



Summer Camp 2023 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



What are the dates for camp summer 2023?

Camps will be offered in one-week sessions, for nine weeks this summer:

- Week 1: 6/12-6/16
 - Week 2*: 6/20-6/23
 - Week 3: 6/26-6/30
 - Week 4**: 7/3-7/7
 - Week 5: 7/10-7/14
 - Week 6: 7/17-7/21
 - Week 7: 7/24-7/28
 - Week 8: 7/31-8/4
 - Week 9: 8/7-8/11
- * No Camp **Mon 6/19**; 4-day session: Tues-Fri **No Camp **Tues 7/4**; 4-day session: Mon, Wed-Fri

How do I find out what camps are being offered?

The Summer Camp rECguide is a catalog containing all camps being offered this summer, including descriptions, weeks, times, and fees. The guide is available at www.el-cerrito.org/summercamp. Camps are listed out by type (i.e., Camp Everything, Specialty Art, Specialty STEM, Specialty Sports), as well as by camp week on the camp grid.

How do I register for 2023 summer camps?

Registration will be available **online only** at www.el-cerrito.org/onlinereg beginning Wednesday, 2/15/23 at 9am. Please note trying to register before the registration opening date and time will result in an error message. After completing your online registration, please also submit a Health & Safety JotForm (required once per summer).

What is Discount Day?

Discount Day is a virtual special event for camp families! To encourage families to register early and secure their spots in our camps, we will offer a special one-day discount of 10% to everyone who enrolls on the first day of registration. Discount day begins at 9am on Wednesday, February 15 at www.el-cerrito.org/onlinereg and will be offered through 11:59pm that day; **online only**.

Sports Camp Daily (Drop-In) option and El Cerrito Camp Ravencliff are **not eligible** for the discount.

How do I complete the Health & Safety JotForm?

The Health & Safety JotForm can be completed at <https://form.jotform.com/CityofElCerrito/summer2023healthforms>. Before filling out your form out, please have available a recent photo of your child that you can download from the device you are using (i.e., your desktop computer, smart phone, etc.) as well as health insurance information. Please note the form must be completed all at once as you are not able to save your progress. JotForms must be filled out immediately after registration. If not received the week prior to the start of camp, campers may risk losing their space. Completing a JotForm DOES NOT register your child for summer camp.

How much does camp cost?

Prices vary by camp, and depend on factors such as hours per week, staffing levels, supply costs and more. The camp fee for each camp is listed as part of the camp description in our Summer Camp rECguide. Prices will also display online at www.el-cerrito.org/onlinereg. All fees listed are per camp, per week. In addition to the camp fee, some camps may also have an additional materials fee listed in their description. This is not included in the camp fees and is not collected by the Recreation Department at the time of registration. These material fees are to be paid to the instructors directly on the first day of camp.

Are there scholarships available?

The Recreation Department is excited continue our more robust scholarship program. Families are now eligible to receive up to \$300 per child, up to two times per year. More information can be found at www.el-cerrito.org/scholarship. Please **apply for the scholarship BEFORE registering for camp to ensure funds can be applied towards camp fees.**

How do I pay for camp?

Credit/debit card information will be collected at the time of online registration. Families will have two options:

1. Pay in full at the time of registration. This secures your space, and no additional payments will be charged later.
2. Pay a non-refundable deposit of \$40 per camp at the time of registration and keep your card up to date with the Recreation Department. Families who opt for the deposit will make an additional automatically charged payment ("auto-debit") approximately three weeks prior to the start of their camp week (see exact dates below) using the card on file. Families that register for a session after the auto-payment date will need to pay in full.

Payment Schedule:

Camp Week	Auto-Payment Date	Camp Week	Auto-Payment Date
Week 1: 6/12-6/16	Monday, May 22	Week 6: 7/17-7/21	Monday, June 26
Week 2: 6/20-6/23	Tuesday, May 30	Week 7: 7/24-7/28	Monday, July 3
Week 3: 6/26-6/30	Monday, June 5	Week 8: 7/31-8/4	Monday, July 10
Week 4: 7/3-7/7	Monday, June 12	Week 9: 8/7-8/11	Monday, July 17
Week 5: 7/10-7/14	Tuesday, June 20		

Alternate forms of payment, including scholarship funds and childcare subsidies, may be accepted with special arrangement through recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

I have credit on my account. Can that be used towards camp fees?

Yes! If you have household credit, it will automatically be applied at checkout when you register for camps online.

How old does my camper need to be?

The overall camp program is geared towards elementary age children, with some additional options for middle and high schoolers. Each camp description contains the grades campers must be to attend that specific camp. **Grades are listed as "entering grades."** If your child is completing 2nd grade in school year 2022-23, they are considered an "entering 3rd grader" for summer 2023.

Where will camp be offered?

Camps will be offered at different locations throughout the City. Locations include:

El Cerrito Community Center	7007 Moeser Ln.
Prospect Sierra Middle School	960 Avis Dr.
Fairmont Clubhouse	715 Lexington Ave.
Harding Clubhouse	7115 C St.
Castro Clubhouse	1420 Norvell St.
Cerrito Vista Park	950 Pomona Ave.
Cerrito Vista Tennis Courts	Corner of Moeser & Avis
Korematsu Middle School Gym	7125 Donal Ave. (Near corner of Donal & Norvell)

Can I register for multiple weeks? Can I register for more than one camp in a week?

Yes! You can sign up for as many individual weeks of camp as you wish.

Campers can be enrolled in up to two camps per week: an AM camp and a PM camp.

AM/PM camps CANNOT be paired with full day camps, nor select half-day camps noted in our camp rECguide (including Junior Guard Camp and the LIT program). Alternatively, campers can choose to enroll in one full-day camp, or only spend half the day with us at an AM **or** PM camp.

If I register for an AM and PM camp, what does my child do between camps? Do I need to pick them up?

If you register for an AM camp and PM camp in the same week, your camper will be automatically placed in our "Lunch Bunch" program. **Lunch Bunch** is the period from 12-1pm where City staff supervise campers while they eat their lunches from home and enjoy some free time between camps. City staff will sign your camper out of their morning camp and into their afternoon camp, so parents DO NOT need to be present during this hour. Food is not provided, and campers must bring a **nut-free** lunch from home.

Are campers in a half day of Sports Camp eligible for Lunch Bunch?

Yes! Although half day Sports Camp times vary slightly from the standard AM and PM camps, campers in half day Sports Camp are able to pair Sports Camp with another half day camp and will be included in Lunch Bunch.

What if I register then need to cancel?

Cancellations are permitted as long as requests are processed online or requested via email to recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us no less than three weeks prior to your camp. This means by midnight on the Sunday three weeks prior to your camp start date. Please see the cancellation deadline chart. All cancellations will result in the loss of the camp deposit amount (\$40). Cancellation/refund requests with less than three weeks' notice will not be permitted except for *medical reasons supported by a doctor's note. ***Camper COVID-19 related illness will not be eligible for refund but will be eligible for transfer to a later camp session or account credit.**

Transfer requests also require three weeks' notice and a transfer fee of \$40 will be incurred if the transfer is approved. If a camp is cancelled at any time by the Recreation Department (such as due to instructor illness, or in cases where camps do not meet their minimum enrollment), families will be eligible for a full refund.

To process your cancellation online, complete the following steps:

- Log into WebTrac at www.el-cerrito.org/onlineereg
- Click "My Account" on the top right of the screen.
- Click "Process a Cancellation" under "History and Balances"

All purchases available for cancelling will be listed.

2023 Cancellation/Transfer Deadlines	
Camp Week	Deadline
Week 1: 6/12-6/16	Sunday, May 21
Week 2: 6/20-6/23	Sunday, May 28
Week 3: 6/26-6/30	Sunday, June 4
Week 4: 7/3-7/7	Sunday, June 11
Week 5: 7/10-7/14	Sunday, June 18
Week 6: 7/17-7/21	Sunday, June 25
Week 7: 7/24-7/28	Sunday, July 2
Week 8: 7/31-8/4	Sunday, July 9
Week 9: 8/7-8/11	Sunday, July 16

I am nervous about another COVID-19 surge. Can I be refunded if COVID-19 conditions worsen, or Health Orders/Guidelines go into effect?

While the El Cerrito Recreation Department will do what we can to make the camp environment as safe as possible, families are reminded that the possibility of COVID-19 transmission cannot be eliminated. Case rates as well as Health Orders, guidelines, and vaccination/testing requirements from State and County authorities are subject to implementation or change at any time. Families will not be eligible for a refund outside of our cancellation policy due to such changes. However, if state or county guidelines prevent a camp from happening, or a camp is cancelled due to instructor illness, families will be eligible for a full refund in these cases.

Will your camps fill up?

Historically, hundreds of registrations occur right at 9am on Discount Day/the first day of registration. Inevitably some of our most popular camps will fill to their maximum capacities. We ask families to prepare for the fact that they may not get into their first-choice camps, even when registering early. If this happens, be sure to add your camper to the **waitlist**. If your desired camp is full, there is nothing our office can do on registration day. However, we CAN utilize our waitlist if and when a space opens up!

While you may not get in to your first-choice camp, there will be an alternate camp option for you. For example, Sports Camp can adjust staffing levels weekly and will virtually always have space for campers.

How does the waitlist work?

To get on a camp waitlist, complete the same steps as a normal registration. No fees will be charged, and our registration system will maintain a list of families to contact should space become available (though please note we are unable to provide waitlist positions/numbers). While getting on a waitlist does not guarantee you will get into the camp later, it is your best chance and there are plenty of instances each summer where campers are moved from the waitlist to their desired camp. If space becomes available, our office will contact you. You will have the option to accept and pay the camp fee at that time, or decline the spot. If you are not contacted, no space is available.

If I enroll in the waitlist on Discount Day and get into the camp later, do I get the 10% discount? What if I register for a camp on Discount Day and decide later to transfer camps. Does my discount transfer?

The discount will only be applied on 2/15 with online registrations. If, on 2/16 or after, you choose to transfer camps within the allowed transfer time, the discount will NOT carry over to your new camp. The full camp fee will be charged for the camp you are transferring to. Similarly, if you are offered a spot from the waitlist after 2/15, the discount will not apply to camp fees.

Is Extended Care Available?

Camp Everything camps include extended care hours. Extended care is not available for Specialty Camps. If looking for a full day of care, we recommend choosing a Camp Everything camp which runs from 8am-6pm. Additionally, Sports Camp offers camp until 5pm (versus the standard 4pm end time for other Specialty Camps).

Do any camps offer swimming?

Yes, Camp Everything full-day camps (Adventure, Discovery, and Explorers) will all walk to the Swim Center at least twice per week during weeks 2-9 (please note there will be **NO SWIMMING WEEK 1**). Specialty camps, including Sports Camp, do **not** visit the pool.

Will field trips be happening this year?

Camp Everything's Discovery and Explorers camps will include field trips this summer. Discovery will have one field trip OR one special event on Thursdays. Explorers Camp will have two field trips per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. *Please note some field trip venues may require proof of vaccination.*

How do I know what field trips/special events are being offered for Camp Everything?

For Camp Everything themes, spirit days, excursions, and special events, see charts on pages 11-13 of our Summer Camp rECguide.

I read that Explorers Camp has two field trips per week, but only one is listed on the excursion chart. Where else will they be going?

Each week, Explorers campers will have one "larger" field trip on Thursdays (the excursion listed on the chart) and one "mini" field trip on Tuesdays. A "mini" field trip is a more local destination that can be accessed by walking or public transportation. Mini trips may include places like Barnes and Nobles, Baskin Robins, or other local parks, and will be announced in each weekly newsletter.

What if I sign my child up for camp, but I do not want them to go on the field trip?

Parents/guardians may opt to keep their child home on field trip days if they wish. Campers will not lose their space at camp for non-attendance. However, fees will not be prorated if a camper does not attend the field trip. If care is needed, the camper may utilize the Sports Camp full-day daily option (fees will still apply).

My Specialty Camp has a materials fee. How do I pay that?

Materials fees are not collected at the time of registration, and instead should be paid to the instructor on the first day of camp. Typically, materials fees are paid via check, payable to the camp instructor. Some instructors may additionally accept payment via an app (i.e., PayPal or Venmo), and if this is applicable to your camp it will be noted on your registration receipt or included in the welcome message from your instructor.

Can my camper sign themselves out of camp?

Those entering grade 5 and older may sign themselves out of camp **ONLY IF** they have submitted a Permission to Sign Out Form to their camp staff/instructors. Forms will be attached to your weekly camp newsletter, as well as available by request to recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Permission to Sign Out forms need to be completed for **EACH** CAMP that your camper is attending, and provided directly to camp staff/instructors on the first day of camp.