



Camp Discovery: Summer Camps

**Hosted at Don Harrington Discovery Center &
Wildcat Bluff Nature Center
Summer Camp Parent Handbook (2026)**

Welcome to Camp Discovery

From dinosaurs to engineering, from art to animals, Camp Discovery offers hands-on, curiosity-driven learning experiences for children across the High Plains.

The Discovery Center Collective (Don Harrington Discovery Center DHDC and Wildcat Bluff Nature Center WBNC) creates moments of discovery that reveal how our world works. Through interactive exhibits, play-based learning, and engaging programs, we spark curiosity, inspire lifelong learning, and empower children to explore confidently.

We are excited to welcome your camper and look forward to a safe, fun, and successful camp season.

Program Overview

Camp Discovery offers:

- **Week-long summer camps**
- **Individual day camps**

Programs are available for children beginning at age **3 for Summer Camps and age 4 for Day Camps**, through students entering 5th grade. All programs feature age-appropriate curriculum led by trained camp educators.

Eligibility & Enrollment Requirements

Age Requirements

- **Full-Day Camps (9:00 AM–4:00 PM):** Campers must be **5 years old on or before their first day of camp.**
- **Half-Day Camps:** Required for all campers under age 5.
- This is a **legal and licensing requirement.**

If it is determined that a camper does not meet the age requirements for their registered program, the camper may be dismissed **without refund.**

Independence & Toileting Requirements

- Campers must be **fully potty-trained.**
- Campers must be able to manage clothing and bathroom needs independently. •

Due to licensing restrictions, DHDC staff **cannot assist with toileting or personal care.**

If a camper is unable to meet these expectations, **parents may be contacted for early pick-up.**

Daily Camp Schedule

- **Half-Day Camp:** (Ages 3 & 4)
 - 9:00 AM–12:00 PM *or* 1:00 PM–4:00 PM
- **Full-Day Camp:** (ages 5+)
 - 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
- **Pre-Care:**
 - 7:45 AM–9:00 AM (must be registered in advance)
- **After-Care:**
 - 4:00 PM–5:30 PM (must be registered in advance)

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center Camp Days

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center is a valued part of the DCC family.

- Campers in **1st–5th grade** will attend **one scheduled day per week** at

Wildcat Bluff. ○ **1st & 2nd Grade** - Wednesdays

○ **3rd-5th Grade** - Thursdays

- On Wildcat Bluff days, **drop-off and pick-up take place at Wildcat Bluff**, not the Discovery Center.
- Drop-off and pick-up location:
 - **WBNC Gilvin Education Building**
 - 2301 N Soncy Rd, Amarillo, TX 79124

Parents should ensure campers are prepared with:

- Sunscreen
- Closed-toe hiking shoes
- Comfortable outdoor clothing
- Water bottle
- Light jacket (weather-dependent)
- Bug Spray

All policies outlined in this handbook apply to both DHDC and WBNC programs.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up Procedures

General Requirements

- Campers must be **signed in and out daily** by a parent or authorized guardian. • **Photo ID is required** at pick-up every day.
- Only individuals listed on the camper's authorized pick-up list will be permitted to retrieve a camper. **Updates must be made through the registration system.**

Arrival Expectations

- Campers should arrive **no more than 10 minutes before start time**, unless enrolled in Pre-Care.
- Camp staff will escort your camper to their assigned class location after drop off.

End of Day Pick-Up

- Campers must be picked up promptly at the end of their scheduled camp day. • Campers will not be released without proper identification.

Late Pick-Up Policy

Late pick-up fees are strictly enforced:

- **Campers not enrolled in After-Care:**

- Fees apply after **4:15 PM**

- **Campers enrolled in After-Care:**

- Fees apply after **5:30 PM**

Fee Structure:

- \$10 flat fee
- Plus \$1 per minute, per camper

Repeated late pick-ups may result in removal from the program.

What to Bring & What to Wear

Please Bring:

- Water bottle
- Cold lunch (for full-day campers; refrigeration and reheating are not available)
- Jacket or weather-appropriate outerwear, as needed
- Change of clothes for PreK campers (recommended for accidents or messy activities)

What to Wear:

- Comfortable play clothes
- Closed-toe shoes (required)
- Clothes that can get messy

Please Leave at Home:

- Toys
- Electronics
- Cell phones
- Valuables

DHDC is not responsible for lost or damaged personal items.

Snacks & Nutrition

- DHDC provides **one morning snack and one afternoon snack**. • Campers with dietary restrictions may bring their own snacks.
- All snack policies are designed to support camper energy, focus, and safety.

Health, Illness & Medical Policies

Illness Policy

For the health and safety of all campers and staff, campers should **not attend camp** if they:

- Have a fever
- Have experienced vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours
- Show signs of contagious illness

DHDC reserves the right to send a camper home if they become ill during the camp day.

Medication Policy

- Camp staff **cannot administer medication**, except in emergencies (e.g., epinephrine for anaphylaxis).
- Parents/guardians may come on site to administer medication as needed.
- Medical and allergy information must be disclosed during registration.

Injuries & Emergencies

- In the event of injury or emergency, staff will take appropriate action and notify emergency contacts.
- DHDC maintains established emergency, severe weather, and safety procedures.

Supervision Policy

- Campers may not be left unattended before or after camp hours and must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Campers are supervised at all times during camp activities.
- Camp staff will only release campers to authorized individuals with valid ID.

Behavior Expectations & Discipline Policy

Camp Discovery is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment.

Unacceptable Behaviors Include:

- Bullying or harassment
- Physical aggression or fighting
- Threatening language or actions
- Profanity or slurs

- Stealing or damaging property
- Leaving supervised areas without permission (eloping)
- Any behavior that endangers safety

Behavioral Consequences May Include:

- Verbal redirection
- Parent/guardian notification
- Camp Administration involvement
- Suspension for the remainder of the day
- Suspension for the remainder of the week
- Expulsion from Camp Discovery

DHDC reserves the right to initiate disciplinary action at any level based on the severity of the behavior. **No refunds will be issued** for suspensions or expulsions.

Boundaries & Staff Conduct

- Camp staff will never be alone with a camper.
- Physical punishment is prohibited.
- Staff are trained to maintain professional boundaries at all times.

Any concerns regarding boundaries or conduct should be reported immediately to the **Camp Administrator**.

Cancellation, Refund & Transfer Policy

- All cancellation and refund requests must follow DHDC's published registration policies.
- Refunds are not guaranteed and may be subject to administrative fees.

- No refunds will be issued for missed days, suspensions, expulsions, or illness. •

Camp transfers may be permitted based on availability and timing.

Specific refund deadlines and terms are outlined during registration.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents and guardians are responsible for:

- Reviewing this handbook prior to camp
- Ensuring accurate registration information
- Providing updated emergency contacts
- Communicating medical needs or allergies
- Following all camp policies and procedures
- Treating staff, campers, and families respectfully
- Picking up campers on time
- Picking up their camper promptly when notified of illness, injury, or behavioral concerns
- Monitoring email regularly for important camp communications and updates

Failure to comply with policies may result in dismissal from the program.

Parent/Guardian Agreement

By registering for Camp Discovery, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Camp Discovery Summer Camp Parent Handbook and agree to abide by all policies and procedures outlined herein.

Signature: _____ Date:

_____ Printed Name: _____