City of Vista Day Camp
Frequently Asked Questions

Many first time and even returning campers have a variety of questions about the City of Vista Day Camp Program. This document serves as an easy to use guide for the most frequently asked questions about the camps.

General Information		
	Questions	**Answers**
1	What is your camp philosophy?	Our camp philosophy is simply stated, "be safe, build positive relationships and make it fun." These are the guiding principles that the program is based.
2	Do I have to sign-up for the entire summer?	No, the camp is structured so you only have to sign-up for one week at a time.
3	How long is the camp?	Each camp is designed to be a week long program. Camp runs June 9th - August 8th
4	What is included in my camp registration?	Your camp registration includes a full day of care and supervision, daily activities, breakfast snack, lunch, afternoon snack, guest entertainment weekly.
5	What time does camp start?	Our program is 9:00a-3:15p for full day programs and 7:00a-6:00p for extended camp.
6	Is there an additional charge for extended camp?	Extended camp is included in the cost of the program.
7	Can I switch to another camp?	Not once the camp has started. Staffing is based on the Online enrollment
8	Can I talk to my child while at camp?	You are always welcome to speak with your child during the program. Simply call the office. Please note that on occasion this may not be possible due to camp location (i.e. a hike in the park or field trip).
9	Does my child need to bring a snack or lunch?	The Day Camp Program provides a healthy snack twice daily, morning and afternoon. Lunch is provided to all campers through a grant program with U.S.D.A. If you choose not to have the provided lunch, your child will need to bring a sack lunch and drink on a daily basis.
10	Does my child have to eat the snack/lunch provided by the program?	No child is forced to eat anything he/she does not want; we do *not* offer alternatives to those items being served. In this case, it is recommended to bring a snack or lunch.
11	My child has food or other allergies.	We are very sensitive to the needs of these children and will make reasonable accommodations for such individuals. Please identify the specific allergies on your child's registration form, so that we can take the necessary precautions.
12	Should my child bring a backpack?	From time to time, it will be necessary to have an extra change of clothes (water activities, etc) therefore it would be advantageous to bring one at your discretion.
13	Where will the backpacks be stored?	Backpacks will be placed in a large bin labeled with the camp name.
14	Can my child bring toys or electronic games to camp?	Bringing such items to the program is NOT permitted. *Use of cell phones is strongly discouraged.* Too often these items will get lost, stolen or damaged and the City of Vista will not assume any responsibility for the items' care or proper storage.

15	My child lost something, where do I find it?	The Day Camp Program maintains a regular lost and found throughout the entire summer. If you are missing something, please contact a staff member and they will guide you to the proper storage location.
16	What procedure do you follow to pick up a child?	As a security precaution, all individuals picking up campers will be required to show ID. This will then be checked against the child's registration form.
17	Why do I have to keep showing my ID to pick up my child?	Please understand that we have over 100 campers everyday and we cannot be expected to know every person that picks up a child. As a result we ask for your continued cooperation in maintaining the safety and security of your child.
18	What if someone else needs to pick up my child?	If someone other than who is listed on the registration form needs to pick up your child, you must submit a note to the office. All notes are subject to verification. If a last minute change is necessary, a password will be required for phone-in authorization. There is a designated place on your registration form for this.
Registration & Fee Information		
19	What are the hours of registration for summer camp?	Registration opens April 8th at 9:00am. Online registration only for 2025 camp. The office is open from 7:30am-4:00pm Mondays-Fridays. 1200 Vale Terrace Drive (760) 643-5272
20	Is there a registration fee?	No, we do not have a registration fee. You only pay for the camps you attend.
21	Do I have to pay for the whole summer at once?	During online registration you pay for the weeks you are requesting.
22	What is the credit/refund policy?	The amount of the refund/credit will be the camp fee paid less the daily rate, based on the number of days elapsed, regardless of attendance, and the processing fee for refunds. All credits expire on July 1st immediately after the issue date of credit. All refunds are non-cash and will be processed within four weeks after request.
23	Do you offer scholarships or discounts?	Youth Scholarships are available online at the City of Vista. Scholarship must be approved prior to registration. 2025 is the end of discounts for multiple weeks, sibling and employee.
24	Do you work with alternative payment programs?	Yes, we work with a variety of organizations through an alternative payment service. For more information on these programs, please contact the office.
25	Will I need to supply the picture for the registration form?	We now require a picture for the registration form; this will be kept on file for security purposes.
26	Do you have a Tax ID # or EIN for childcare reporting purposes?	Yes, the City of Vista Tax ID # is 95-6000478.
Camp Activities		
27	What activities do the camps do?	Each camp plans and implements a variety of activities based on the weekly theme. Check the calendar section of our website for specific details about your camp.
28	Will my child be with kids his/her own age?	The camps are broken down by age group, typically 3-5 years, K-3 grade and 4-8 grade. Some camps divide kids into even smaller age groups based on the activity (i.e. skill level)

29	Do Friday Fun Days cost extra?	No, all activities are included in the cost of camp.
30	What are your discipline procedures?	Our discipline process is based on allowing campers the opportunity to choose their behavior. In general campers will receive a verbal warning, redirection, note home, written warning, suspension and expulsion. Contact Peggy Kidd Wozniak if you have any questions.
No Field Trips 2025		
31	Do the field trips cost extra?	No, field trips themselves are included in the cost of the camp.
32	Do I need to send my child with extra money on the field trip?	No, campers will not be permitted to bring any additional money on field trips. All associated costs will be picked up by the program.
33	What do you use for transportation?	The City of Vista Day Camp contracts with Wess Transportation a fully licensed school bus transportation company. All buses are certified through the CHP and all drivers have received background checks and complete random drug screenings. In addition, City vehicles are also used.
34	Does my child have to go on the field trips?	Field trips are considered part of the program and are not optional. Counselors will not be left on site and therefore it would be your responsibility to make alternate arrangements for care that day if you choose not to attend.
35	How do you keep track of the kids while on a field trip?	We use a variety of techniques to maintain a safe outing with the campers. Each child is issued a camp t-shirt to easily spot and track their movements. In addition, each child has a wristband indicating the camp contact information. Frequent and ongoing attendance is also taken. A complete listing of all procedures are outlined in the parent handbook.
36	Can I accompany my child on the field trip?	You are welcome to attend any field trip; however, we will not pay for your entry and you are responsible for transportation.
Camp Personnel		
37	How is your staff screened prior to being hired?	Prior to being hired all staff are required to submit to a background check through the Department of Justice & FBI as well as submit to a drug screen.
38	What kind of training does the staff receive?	Proper training of the counseling staff is important to insure each child has a safe and fun summer. Each counselor attends a 2 day training that covers a variety of topics including but not limited to safety and supervision, child development, behavior modification techniques, activities programming, leadership and teamwork.
39	Are your staff first aid and CPR certified?	A minimum of one staff member in each camp is first aid and CPR certified.
40	What is the counselor to camper ratio?	We generally maintain a ratio of 1 counselor to every 15 participants.

If you did not find an answer to your question here or need clarification on something, please feel free to contact Peggy Kidd Wozniak 760-643-5272 or mwozniak@cityofvista.com.