advantage of Pacific Northwest's environment on the 135-acre Nell Robinson Ranch on Johns Island in the San Juan Islands, campers complete ropes courses, make crafts, and learn sailing, archery, and rock climbing.

Ages: 9–16

Cost: Sliding scale up to \$7,000

Avid4 Adventure (<https://avid4.com/summer-camps>) (Bellevue)

With day camps close to home, overnight camps in Colorado, and weeklong excursions in Washington and other Western states, Avid4 Adventure offers outdoor adventures to groups of kids of similar age. From a weeklong multisport expedition that gives middle schoolers a chance to camp out while trying whitewater rafting, stand-up paddleboarding, rock climbing and archery to day camps during which younger kids can learn to ride a bike, there's something for everyone.

Grades: Day camps, K–7; expeditions, 5–12

Cost: \$1,600–\$1,700

Wolf Camp (<https://www.wolfcollege.com/>) (Lake Sammamish, Puyallup, Mount Rainier)

Wolf Camp's summer nature and wilderness camps specialize in outdoor risk management and come in day camp and overnight varieties. Day campers learn wilderness survival skills, search and rescue, and wild cooking and herbology. Overnights at Mount Rainier, Lake

Sammamish and the Salish Sea focus on specialized weekly themes, including wilderness survival, cooking, animal tracking and archery.

Ages: 8–15 (7-year-olds can join an older sibling)

Cost: \$295–\$975

Wilderness Awareness School
(<https://wildernessawareness.org/youth-programs/>). (multiple locations)

Through its day camps, overnight camps and wilderness expeditions, the Wilderness Awareness School helps kids understand and appreciate the natural world while building skills such as wilderness survival, animal tracking and plant identification.

Ages: 6–18

Cost: \$565–\$1,165

Camp Gallagher (**<https://www.campgallagher.org/summer-camping/dates-and-rates>**) (Lakebay)

Camp Gallagher is a coed overnight summer camp for teens on Case Inlet in south Puget Sound. Each camp has a theme and offers a variety of activities, including canoeing, sailing, swimming, games and crafts. In addition to the classic summer camp experience, Camp Gallagher offers wilderness expeditions, leadership development, and even adult and family camp options.

Grades: 7–12

Cost: \$731–\$1,218

Alpengirl (**<https://www.alpengirlcamp.com/girls-adventure-camps>**) (multiple locations)

Alpengirl provides 8- to 14-day outdoor adventure camps for children of all genders who want more adventure than a typical residential summer camp but who aren't quite ready for a wilderness expedition. With a focus on enjoying each challenge, Alpengirl's weeklong camps can include activities such as sea kayaking, whitewater rafting, horseback riding and camping.

Ages: 11–16

Cost: \$1,595–\$3,695

Camp Fire Central Puget Sound

(<https://campfireseattle.org/camp-sealth-overnight-camp/camp-descriptions/adventure-camps/>) (multiple locations)

Camp Sealth's gender-inclusive overnight adventure camps are set in locations ranging from the North Cascades to Mount St. Helens. They offer activities such as hiking, rafting, canoeing, rock climbing and horseback riding to the often-overlooked tween age group.

Grades: 7–10

Cost: \$1,100 and up

The Mountaineers

(<https://www.mountaineers.org/youth/summer-camp/>) (Olympic Peninsula, Seattle, Tacoma)

The Mountaineers hosts day camps in three cities for youths ages 6–12; lodge camps for ages 10–14; overnight adventure camps for ages 10–17; and one on the Kitsap Peninsula for ages 5–9. These experience-based camps offer campers a chance to learn a variety of outdoor skills and spend time outside with new friends. The Mountaineers also offers lodge week and other programs for families. Registration is by lottery.

Ages: 6–17

Cost: \$460–\$825

South Sound Nature School

(<https://southsoundnatureschool.org/>) (Burien)

Held at Seahurst Park on Puget Sound, South Sound Nature School day camps focus on connecting kids with nature by experiencing the park's hidden gems in a culture of kindness and respect. Survival camp includes skills such as building shelter, while adventure camp includes activities such as exploring tidepools and identifying plants. Note: 2023 camps were sold out at press time, but you can add your camper's name to the waiting list.

Ages: 6–10

Cost: \$395

YMCA Outdoor Leadership Camps

(<https://www.seattleyymca.org/programs/camp-and-outdoor-leadership/boldgold/>) (Seattle)

Boys & Girls Outdoor Leadership (BOLD & GOLD, as well as a new all-gender option) take and teens of varying fitness levels to natural areas throughout the Pacific Northwest. On one-week and two-week excursions, youths learn to be their most courageous and confident selves by learning new skills and taking on challenges. Expeditions depart from South Lake Union.

Ages: 11–18

Cost: \$1,375–\$3,305

Adventure Treks (<https://www.adventuretreks.com/>) (multiple locations)

Adventure Treks' tech-free, multiweek excursions for tweens and teens are filled with physical challenges such as rafting, climbing, hiking, biking, camping, kayaking and canoeing. Students travel from all over to join this outdoor adventure crew for excursions in Colorado, Alaska, and even Yellowstone National Park.

Ages: Grades 7–12

Cost: \$4,195–\$6,995

Arboretum Summer Camp (<https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/education/youth-family/sun-camp/>) (Seattle)

With Washington Park Arboretum as a base, this camp's adventures are less rugged than outdoor camps, but the discovery of nature is no less awe-inspiring as campers explore the park's trails and investigate its flora and fauna. Limited spaces at this popular day camp filled by lottery.

Ages: 6–14

Cost: \$360–\$720

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Camps for Creative Kids

With more and more schools cutting their arts programs, summer camp is the only oppo for many kids to explore their more creative side. From painting to filmmaking or even cc these right-brained camps are sure to spark something new in your kid's life.

Arts Aloft (<https://artsaloftforkids.com/camps.html>) (Seattle)

Arts Aloft fills the summer with weekly four-day camps during which children explore a variety of art media through pop culture themes such as “Harry Potter” and “Star Wars,” or perennial favorites such as fairies and ancient Egypt.

Ages: 5–12

Cost: \$390

Illumination Learning Studio (<https://www.illuminationlearningstudio.com/>) (Seattle)

Illumination Studio offers weeklong camps with creative themes that focus on visual art, drama, dance and ecology. Camps include field trips, engaging lessons and outdoor play. Weekly music lessons are an optional add-on.

Ages: 5–11

Cost: TBA

Museo Art Academy (<https://www.museoart.com/summer-camps.html>) (Issaquah)

Each week, Museo’s four-day summer art camps have a different theme – drawing, painting, sculpting, mixed media. There’s also a Fridays-only pottery class. Families can choose morning or afternoon half-days or sign up for both sessions with the lunch hour included to create a full-day camp.

Ages: 5–13

Cost: \$150–\$335

Pratt Fine Arts Center (<https://www.pratt.org/youth-and-teen>) (Seattle)

Pratt offers serious art instruction in myriad skills, techniques and media for all ages every quarter of the year. Check out its [website \(https://www.pratt.org/youth-and-teen\)](https://www.pratt.org/youth-and-teen) for more information about classes, camps and Pratt’s [Tuition Assistance Program \(https://www.pratt.org/tuitionassistance\)](https://www.pratt.org/tuitionassistance). Its youth program fosters art appreciation for students ages 5–12, while the teen program (13–17) is specifically designed for teens who want to explore creating art in a professional studio environment.

Ages: 5–17

Cost: Varies, generally \$150–\$300 (check their website for summer 2023 info)

NW Film Camp (<https://www.cherrystreetfilms.com/>) (multiple locations)

At NW Film Camp, young filmmakers use their own stories and experiences to produce a film. Along the way, they learn about production planning, location scouting, how to use filmmaking tech and gear, screenwriting, project management, editing and so much more.

Ages: 11–17

Cost: \$499–\$699

FrogLegs Cooking School (<https://froglegskca.com/summer-camps/>) (multiple locations)

Each session of these weekly cooking camps lasts between two and four hours. Kids learn kitchen skills in the process of preparing themed recipes each day. Novel themes include Wonka, retro soda shop, food you eat while camping and treats inspired by the wizarding

Ages: 3–10+

Cost: \$445–\$555

Gage Academy of Art (<https://gageacademy.org/youth-program/>) (multiple locations)

Gage offers a safe space (online and in person) to learn from forward-thinking professional teaching artists. Teen Art Studio is a free, year-round youth arts program that increases access to arts education for teens who are experiencing homelessness, are at risk, LGBTQ, belong to underserved communities, speak English as a second language or face other barriers to arts outlets. Other summer program options were not available at press time, but Gage usually offers both in-person and virtual camps that provide practical art instruction.

Ages: 6–18

Cost: TBD (check their website for summer 2023 info)

Paint Away! (<https://paintawaynow.com/kids-summer-art-camps/>) (Redmond)

Paint Away! offers weeklong camps that run from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day. During these camps, young artists try their hand at fusing glass, painting on canvas, painting pottery and more.

Ages: 6–14

Cost: TBA

Young Chefs Academy

(<https://covingtonwa.youngchefsacademy.com/culinary-camps>)
(Covington)

Young Chefs Academy offers cooking camps year-round. Each day, campers learn new techniques and seasonal recipes. During each four-day camp, kiddos prepare between 1 and 3 recipes. At the end of each day, caregivers are invited in to taste their camper's creations. At the end of the camp, young chefs receive a binder with the week's recipes. Family workshops are also available.

Ages: 7–15

Cost: \$395

Made Sewing Studio

(<https://madesewstudio.com/collections/2023-summer-camps>)
(Seattle)

Ranging from daylong workshops to weeklong camps, Made Sewing Studio's summer programs teach sewing skills through a variety of projects, such as making pajamas, sweatshirts and more. There are also camps in screen printing and fashion design.

Ages: 7–18

Cost: \$100–\$350

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Performance Arts Camps

While appearing on stage is the stuff of nightmares for some, for many young people, the (or auditorium) is an opportunity to shine and a safe space where they can be themselves anyone else they want to try on. Whether your child is a budding thespian or a virtuoso in training, these performance art camps will help them along their path.

Seattle Children's Theatre (<https://www.sct.org/education-programs/class-finder/>) (Seattle)

Seattle Children's Theatre's weekly camp offerings will include classics such as Story Drama, Musical Theatre and Actor's Toolkit, as well as newer offerings that include Prehistoric Playground and Creating for the Camera. SCT also partners with other organizations such as MoPOP, the National Nordic Museum and Coyote Central to offer specialized summer camps (<https://www.sct.org/education-programs/partnership-camps/>).

Ages: 3–18

Cost: \$125–\$540

Rain City Rock Camp (<https://www.raincityrockcamp.org/programs/youth-programs/summer-camp/>) (Seattle)

Rain City's weeklong day camps in Seattle and South Sound provide youths of marginalized genders with instrument and band coaching by working musicians, alongside youth empowerment workshops led by adults of marginalized genders. Most camps are open to all skill levels; a collaboration with MoPOP provides a weeklong intensive workshop for teens with prior music experience.

Ages: 8–17

Cost: \$0–\$425 sliding scale

Broadway Bound Children's Theatre (<https://broadwaybound.org/>) (Seattle)

Broadway Bound's weeklong musical theater camps are full of acting, singing and dancing. Each week, kids work together to produce a show that they perform at the end of the week. New shows are added each year; this year's lineup includes "Hamilton," "Moana" and others.

Ages: 5–18

Cost: Four-day weeks, \$360; five-day weeks, \$450; extended day available for \$20/day per child

Stone Soup Theatre (<https://www.stonesouptheatre.org/summerstage/>) (Seattle)

Stone Soup's SummerStage program runs 16 different outdoor one-week camps starting June. Each week, students in North and South Seattle practice and perform a play. Options include Disney musicals, "Hamilton" and adaptations of children's books.

Ages: 5–17

Cost: \$415

School of Rock (<https://www.schoolofrock.com/music-camp>) **(Seattle, Lynnwood, Bellevue)**

For musically minded campers, School of Rock's various locations offer performance boot camps, artist-themed camps, songwriting and recording. Each location serves a wide range of ages and skill levels in camps, from teaching the basics of music and performance to rock performance camps for students proficient in their instrument. Camps last anywhere from a few days to a week.

Ages: 4–18

Cost: \$180–\$550

Music Works (<https://www.musicworksnw.org/summer-camp>) **(Bellevue)**

Music Works is a nonprofit community music school dedicated to changing lives through accessible music education and experiences. Camp themes range from music composition and production to performance. The organization's summer day camps (half- and full-day camps are available) are taught by professional teaching artists, and many camps will include a showcase at the end of the week for family and friends.

Ages: 4–18

Cost: \$255–\$525

Summer String Academy (<https://summerstring.com/>) **(Ellensburg)**

String Academy's six-day summer camp combines music instruction with a classic outdoor summer camp experience. Students learn music theory and rehearse in orchestra and string ensemble settings against the backdrop of Manastash Canyon at the Lazy F Camp and Family Center. Dates: July 23–28 only.

Ages: Grades 6–9

Cost: \$645–\$695

Youth Theatre Northwest (<https://youththeatre.org/>) (Mercer Island)

Campers learn about acting, singing, movement, choreography and even scene analysis Youth Theatre Northwest's weeklong camps. This year, the long-running summer program adding some full-day options and off-site partnerships to its standard half-day camp offerings.

Ages: Pre-K–12

Cost: \$225–\$525

Bellevue Youth Theatre (<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/parks/community-centers/bellevue-youth-theatre>) (Bellevue)

Dedicated to providing theater arts opportunities for all young people, regardless of income ability, Bellevue Youth Theatre's recreational program offers summer day camps that culminate in performances often based on folk and fairy tales.

Ages: 7–12

Cost: \$522–\$630 (discounted for Bellevue residents)

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Camps for Kids (and Adults!) With Special Needs

While many camp programs make every effort to accommodate a range of special needs, some camps are dedicated to ensuring that people with special needs get to experience summer camps as fully as their peers through programs that are specifically designed to meet their needs.

Camp Beausite Northwest (<https://campbeausitenw.org/camp-programs/>) (Chimacum)

With low camper-caregiver ratios and room for up to four wheelchairs per session, Camp Beausite works to make camp fully accessible for everyone. CBNW provides around-the-care and supervision; nursing care; meals; and programming that includes field trips and activities such as animal and horse experiences, arts and crafts, nature hikes, scavenger field games and archery. There are weekend, weeklong and family camp options.

Ages: 7–99; adventure camps 15–45

Cost: \$300/person for families; \$600 weekend camps; \$1,200–\$1,600 all others; eligible respite funding

National Camps for the Blind (<https://www.sunsetlake.org/camps/>) (Mount Rainier)

National Camps for the Blind partners with Sunset Lake and Christian Record Services to provide a camp experience for people who are visually impaired. Financial assistance is available through National Camps for the Blind and Christian Record Services. Dates: This camp is offered June 25–July 2.

Ages: 9–45

Cost: \$520 (\$35 with financial assistance)

Deaf Camp (<https://www.sunsetlake.org/camps/>) (Mount Rainier)

Sponsored by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists at Camp Sunset, this camp will feature traditional camp activities and special programming for the hearing impaired. Volunteers fluent in American Sign Language will be present in each cabin and throughout the camp. Dates: This camp is only offered July 2–9.

Ages: 10–15

Cost: \$200

Lions Camp Horizon (<https://lionscamphorizon.org/camp/>) (Blaine)

At Lions Camp Horizon, teens and adults with disabilities can unwind, socialize and challenge themselves with new experiences. The staff-to-camper ratio ranges from 1-to-1 to 1-to-4. Nurses are on duty during these four-day camps. Participants are eligible for respite funding.

financial assistance is available.

Ages: 12+

Cost: TBA

Kiwanis Camp Casey (<https://campcasey.org/>) (Whidbey Isla

Camp Casey is a free weeklong summer camp for children with physical disabilities. Activities include swimming, field trips, campfires, a dance, a talent show, a carnival, a parade, and themed meals and more. Campers are given as little or as much assistance as needed to participate in all activities. Dates: This camp is only offered July 30–Aug. 5.

Ages: 6–17

Cost: Free

Camp Goodtimes (<https://www.thegoodtimesproject.org/camp-goodtimes-1>) (Vashon Island)

Camp Goodtimes is a resident camp specifically designed to provide opportunities for personal growth and connection among children impacted by cancer (whether as patients or as survivors). Campers enjoy summer camp fun in a medically supervised environment.

Ages: 8–17

Cost: Free

Camp Erin (<https://elunanetwork.org/camps-programs/camp-erin/>) (Everett, Seattle, Tacoma)

Camp Erin provides a caring environment filled with activities to assist children and teens with loss. By engaging in a special combination of fun recreational and therapeutic activities along with supportive discussions, age-appropriate groups are given the opportunity to meet peers who have had similar feelings and experiences. This camp is only offered once each summer in each location.

Ages: 6–18

Cost: Free

Camp Leo for Children With Diabetes (<https://www.campleo.org>) (Auburn)

At overnight Camp Leo, kids won't feel singled out for the daily disruptions of living with diabetes, because all of the campers and many of the staff share their experiences. Each appropriate overnight camp features classic activities such as swimming and rock climb with the addition of diabetes education and visits by guest speakers whose lives prove that having diabetes doesn't stand in the way of success. Financial assistance is available. A camp will be offered in the fall.

Grades: 3–12

Cost: Tiered pricing

Blue Compass Camps (<https://www.bluecompasscamps.com>) (Port Orchard)

Blue Compass will not offer its usual four-day camp programs serving tweens and teens with autism (HFA) and ADHD at Crista Camps this year. Instead, it is hosting a family rafting trip with guides from Orange Torpedo in 2023. Each camper must be accompanied by at least one family member. Details of the trip are not yet finalized, but capacity will be limited, so contact Blue Compass early to get on the list.

Ages: 10–22

Cost: TBA

Music Works Northwest (<https://www.musicworksnw.org/>) (Seattle)

Music therapy is a powerful tool for working on social skills, impulse control, emotional regulation and teamwork with other neurodivergent peers. Music Works offers both full-day in-person music therapy camps in the summer.

Ages: 4–18

Cost: \$255–\$525

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BY GEMMA ALEXANDER ([/AUTHOR/GEMMA-ALEXANDER](#))

Seattle-based freelance writer Gemma Alexander focuses on the intersection of parenting and the arts. When she's not writing for "ParentMap," she blogs at gemmaealexander.com (<https://gemmaealexander.com/>) and tweets at [@gemmaeetweet](#).

[Children's Film Festival Seattle Showcases the Magic of Cinema \(/article/childrens-film-festival-seattle-2023-guide\)](#)

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Exciting Camps and Activities for Summer 2023

BY GEMMA ALEXANDER (/AUTHOR/GEMMA-ALEXANDER) |
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PHOTO: Credit: Sunset Lake

Camps for Critter-Loving Kiddos

Loving animals and actually taking care of them every day are very different things. Whether a kid is a future farmer or struggles to remember to feed the goldfish, summer camp is a great opportunity to learn more about the natural world and even get some hands-on experience.

critters that they can't keep at home.

Little Towhees (<https://www.tahomaudubon.org/little-towhees>) (Tacoma)

The Tahoma Audubon Society's preschool programs focus on guiding young learners in awareness and self-regulation, growing their confidence and independence, and fostering appreciation for the interconnection of the world around them. It offers three-day camps for 3-5-year-olds, with morning or afternoon sessions.

Ages: Preschool

Cost: \$95–\$105

Sunset Lake (<https://www.sunsetlake.org/camps>) (Mount Rainier)

Sunset Lake is a nonprofit summer camp and retreat center owned and operated by the Mount Rainier Day Adventist Church. Set on 400 acres in the foothills of Mount Rainier, the center offers a classic summer camp experience with a horsemanship add-on. There is also a family camp for Labor Day weekend.

Ages: 8–17

Cost: \$595 with horsemanship option

Camp Sealth (<https://campfireseattle.org/camp-sealth-overnight-camp/camp-descriptions/horse-camps/>) (Vashon Island)

Camp Sealth's 350-acre property on Vashon Island hosts a wide variety of overnight and camp opportunities. But for critter-loving kids, the obvious draw is Horse Camp. Sessions are offered for beginner, intermediate and advanced riders.

Grades: 3–11

Cost: \$725–\$2,400

Wildwood Ranch (<https://wildwoodranch.co/>) (Fall City)

On the 20 acres of Wildwood Ranch, kids disconnect from tech and spend time outdoors getting to be themselves. In the classic ranch camp, they learn how to ride horses, cook over a campfire, tend a garden and make crafts. Specialized camps focus on hiking in the Cascades for kids who like sheep, all things wool.

Ages: 5–12

Cost: \$285–\$650

Red Gate Farm (<https://www.redgatefarmdaycamp.com/>) (Sammamish)

Summer programs that offer horseback riding are usually weeklong sleepaway camps. Red Gate Farm offers a rare horseback-riding day camp. Professional instructors provide unique and unforgettable summer camp experiences during the day, and campers get to sleep in the beds at night.

Ages: 6–12

Cost: \$750

Woodland Park Zoo (<https://www.zoo.org/camps>) (Seattle)

You don't have to leave the city to learn about nature and animals. Woodland Park Zoo can inspire children to become conservationists through standards-based STEAM skills, build connections to nature and discovering the world's wildlife. Each themed day camp lasts four or five days. Note: Camps are full, but potential campers can put their name on the waitlist.

Ages: 4–13

Cost: \$380–\$465

Seattle Humane (<https://www.seattlehumane.org/get-involved/youth-programs/>) (Bellevue)

Seattle Humane summer day camp sessions run Monday–Thursday. Campers learn about and kindness for cats, dogs and other critters through games, crafts and animal visits. Two veterinary-themed camps have been added to the offerings. Single- and half-day programs will be available.

Ages: 7–13

Cost: TBA (check their website for summer 2023 info)

Animal Compassion Camp (<https://www.pasadosafehaven.org/learn/youth-programs/camp/>) (Sultan)

Campers complete projects such as making treats and toys while meeting and learning about the care of the more than 200 animals residing at Pasado's Safe Haven, a 85-acre rescue sanctuary. Each day will be spent outside and around animals, so campers are encouraged to wear good shoes, dress for the weather and bring plant-based lunches.

Ages: 7–16

Cost: \$150–\$200

Up next: [Active Camps for Sports Fans \(https://www.parentmap.com/article/exciting-camps-and-activities-summer-2023/7#page-c](https://www.parentmap.com/article/exciting-camps-and-activities-summer-2023/7#page-c)

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Active Camps for Sports Fans

Sure, we're all worried about the summer slide, but growing bodies need activity! And sure, the best time to learn through play. Whether you're looking for a standard team sports skill building camp or your child wants to try out something new, these programs have you covered.

NBC Camps (<https://www.nbccamps.com/>) (multiple locations)

NBC Camps specializes in intensive training in basketball and volleyball. Originating in the Pacific Northwest, NBC Camps offers overnight and day camps in dozens of communities including Auburn, Anacortes and Kirkland, and has even expanded to include some international training opportunities.

Ages: 9–18

Cost: \$375–\$705

International Soccer Camps (<https://www.challengersports.com/summer-camps/>) (multiple locations)

Soccer parents are spoiled for choice in our region. The soccer camps from Challenger Sports stand out for their use of an international mix of coaches from Europe, Brazil and the United States, and the curriculum is based on the play of the world's top soccer nations. Kids as young as 3 can try out soccer in the one-hour TinyTykes camp, and kids ages 6–14 can sign up for a full- or half-day skills camp.

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Ages: 3–16

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Cost: \$105–\$250



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US Sports Camps (<https://www.ussportscamps.com/>) (multiple locations)

Sponsored by Nike, US Sports Camps currently offers 24 programs in 16 different sports from football to water polo to esports. Programs are open to players of all genders and abilities and all are led by experienced staff. Use the site search to find a camp near you.

Ages: 5–18

Cost: Varies (check their website for summer 2023 info)

NxtGen Baseball (<https://www.nxtgenbaseball.com/camp>) (multiple locations)

NxtGen Baseball Camps, with Major League Baseball analyst and former Seattle Mariner pitcher Ryan Rowland-Smith, provide elite mentorship and training by coaches with MLB experience. These coaches help young athletes of all skill levels learn to be competitive in the game while having a ton of fun. Half- and full-day options are available.

Ages: 6–12

Cost: \$240–\$399

Skyhawks (<https://www.skyhawks.com/>) (multiple locations)

With a dozen different sports (adding less common choices such as cheerleading and tennis to the usual team ball sports) and camps in multiple locations for ages 2–14, Skyhawks has something for every athlete. Emphasizing life lessons such as teamwork, respect and sportsmanship alongside skills, these programs are designed to give each child a positive introduction to sports and foster a lifelong love for activity.

Ages: 2–14

Cost: Varies (check their website for summer 2023 info)

Arena Sports (<https://www.arenasports.net/summer-camp/>) (multiple locations)

Arena Sports' camps are filled with sports such as soccer, dodgeball and kickball, with the addition of fun activities such as bouncy houses and outdoor play. Enrollment is flexible, with full days and half-days available, as well as partial and full weeks. The Issaquah and Mill Creek locations also offer family fun center activities, such as laser tag, bowling, climbing walls and more; Redmond campers will be able to enjoy these activities via camp field trips. More fun sports skills camps may also be available. Each location also offers a Skills Institute Summer Camp, which focuses on developing campers' (ages 5–12) soccer skills and fundamentals.

Ages: 3–12

Cost: Varies

Sports International Marcus Trufant Football Camp (<https://footballcamps.com/footballcamps/washington/over>) (Tacoma)

During overnight and day-camp options, athletes at Sports International camps learn individual and team techniques for both offensive and defensive play from veteran coaches for six hours per day. This summer's football camp will feature guest instruction by and photo ops with Marcus Trufant and members of the Seattle Seahawks.

Ages: 7–18

Cost: \$759–\$859

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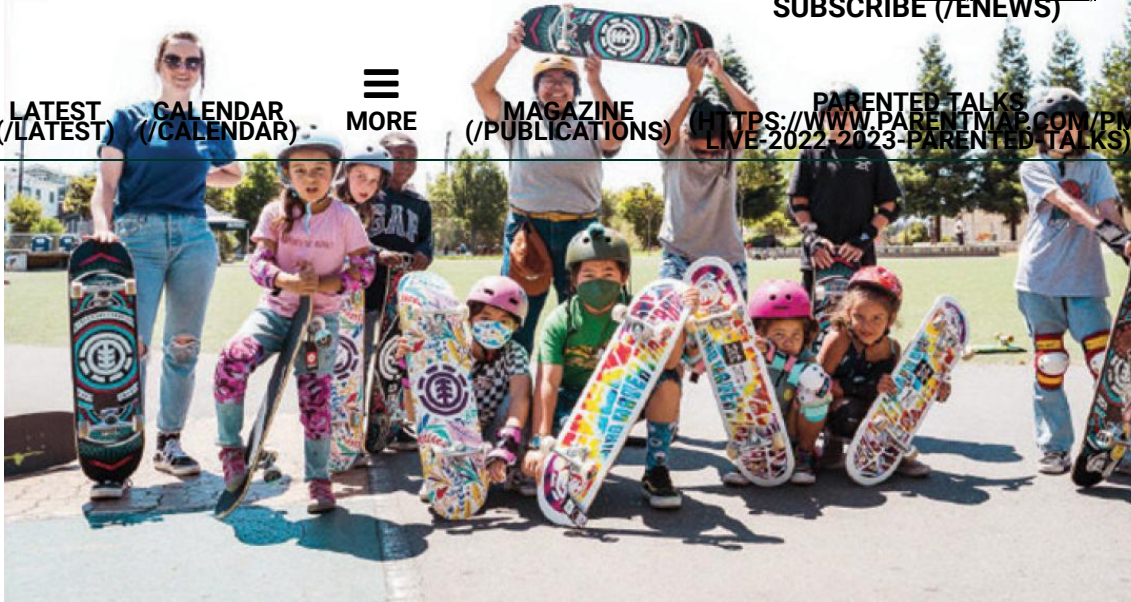


PHOTO: credit: Skate Like a Girl

Atypical Athletes' Camps

Not all sports are team sports, and many teams never touch a ball. There are myriad ways for kids to get physical. These athletic camps may or may not be sporty, but they'll get your kids off the couch and moving.

Salle Auriol (<https://www.salleauriol.com/fencing-camps#summer-fencing-camps>) (Seattle)

Summer camp is the best time for kids with no experience to try out fencing. Salle Auriol weekly summer camps that each focus on one of three types of Olympic fencing: épée, fencer's foil, and saber. Students learn footwork, bladework and other tactics in a variety of fencing activities and games to increase coordination and balance.

Ages: 7–16

Cost: TBA

Seattle Derby Brats (<https://www.seattlederbybrats.com/about/camp/>) (Seattle)

New Skater Camp is a fun way for girls and gender-expansive kids to learn basic roller-skating skills and safety. It's also the way to become qualified to join a competitive roller derby league. There is no minimum skill requirement to participate, but it's recommended that you be able to skate forward without assistance for at least one lap of a standard skating rink before attending camp.

Ages: 7–17

Cost: \$300 (check their website for summer 2023 info)

All Together Skatepark (<https://www.alltogetherskatepark.com/skate-camps/>) (Seattle)

All Together Skatepark provides weeklong half- and full-day summer camps in its indoor Wallingford skate park. Focused on creating a fun and positive environment, camps facilitate individual growth through group lessons and daily showcases during which kids get to demonstrate their growing skills.

Ages: 5–12

Cost: \$350–\$550

Skate Like a Girl (<https://www.skatelikeagirl.com/summercamp.html>) (Seattle)

Skate Like a Girl skateboarding instructors get kids rolling with the basics of pushing and cruising, or help them take existing skills to new heights in both half-day and full-day camps. Camps are open to all genders, with specific weeks for girls and/or trans and nonbinary skaters.

as well as one week (date TBA) specifically for queer and trans youths.

Ages: 6–16

Cost: \$300–\$450, sliding scale

Edgeworks

(<https://edgeworksclimbing.com/seattle/camps.html>) (Belle Seattle, Tacoma)

Edgeworks offers climbing camps for all skill levels; there's a four-day indoor-only camp New Rockers, as well as five-day Adventure Rock camps that spend a portion of the week outside. Whether you're looking for a camp to introduce your child to rock climbing or your camper wants to climb to the next level, this is a great place to try.

Ages: 6–17

Cost: TBA (check their website for summer 2023 info)

Seattle Bouldering Project

(<https://seattleboulderingproject.com/youth>) (Seattle)

Seattle Bouldering Project has two locations in Seattle. Each location offers Monday–Thursday climbing camps for younger kids that combine climbing, games and crafts. Camps for tweens and teens focus more on building skills and fitness.

Ages: 6–15

Cost: \$450–\$475

Moss Bay (<https://www.mossbay.co/kids-camps>) (Seattle)

The Moss Bay summer camp is a weeklong day camp that combines kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and sailing on Lake Union, with safe instruction included in each lesson. Moss Bay's low-key approach to skill development allows kids to gravitate to the activities they enjoy.

Ages: 7–12

Cost: \$495

High Trek Adventures (<https://www.hightrekeverett.com/sunday-camps.html>) (Everett)

Day camps at High Trek Adventures fit the bill when you want outdoor adventure that's more action than nature-focused. Three-day camps include a high ropes course and zip lines, a climbing wall, laser tag, mini golf, a bouncy obstacle course and other exciting outdoor games.

Ages: 7–15

Cost: \$300–\$325

Seattle Yacht Club

(<https://seattleyachtclub.org/web/pages/summer-sailing-sc>) (Seattle)

Weeklong day camps launch from Portage Bay to teach kids of all skill levels how to sail on boats of different sizes. A camp focused on sailboat racing will be held July 17–21 for kids of at least one SYC sailing camp.

Ages: 7–17

Cost: \$490

Alki Adventure Camps (<https://www.alkiadvcamp.com/>) (Seattle)

Alki Adventure Camps are weeklong, full-day stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) camps on Fremont Sound, Elliott Bay, Lake Washington and other locations. SUP lessons are supplemented daily off-site adventures.

Ages: 9–16

Cost: \$340–\$350

Seattle Rhythmic Gymnastics

(<https://www.seattlerhythmic.com/camps/>) (Seattle)

Multilingual coaches teach rhythmic gymnastics in half-day or full-day camps. Campers learn ballet, ribbon, hoops and tumbling, and participate in other fun camp activities. Each camp concludes with a showcase performance for parents.

Ages: 6–9

Cost: \$450

Circus Camp (<https://sancaseattle.org/camps/>) (Seattle, August)

Campers of all skill levels are introduced to age-appropriate circus and acrobatic skills, from juggling to aerial and tightwire. Circus camps help young people develop physical skills, confidence and self-esteem, and get physically fit. Full-day camps are offered at both the school and the Auburn Synapse location, which also offers half-day camps.

Ages: 6+

Cost: \$199–\$535

Seattle Shaolin Kungfu Academy **(<https://www.seattleshaolinkungfu.com/kungfu-summer-camps>)** **(Bellevue)**

Nearly every martial arts school that teaches kids' classes offers a summer camp program. If you're not sure where to start, why not try the original? At Seattle Shaolin Kungfu Academy, half- and full-day weekly camps, new students learn the basics and fundamentals of Shaolin kung fu stances, traditional fist forms, weaponry, basic tumbling and sparring. The full-day camps also incorporate other elements of Chinese culture, from the Mandarin language

Ages: 4–15

Cost: \$250–\$450

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PHOTO: Credit: Canoe Island French Camp

One-of-a-Kind Camps and Classes

Nostalgia is a powerful force – many of us can't imagine summer vacation without cabin groups, campfire stories and canoe tippy tests. But if tradition doesn't hold much water for your family, you might be drawn to one of these camps that take kids way off of the beaten path.

Smithsonian Summer Camp
(<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/search/?query=summer%20camp>) (virtual)

Smithsonian camps on a variety of themes, from designing video games to a virtual road building fantasy-fiction worlds, will be conducted via Zoom, with half-day morning or afternoon sessions available. Led by educators, kids will explore the museum's collections through interactive play, art creation and experimentation.

Grades: K–11

Cost: \$335–\$480

Wing Luke Chinatown–International District Camps
(<https://www.wingluke.org/summer-camp>) (Seattle)

Wing Luke Museum offers three unique weeklong day camps. At Camp Bruce Lee, campers learn from the teachings and life of Bruce Lee through daily martial arts lessons, visits to the museum's Bruce Lee exhibit and explorations of the International District. At Feasts and Campers make delicious treats inspired by the neighborhood's community and restaurants. Arty Party is a week of making art and exploring identity inspired by the history and art of the International District.

Ages: 6–12

Cost: \$325–\$375

Canoe Island French Camp
(<https://www.canoeisland.org/sessions/>) (Orcas Island)

There's nothing like a summer trip to Paris to improve one's French. Unless it's a week at Canoe Island's French Camp, where campers re-create the French Revolution (more or less), explore the Pacific Northwest like the fur trappers of old or learn the chivalric ways of medieval knights. All French language skill levels are welcome.

Ages: 9–16

Cost: \$2,450–\$4,250 (three-tiered sliding scale)

MoPOP (<https://www.mopop.org/programs-plus-education/education/summer-camps/>) (Seattle)

MoPOP's unique summer camps employ professional teaching artists and partnerships with other arts organizations to help campers create original music videos, explore fantasy worlds, discover the world of drag or design their own museum exhibits.

Grades: 2–12

Cost: Varies (check their website for summer 2023 info)

Up next: [Classic Summer Camp Experiences \(https://www.parentmap.com/article/camps-and-activities-summer-2023/10#page-](https://www.parentmap.com/article/camps-and-activities-summer-2023/10#page-)

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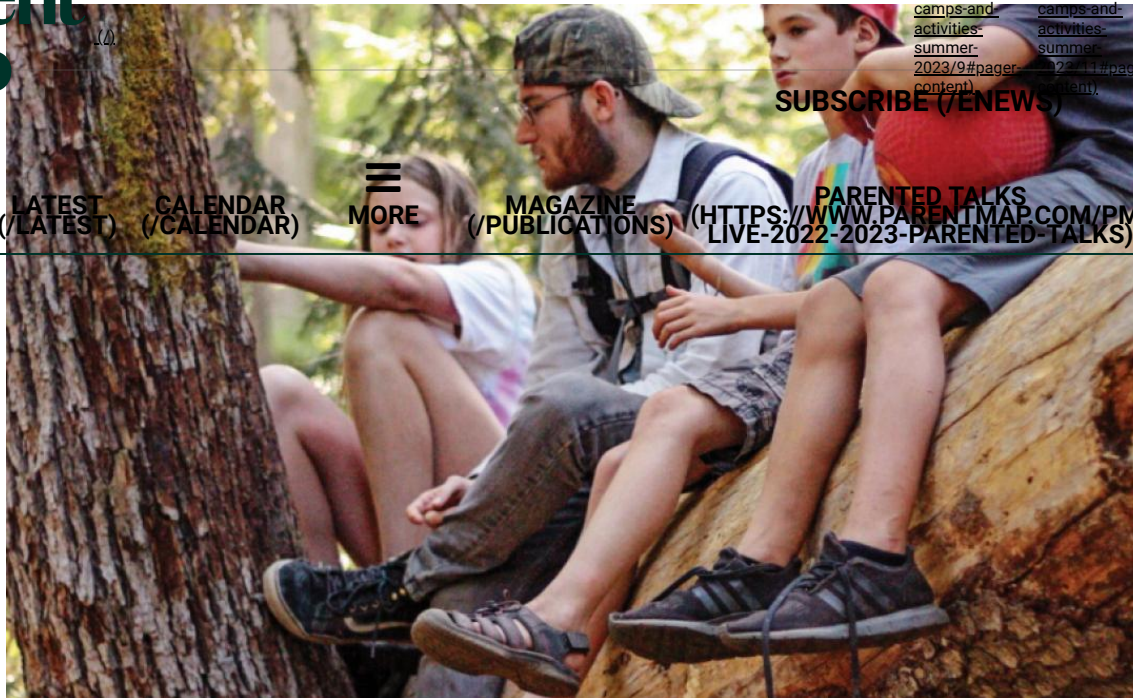
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PHOTO: Credit: Camp Zanika

Classic Summer Camp Experiences

Nowadays, kids are encouraged to specialize at an increasingly early age in order to “bec more competitive.” That focus makes an old-fashioned summer camp experience center community and fun even more valuable. These classic camps give kids a week or even a

summer to just be kids.

Camp Sealth (<https://campfireseattle.org/camp-sealth-over/camp/camp-descriptions/classic-camp/>). (Vashon Island)

Lots of camps incorporate traditional (dare we say campy?) summer activities, such as canoeing, into their specialty programs. But Sealth's Classic Camp does just what it says on the tin. During a typical week session, kids in Classic Camp sample each of the traditional activities – crafts, canoes, exploring nature, etc. – at least once, with options to return to their favorites during “Choice Time.”

Ages: Grades 1–11

Cost: \$625–\$1,125

YMCA Camp Colman (<https://www.seattleyymca.org/colman/traditional-camps>) (Longbranch) and YMCA Camp Orkila (<https://www.seattleyymca.org/programs/camp-and-outdoor-leadership/camp-orkila/overnight-camp>). (Orcas Island)

Traditional Camps

Camp Colman on the Key Peninsula, an hourlong trip from Seattle, offers a traditional overnight camp (either four days or week in length). Campers spend their days engaged in classic activities, ranging from arts and crafts to group sing-alongs. They stay in cabins grouped by gender (or just by age for Camp Colman's all-gender camp) on the 100-acre waterfront property. Camp Colman also offers family camps, while Camp Orkila also has specialty camps for art and marine biology.

Grades: 1–10

Cost: \$730–\$2,185

Black Diamond Camp (<https://www.blackdiamond.org/camps/day-camp/>). (Black Diamond)

The faith-based Black Diamond Camp fills its weeklong day camps with traditional camp activities and modern games. The wide-ranging list of activities includes using slingshot BB guns, indoor climbing and harnessed treetop adventures, swimming, and lots of group games, such as archery tag and blacklight dodgeball.

Ages: 5–12

Cost: \$380

Boys & Girls Clubs (<https://positiveplace.org/summer/>) (multiple locations)

Boys & Girls Clubs' summer day camps are safe, inclusive, engaging and fun. Camps for participants in grades K–5 have a different theme each week, with a variety of activities and trips. Sports-themed camps extend through grade 12, while the traditional camps for teens combine sports, art and volunteerism.

Grades: K–12

Cost: Varies

Camp Zanika (<https://www.campfirencw.org/summer-camp/>) (Wenatchee)

Operated by the Campfire organization, Camp Zanika isn't just like the old-school summer experience – it is the old-school summer camp. Since 1932, kids have been traveling to Wenatchee to learn new skills, have fun, and make friends and memories in the great outdoors. There's something for everyone, from three-day mini camps for the youngest campers to week-long leadership training, and with themes ranging from wacky science to Christmas in July.

Grades: 1–12

Cost: \$349–\$1,549; add-ons available

Four Winds * Westward Ho (<https://fourwindscamp.org/session/>) (Orcas Island)

Monthlong tech-free camp sessions at the nonprofit Four Winds camp give older kids a lot of experience with group living as well as activities and trips that include multi-day excursions in canoe, kayak or hiking. A weeklong Junior Camp gives elementary students a chance to experience camp life without leaving home for a whole month.

Ages: 9–15 (7–10 Junior)

Cost: \$7,200 (\$1,800 Junior)

Camp Huston (<https://huston.org/summer-camp/>) (Gold Bar)

At the Episcopal Camp Huston in Gold Bar, summer camp includes games, songs, hikes, building activities, campouts, archery, swimming, crafts, and chapel and reflection at the each day; there are also a campfire, variety show and dance every week. There are camp adults and families, too.

Ages: 1–10

Cost: TBA (check their website for summer 2023 info)

Camp Kalsman (<https://campkalsman.org/summer/>) (Kirkland)

Camp Kalsman, located on 300 acres near Kirkland, practices active Jewish education, incorporating Judaism into activities as campers learn new skills in athletic, aquatic, and nature programs. The adventure program is a four-week experience in Israel for teens. Sessions last from one to five weeks, focusing on different interests, such as a focus on kibbutz life, arts, Hebrew immersion and outdoor challenges.

Grades: 1–11

Cost: \$1,695–\$4,895 (counselor-in-training program, \$5,995)

Girl Scouts of Western Washington (<https://www.girlscoutsww.org/summercamp>) (multiple locations)

In 2023, staff-led overnight camps will be held at Camp River Ranch, Camp St. Albans and Camp Robbinswold. Girl Scout volunteers will also host overnight community camps at Camp McLeod, Camp Towhee and across western Washington. Participants will get a tradition experience that includes boating, archery and arts-focused programs.

Grades: 2–12

Cost: Varies

Fircreek Day Camp (<https://www.fircreekdaycamp.org/>) (Bellingham)

From swimming and boating on Lake Whatcom to sports, games, crafts, singing and silly summers at Fircreek's nondenominational Christian camp are packed with fun in a picturesque wooded area within walking distance of the waterfront.

Grades: 1–6

Cost: \$300–\$350

Sunset Lake (<https://www.sunsetlake.org/camps>)(Mount Rai

Sunset Lake is a nonprofit summer camp and retreat center owned and operated by the 1 day Adventist Church. Set on 400 acres in the foothills of Mount Rainier, the center offers classic summer camp experience with a horsemanship option. New this year is a \$250 d camp designed for children who are too young or not ready for overnight camp. There wi be a family camp over Labor Day weekend.

Ages: 8–17

Cost: \$520 basic, \$595 with horsemanship add-on

Up next: [STEM + Learning Camps \(\[https://www.parentmap.com/article/exciting-car-activities-summer-2023/11#page-\]\(https://www.parentmap.com/article/exciting-car-activities-summer-2023/11#page-1\)](https://www.parentmap.com/article/exciting-car-activities-summer-2023/11#page-1)

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OUT + ABOUT/SEASONAL FUN

Exciting Camps and Activities for Summer 2023

BY GEMMA ALEXANDER (/AUTHOR/GEMMA-ALEXANDER) |
PUBLISHED ON: JANUARY 27, 2023

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STEM + Learning Camps

A love of learning lies at the heart of science, and STEM camps are in a much better position than the classroom for revealing the adventure in inquiry and for igniting a lifelong passion for discovery. Some camps even incorporate art for the full STEAM experience – because of the stereotypes, creativity belongs in both the lab and in the studio.

Steamoji (<https://www.steamoji.com/index.html>) (Redmond)

Steamoji offers science education with a maker mindset, introducing kids to fabrication, computing, engineering, digital arts, coding and applied design. The organization's summer camps fold science into engaging projects, such as building catapults to topple opponent towers and designing working light features for their room.

Ages: 5–15

Cost: \$350–\$550

iD Tech (Seattle (<https://www.idtech.com/locations/washington-summer-camps/uw-seattle>), Bellevue (<https://www.idtech.com/locations/washington-summer-camps/bellevue-college>))

Students get a taste of college life at these campus-based summer STEM camps where game development, robotics and design are part of the curriculum. In one-week or two-week overnight camps, students of all skill levels get a chance to use the best tech with instructors who are professionals in the field.

Ages: 7–18

Cost: \$979–\$4,599

KidsQuest Children's Museum (<https://www.kidsquestmuseum.org/programs/summer-camps>) (Bellevue, online)

KidsQuest Children's Museum in Bellevue offers virtual and in-person Explorer and Adventure camps. Weeklong half-day Explorer camps for the younger kids have themes such as science, art, nature or engineering. Full-day adventure camps for older kids incorporate art, science and hands-on activities into the programming.

Ages: 3–10

Cost: \$125–\$475

Girls Rock Math (<https://girlsrockmath.org/>) (multiple locations)

Numerous studies show that until middle school, girls are just as skilled and interested in math as boys. Girls Rock Math uses thematic creative materials and a social learning model with positive role models to ensure that girls continue to think of math as fun and themselves

capable. Girls Rock Math is specifically designed for children who experience inequity in the camps are appropriate for girls and those on the gender spectrum who identify as transgender, agender, nonbinary or questioning.

Grades: 1–8

Cost: \$350–\$460

Camp Tech Revolution

(<https://www.lavnercampsandprograms.com/>) (Seattle University)
(<https://www.lavnercampsandprograms.com/location/seattle-summer-camps-tech-camps-seattle-university/>), University of Washington
(<https://www.lavnercampsandprograms.com/location/seattle-summer-camps-tech-camps-uw/>)

With its dizzying number of options that range from podcasting to advanced robotics and 3D modeling, with numerous coding languages in between, Camp Tech Revolution has plenty to offer your camper, as long as they have any kind of interest in technology at all. These week-long day camps on the University of Washington and Seattle University campuses prioritize experiential, hands-on learning and serious skill building, but still incorporate fun and exciting weekly events. Discounts are available for multiweek enrollment.

Ages: 6–16

Cost: \$699–\$899

Girls Who Code (<https://girlswhocode.com/programs/summer-immersion-program>) (online)

These entirely virtual camps for girls and nonbinary students are offered as either a two-week immersion or a six-week self-paced camp during which students gain computer science skills and prepare for careers in tech. In the immersion program, students build a series of short games. In the self-paced program, students choose one of three tracks: beginner web development, beginner to intermediate cybersecurity or beginner to intermediate data science.

Ages: Grades 9–12+

Cost: Free

Young Engineers

(<https://www.seattleyoungengineers.com/summer-camps>)
(Seattle)

Each five-day day camp offers a different theme: Candyland, Lego Architecture, Mad Sci Famous Scientists. Based in the Phinney Neighborhood Center in North Seattle, these ca teach a new mechanical engineering topic and a motorized Lego build each day, and enc short movie and a walking field trip to the zoo.

Ages: Grades 1–5

Cost: TBA

DigiPen WANIC (<https://academy.digipen.edu/academic-programs/wanic-programs/>) and Pre-College Programs (<https://academy.digipen.edu/academic-programs/pre-colle-program/>). (Redmond, online)

DigiPen WANIC offers three-week summer programs for high school students to take ad classes in computer science, art and animation, or music and sound design. The monthl DigiPen Pre-College online summer program gives students a feel for college coursewor also **immersing them in the roles of programmers, artists and game designers.**

Grades: 9–11 (WANIC), 11–12 (Pre-College)

Cost: Free (WANIC), TBA (Pre-College)

Pacific Science Center

(<https://pacificsciencecenter.org/education/camps/summer-camps/>) (multiple locations)

Pacific Science Center is back to a full pre-pandemic selection of a dozen or more camp for each age group. With wide-ranging choices from food science to on-site explorations Mercer Slough to robotics, Pacific Science Center makes learning fun with messy, tasty, adventurous themes for all types of kids.

Grades: Pre-K–8

Cost: \$228–\$654

Kids Science Labs (<https://kidsscienceclabs.com/summer-ca-seattle>) (Seattle)

Kids Science Labs offers half- and full-day camp options with different themes: design, science, mixtures and medicine. Kids learn science through hands-on, inquiry-based problem solving that looks a lot like play.

Ages: 4–12

Cost: \$350–\$550

Bricks 4 Kidz/Beam Experiences (<https://www.bricks4kidz.com>) (multiple locations)

Parents have known for a long time that Lego is equal parts play and learning. Bricks 4 Kidz summer camps use Lego to teach STEM concepts and help kids develop critical thinking, collaboration, innovation and communication skills. At the same time, the interactive design format supports social growth and self-discovery alongside technical learning.

Ages: 5–12

Cost: \$225–\$320

Up next: [Drop-in Camps](https://www.parentmap.com/article/exciting-camps-and-activities-for-summer-2023/12#page=1) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/exciting-camps-and-activities-for-summer-2023/12#page=1>)

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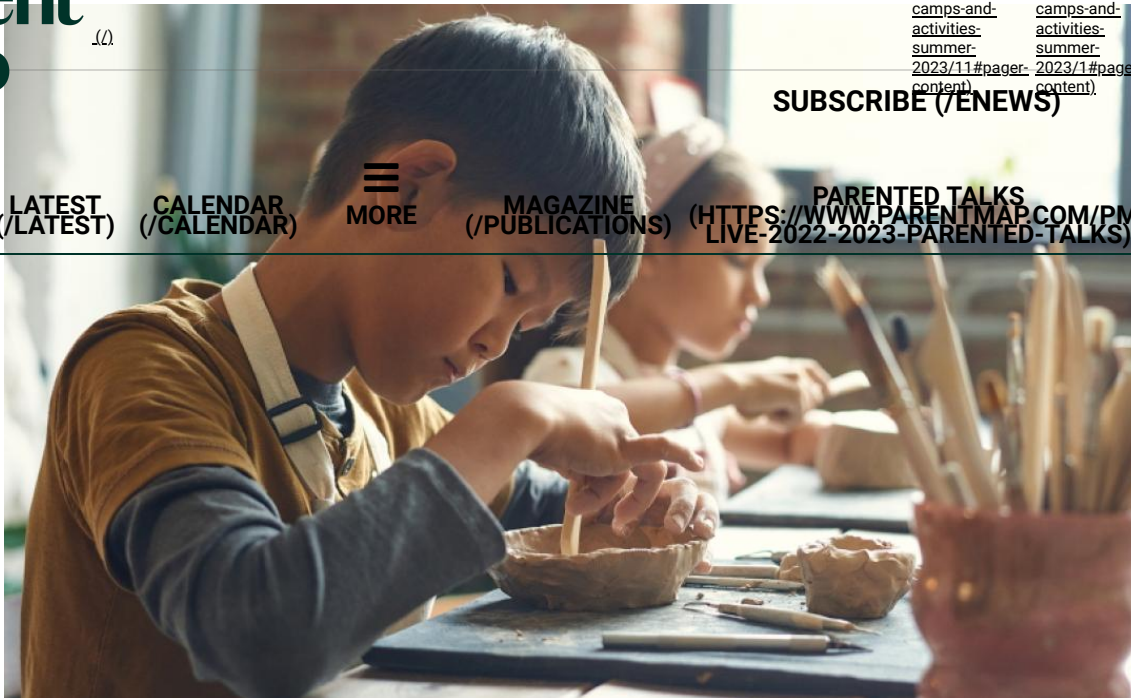
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Drop-in Camps

Busy parents' work, life and vacation schedules don't always align with the typical five-day workweek (or camp session). And even families that don't need camp for daily child care appreciate a break from each other and the chance to try new things. These programs of flexible schedules, daily options and, best of all, variety!

KidsQuest Campivities

(<https://www.kidsquestmuseum.org/programs/summer-camp/#2>) (Bellevue)

During weekdays all summer long, museum members and guests can drop in for hour-long themed camp activities offered twice a day. The activities change every week.

Ages: 4–10

Cost: Free with museum admission or membership

Steve & Kate's Camp (<https://steveandkatescamp.com/>) (Everett, Kirkland, Seattle)

Campers choose their own activities throughout the day, while parents can pick and choose the days their kids attend. Purchase any number of days or a pass for the whole summer and just show up on the days you need child care. If you don't use up your passes, you'll be refunded for the unused days at the end of the summer.

Ages: 4–12

Cost: \$115/day, \$3,450/summer

Arena Sports School's Out Camp

(<https://www.arenasports.net/schools-out-camp/>) (multiple locations)

Arena Sports camps are filled with active and age-appropriate activities that kids enjoy. Families love the flexible options for half days, full days, full or partial weeks or even a single day. Preregistration is required.

Ages: 3–12

Cost: Varies (check their website for summer 2023 info)

Museo Art Academy (<https://www.museoart.com/summer-camps.html>) (Issaquah)

Separate from its weekly Monday–Thursday camps, Museo Art's full-day pottery camp is on Friday. Families can choose morning or afternoon half days or sign up for both, with a 1-hour add-on, to create a full-day camp.

Ages: 5–13

Cost: \$150

Seattle Humane (<https://www.seattlehumane.org/get-involved/youth-programs/>) (Bellevue)

Seattle Humane summer day camps teach campers about care and kindness for cats, dogs and critters through games, crafts and animal visits. Single-day programming will be available all summer 2023.

Ages: 7–13

Cost: TBA

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Seattle-based freelance writer Gemma Alexander focuses on the intersection of parenting and the arts. When she's not writing for "ParentMap," she blogs at gemmadeealexander.com (<https://gemmadeealexander.com/>) and tweets at @gemmadeetweet.

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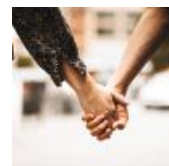
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