



SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

LEGEND

- ★ Academic
- Arts
- ~ Dance
- 👤 Equestrian
- X Gymnastics
- 🏆 Martial Arts
- + Medical
- Mixed Activities
- Outdoor & Recreational
- Religious
- Science
- ↪ Sleepaway
- ▶ Sports

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300 Club Swim and Tennis Club

3715 NW 12th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32605
(352) 378-2898
300clubswimandtennis.com

Abacus Learning Center

5205 SW 91st Drive
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 758-4135
abacuslearningcenter.com

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church and Preschool 2026 Summer Camp

9700 W. Newberry Road
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352) 331-7770
preschool@abidingsavior.info
abidingsavior.info/home
Dates: June 8 - July 30
Ages: 2 years old to rising 3rd graders
Cost: Varies with program choice summer camp for preschool and elementary children. Choose from 1/2, 3/4 or full day programs. Open 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Loving Christian environment and great prep for fall preschool program. ○

SEE AD ON PAGE 47

A Child's Academy

3401 NW 34th St.
Gainesville, FL 32605
(352) 371-3360
www.achildsacademy.com/service/summer-camps-gainesville-fl

Alliance Southeast Youth & Kids Camps at Lake Swan

647 Florida State Road 26
Melrose, FL 32666
(352) 475-2828
asecamps.org

Youth Archery Camps

24880 NW 16th Ave.
Newberry, FL 32669
(352) 722-3926
eastonnewberryarcherycenter.org/discover-camps

Boys & Girls Club

1. Northeast:
2661 NW 51st St.
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352) 373-6639

2. Woodland Park:
331 SE 20th Place
Gainesville, FL 32641
(352) 377-8003
bgcnf.org

Brentwood School Summer Fun Camp

1111 NW 55th St.
Gainesville, FL 32605
(352) 373-3222
gobrentwoodschool.com/programs

Cade Museum

811 S. Main St.
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352) 371-8001
cademuseum.org/learn/camps

Cameron Dancer Summer Programs

1. Ridgeway Village:
5003 NW 34th Blvd., Suite 120
Gainesville, FL 32605
(352) 371-0761

2. Haile Village Center:
5211 SW 91st Terrace, Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 335-7785
camerondancer.com

Dates: Dates to Be Announced
Ages: Pre-Dance Camp (3-5 years), Beginning Dance Camp (6 and up), Intermediate Camp (10 years and up) and PreProfessional Intensive (for intermediate to advanced dancers).
Details: To Be Announced. ~

SEE AD ON PAGE 43

Camp Boggy Creek

30500 Brantley Branch Road
Eustis, FL 32736
(352) 483-4200
boggycreek.org/summer-camp

Camp Crystal Lake

6724 Camp Crystal Road
Starke, FL 32091
(855) 651-2267
campcrystal.com/summer-camp

Camp Dovewood

23221 101st Road
O'Brien, FL 32071
(386) 209-1908
campdovewood@windstream.net
www.campdovewood.org

Dates and Cost:

First Session: 2 weeks: June 7th - June 20th, \$1,595
Second Session: 1 week: June 21st-June 27th, \$1,095
Third Session: 1 week: June 28th-July 4th \$1,095
Fourth Session: 1 week July 5th- July 11th \$ 1,095

Ages: 7-17

Our program encourages each girl to find their niche and realize God has an incredible purpose for their life. We offer one and two-week resident sessions. ★●~○X○→~↪▶

SEE AD ON PAGE 41

Camp Good News

120 Twin Lakes Road
Hawthorne, FL 32640
(352) 481-3550
campgoodnewsfl.com

Camp Invention: Spark Presented by: Hidden Oak Elementary School

2100 Fort Clarke Blvd. Basecamp 1
Gainesville, FL 32606
(800) 968-4332
invent.org/programs/camp-invention

Camp Kulaqua

23400 NW 212th Ave.
High Springs, FL 32643
(386) 454-1351
campkulaqua.com/kulaqua-s-summer-camp

Camp Makerie

3536 NW 8th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32605
(352) 363-5399
magic@campmakerie.com
campmakerie.com

Canopy Oak Trails Horseback Riding

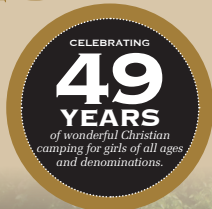
15311 SW 107th St.
Archer, FL 32618
(352) 443-9456
facebook.com/canopyoaktrails

College for Kids at Santa Fe College

3000 NW 83rd St.
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352) 395-5193
scollege.edu/cfk

CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMP for GIRLS

Not only does Dovewood have one of the best resident equestrian programs in the Southeast with English and Western certified instruction, but girls can select 7 from 24 fun-filled activities to do while at camp.



See our listing for our full list of camp activities, all session dates & pricing.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Located in North Florida

WWW.CAMPDOVEWOOD.ORG

(386) 209-1908

campdovewood@windstream.net



Show off your **new ink.**



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MARKETING | BRANDING | PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

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TO SHOP



FLOWERS MONTESSORI SUMMER CAMP



DATES:
June 1 - July 24
AGES:
2.5 - 6 years

Flowers Montessori

has served families in the Gainesville area since 1973. We are committed to helping each child develop personal autonomy, as well as respectful and productive peer relations. We strive to provide education that is tailored to the needs of each student, and that



"THE LITTLE SCHOOL THAT CARES"

encourages the development of their mental, physical, and emotional abilities. We are constantly evolving and changing our activities, to maintain interest in the materials and inspire independence in our students. We hope to instill effective learning strategies in each child, and kindle a life-long love of learning. As guides to your children, we continue to grow and learn alongside them. Our daily pledge is to be sensitive to the needs of each child, and to approach them with understanding, patience, and love.

Our eight week summer camp program is a chance for children to engage with the Montessori curriculum, as well as additional specialty activities related to each week's theme.

We hope to see you for the best summer ever!

Contact Us: (352) 376-4700 • flowersmontessori.com • flowersmontessori.school@gmail.com
3111 NW 31st Avenue • Gainesville, Florida 32605

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- 🐎 Equestrian
- X Gymnastics
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Corks & Colors

3415 W. University Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 373-8847
corkscolors.com/class-calendar

Camp Shands Scouts BSA Summer Camp

1453 Baden Powell Road
Hawthorne, FL 32640
(904) 388-0591
campshands.org

DB Racquet Club Tennis Summer Camp

5100 NW 53rd Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32653
(352) 377-9580
dbtennis.com

Foundation For Dreams Oaks Camp

16110 Dream Oaks Place
Bradenton, FL 34212
(941) 746-5659
foundationfordreams.org

Florida 4-H Camp Cloverleaf

126 Cloverleaf Road
Lake Placid, FL 33852
(863) 465-4884
florida4h.ifas.ufl.edu/camps/camp-cloverleaf

Florida Diabetes Camp

PO Box 14136
Gainesville, FL 32604
(352) 334-1321
floridiabetescamp.org/summer-camps

Florida Youth Institute

students@cpet.ufl.edu
cpet.ufl.edu/students/uf-cpet-summer-programs

Flowers Montessori Summer Camp

3111 NW 31st Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32605
(352) 376-4700
flowersmontessori.school@gmail.com
flowersmontessori.com
Dates: June 1 - July 24
Ages: 2.5 - 6 years
Cost: \$2,430
Flowers Montessori offers an eight-week summer camp program allowing kids to engage with the Montessori curriculum in addition to special activities corresponding to different weekly themes. ★ ● ~ X ○ → ■ ▶

SEE AD ON PAGE 41

Funworks Action Camp

1311 NW 76th Blvd.
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352) 332-0555
funworks.com

Gainesville Juniors Volleyball Club

3606 SW 34th St.
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 234-4604
gainesvillejuniorsvolleyball.com/club/campsandclinics

Gator Junior Golf Association

(352) 575-0636
gatorjuniorgolf.org

Gator Pharmacy

Exploration Camp
prepharmacy@cop.ufl.edu
cpet.ufl.edu/students/uf-cpet-summer-programs/gator-pharmacy-exploration-camp

Gator Sports Camps

Baseball, Golf, Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Softball, Swimming, Soccer
floridagators.com/sports/2015/12/10/_camps

Gator Vet Camp

cpet@cpet.ufl.edu
cpet.ufl.edu/students/uf-cpet-summer-programs/gator-vet-camp

Gatorball Summer Baseball and Softball Camp

3401 NW 143rd St.
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 514-4414
sbarton@gatorballtraining.com
gatorballtraining.com/summer-camp

Gatorland Band Camps

1556 Inner Road
Gainesville, Florida 32611
(352) 273-3146
ufbandcamps.com

G.C.D.S. Summer Camp

6801 SW 24th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 332-7783
luci@gainesvillecountrydayschool.org
gainesvillecountrydayschool.org
Dates: Check our website for details
Ages: 4 years old - 5th grade
Cost: Contact email or visit website for prices.
★ → ▶

SEE AD ON PAGE 47

Girl Scout Camp Kateri

183 Camp Shalom Trail
Hawthorne, FL 32640
(352) 546-5271
girlscouts-gateway.org

Haile Equestrian Center

7680 SW 46th Blvd.
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 665-7433
haileequestrian.com/horse-camps

Hippodrome

25 SE 2nd Place
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352) 375-4477
thehipp.org/education

Holy Trinity Episcopal School of Gainesville, Inc.

301 N. Main St.
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352) 377-2290
htesngv.org
Admission: Jason Hill
Specialty: Full day and part-time Early Learning Center located in downtown Gainesville that uses a state-approved curriculum.
Ages: 6 weeks to 5 years old
Teacher/Student Ratio: Infants 1/3, Ones 1/4, Twos 1/6, Threes and up 1/8

SEE AD ON PAGE 45

i9 Sports Camp

4000 SW 122nd St.
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 283-8586
i9sports.com

Cameron *Dancer*center

Since 1983

Cameron Dancercenter Summer Program —Call for details—

Offering at both our Studios

We experience the joy of movement and learn to dance from the heart in various styles including ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, contemporary and hiphop! Join us for class over our four week program or come for a weeklong camp to dance all day and build friendships to last a lifetime!

We offer three camps for different ages and levels including a Pre-Dance Camp for 3-5 yrs of age, a Beginning Dance Camp for ages 6 and up, an Intermediate Camp for ages 10 and up, and a PreProfessional Intensive for Intermediate to Advanced Dancers with guest teaching artists.

Home of the Danscompany of Gainesville

5003 NW 34th Blvd Suite 120 ~ Ridgeway Village



Haile Village Center * 5211-A S.W. 91st Terrace

371-0761 * 335-7785
www.camerondancercenter.com

We Dance
from the
Heart



Call us at (352) 371-0761
to find out more info and to register!

"THIS IS HOW SUMMER SHOULD FEEL."

ACADEMY CAMP

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT SUMMER EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR CHILD?

ACADEMY CAMP IS THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION FOR ADVENTURE,
CREATIVITY, AND LASTING FRIENDSHIPS.

- ✓ FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES TO FIT YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS
- ✓ SPECIALTY CAMPS DESIGNED TO INSPIRE AND ENGAGE
- ✓ A FUN, SAFE, AND ENRICHING ENVIRONMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: VISIT WWW.QOPACADEMY.ORG
CLICK ON THE SUMMER CAMP TAB—OR SCAN THE QR CODE



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IndepenDANCE Studio (Brand New Facility)

13537 NW 1st Lane
Newberry, FL 32669
(352) 337-0017
indenpendancestudio.com

2026 Summer Dance Session

June 8 - August 7

- Registration open February 1
- Schedule online
- Abbreviated year-round class schedule
- Accepting NEW iDancers
- Current members rollover enrollment
- All ages, rates vary

Summer Camp Calendar

**Member discounts available*

KPop Summer Hunters Camp

K-Pop, Dance, Games, Arts & Crafts
June 8 - June 12
8:45 a.m. - Noon
Ages 5 and up
\$224

Moana & Maui Magic Camp

Dance, Games, Arts & Crafts
June 15 - June 19
8:45 a.m. - Noon
Ages 3 and up
\$197

Game On: iDance Mode Camp

Technology Themed Hip Hop & Acro Dance
Fundamentals, Games, Arts & Crafts
July 6 - July 10
8:45 a.m. - Noon
Ages 5 and up
\$224

Wicked Awesome Musical Theatre Camp*

Acting, Singing, Dancing, Games, Arts & Crafts
July 13 - July 17
8:45 a.m. - Noon
Ages 8 and up
\$242

**Community Theater Guest Instructors*

Camp Bluey Beach Bash

Dance, Games, Arts & Crafts
July 20 - July 24
8:45 a.m. - Noon
Ages 3 and up
\$197

Gameday: Spirit Squad Camp*

Dance Team Skills, Arts & Crafts
July 27 - July 31
8:45 a.m. - Noon
Ages 5 and up
\$242

**Presented with the UF Dazzlers*

ILLUMINATE iDANCE INTENSIVE*

Competitive dance intensive - precursor to our
Season 18 Competitive Team Auditions
August 3 - August 7
Schedule determined by age and skill level
registered
Ages 5 and up
\$377

**Leading industry professional instructors
and choreographers*

Auditions: Season 18 iDance

Competitive Team*

August 14 - 16
Schedule TBA
Ages 5 and up
**Contact the studio for interest forms*



SEE AD ON PAGE 50

Ironwood Golf Course

2100 NE 39th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 393-8500
ironwoodgolfcourse.org/junior-programs

Jordan Glen School & Summer Camp

12425 SW 154th St.
Archer, FL 32618
(352) 495-2728
info@jordanglen.org
jordanglen.org
Dates: June 9 - July 18
Ages: K - 8th Grade
Cost: \$475/week, \$1,250 for each
three week session, \$2,050 for 6 weeks.
Ask about sibling discount!



SEE AD ON PAGE 47

Kiddie Academy of Gainesville

6476 SW 75th St.
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 264-7724
kiddieacademy.com/academies/gainesville-fl/programs/summer-camp

KidStrong

6020 NW 4th Place, Suite G
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 244-9818
kidstrong.com/gainesvillecamps

La Petite Academy Summer Camp

2755 SW Archer Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
(877) 271-6466
lapetite.com/educational-programs/summer-camp

Lyrice Conservatory

3601 SW 2nd Ave Suite C,
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352)-756-0005
lyriceconservatory.com

Millhopper Montessori School Summer Camp

8505 NW 39th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352) 375-6773
millhopper.com

Momentum Dance Arts

1. 133 SW 130th Way Ste. H
Newberry, FL 32669
2. 13100 Tech City Circle, Ste 400
Building C
Alachua, FL. 32615
momentumdancearts.com

Montgomery Presbyterian Center Camp

88 SE 75th St.
Starke, FL 32091
(352) 473-4516
montgomerycenter.org

North Florida Fishing Camp

(904) 860-8361
northfloridafishingcamp.com

Oak Hall Summer Program

1700 SW 75th St.
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 332-3609
dtripp@oakhall.org
oakhallsummerprogram.org
Dates: May 26 - July 24
Ages: Ages 3 and up
The Oak Hall Summer Program is a welcoming, diverse and supportive camp community helping campers discover their passion. Over 100 full and half-day camps are available for campers ages 3-18. All camps are open to the Gainesville community. ★ ● ● ● → ■ ▶

SEE AD ON PAGE 49

Pofahl Studios **DANCE ALIVE**
NATIONAL BALLET

The Dance Alive Summer Experience!

June 1 - August 2

**CLASSES, REPERTOIRE AND CHOREOGRAPHY
WITH EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY**

- ballet • tap • jazz • tap • acrobatics
- contemporary • adults

WORKSHOPS FOR EVERYONE!

- **Weekly Classes** - June 22 - July 24, ages 3 through adult
- **Full Day Intensive I** for Advanced-intermediate ages 12-18, June 1-6
- **Full Day Intensive II** for Advanced-intermediate ages 12-18, July 27 - August 2
- **Full Day Intensive III** for Intermediate ages 10-14, June 15-20
- **Half-Day Youth Intensive** ages 7-10, June 8-12, 9-1
- **Half-Day Adult Intensive** - June 8-12, 5:30-9:30

DIRECTORS JUDY SKINNER AND KIM TUTTLE



For information contact Judy Skinner: judy@dancealive.org | Classes held at Pofahl Studios, 1325 NW 2nd St
www.dancealive.org/gainesville-summer-intensives

Holy Trinity Episcopal School of Gainesville, Inc.



Ages: 6 weeks to 5 years old • **Teacher/Student Ratio:** Infants 1/3, Ones 1/4, Twos 1/6, Threes and up 1/8



- Holy Trinity Episcopal School of Gainesville has served families in the Gainesville area since 1974.
- Located downtown just minutes from UF, Shands and the VA.
- Walking distance to City Hall.
- Small class sizes with low teacher to student ratios.
- Full-time care for infants along with full-time or part-time care for 1 years old to 5 years old.
- They are an outreach mission of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and open to all faiths and backgrounds.
- Scholarships for School Readiness families are available.
- State approved curriculum with age appropriate play based activities.
- Tuition discount for first responders.

Visit their website or call the school to set up a tour.

301 N. Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601 • (352) 377-2290 • htesgnv.org

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Orange Blossom Prep

6200 SW Archer Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 375-8900
orangeblossomprep.com

02B Kids!

7 locations in Gainesville,
Alachua & Lake City.
(352) 332-5500
o2bkids.com

Okito America

6900 SW Archer Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 338-7262
okitoamerica.com/services/camps

Play Tennis Gainesville

1001 NW 34th St.
Gainesville, FL 32605
(352) 559-8860
playtennisgainesville.com

Pofahl Studios, Resident School of Dance Alive National Ballet, Summer Intensives

1325 NW 2nd St.
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352) 373-1166
judy@dancealive.org
dancealive.org/gainesville-summer-intensives/
Dates: Weekly Classes June 22-July 24. Full Day Intensive I June 1-6. Full Day Intensive II July 27 - Aug. 2. Full Day Intensive III June 15-20. Half-Day Youth Intensive June 8-12. Half-Day Adult Intensive June 8-12
Ages for Intensives: Intermediate—advanced ballet and contemporary/jazz.
Dance Alive National Ballet & Resident School Pofahl Studios Presents The Dance Alive Summer Experience! ~

SEE AD ON PAGE 45

Pony Paddock Summer Horse Camp

704 NW 202nd St.
Newberry, FL 32669
(386) 853-0615
pony-paddock.com/horseback-riding-camps
Only available for currently enrolled students

Queen of Peace Catholic Academy Camp

10900 SW 24th Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 332-8808
marisaisherwood@qopacademy.org
qopacademy.org/summer-camp

Dates: June 9 - July 31

Ages: PreK - 8th Grade

Cost: Flexible

2024 Gainesville Business Hall of Fame Best of the Best, 2022, 2023, 2024.

No matter who you are or where you come from, you're part of our camp family the moment you arrive. Join us for unforgettable memories, new friendships, and experiences that will last a lifetime. We can't wait to meet you and share in the excitement of camp! Weekly sessions with flexible pricing and hours. Specialty camps and field trips. For questions please email our Camp Director, Marisa Isherwood. ● ○ → ■ ▶

SEE AD ON PAGE 43

Research Explorations

cpet.ufl.edu/students/uf-cpet-summer-programs

Research Immersion in Science and Engineering

cpet.ufl.edu/students/uf-cpet-summer-programs

»DO YOU RUN A→ SUMMER CAMP?

Don't miss getting into our next summer camp guide which will be in our April/May issue, just in time for camp to start. Make sure your camp is seen!

- Get In front of parents all over Alachua County
- Fill your camp this summer
- Mailed to thousands of homes
- Mailed to 5,500 businesses
- No long contract
- April/May issue only
- Low cost
- Free ad design

SCAN CODE TO SEE PRICING
OPTIONS AND SUBMIT YOUR
LISTING INFORMATION



GAINESVILLE
COUNTRY DAY
SCHOOL



Visit our website for
summer camp information!

GAINESVILLECOUNTRYDAYSCHOOL.ORG

**Early Childhood
Enrichment Center**

Enrolling children ages 6 weeks - 4 years

352.332.9032

24th Avenue Campus

Enrolling children ages
4 years old - 5th grade

352.332.7783

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church and Preschool Summer Camp 2026

Ages 2-8
Beginning June 8
Join us for Camp!

Call Us
352-331-7770



www.abidingsavior.info
preschool@abidingsavior.info
9700 West Newberry Rd.
Gainesville, FL 32606

JORDAN GLEN SCHOOL & SUMMER CAMP



Ages: K - 8th Grade

Cost: \$475/week
\$1,250 for each
three week session
\$2,050 for 6 weeks
(ask about sibling discount!)

Celebrating 50+ years, Jordan Glen is a hidden gem that has produced countless camp alumni that credit it with providing some of the happiest memories of their childhood summers. The camp is situated in Southwest Gainesville on 20 beautiful acres. Walk around our grounds and it will be apparent why our camp is such a special place.

Our camp harkens back to what camps were like before "specialty camps." Kids enjoy the outdoors - swimming, playing sports (tennis, baseball, soccer, archery...to name a few) and being in nature, while also having ample time to cool off indoors exploring their inner artist, participating in dance and the dramatic arts and bonding with new and old friends. Jordan Glen Camp has something for everyone.

We are advocates of children and childhood. We want our children to enjoy their time spent away from home and to look forward to returning each day.



12425 SW 154th St., Archer, FL 32618 | (352) 495-2728 | jordanglen.org

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Sonshine Day Preschool

10000 W. Newberry Road
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352) 333-0017
sonshineday.org

Star Center Theatre Super Smart Summer Camp

11 NE 23rd Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 378-3311
starcentergainesville@gmail.com
starcentertheatre.org
Dates: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Super Smart Camp (K - 11th grade) June 8 - July 3
Theatre Intensive (4th - 11th grade) July 6 - July 10
Theatre Intensive (4th - 11th grade) July 13 - July 17
Ages: 5 - 17

The core classes are taught by certified teachers and industry professionals. ★ ● ~ ○

SEE AD ON PAGE 48

Star Martial Arts

500 NW 60th St., Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 374-4950
star-tkd.com/summer-camp

Student Science Training Program

cpet.ufl.edu/students/uf-cpet-summer-programs

Summer Band at Fort Clarke

9301 NW 23rd Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32606
summerbandatfortclarke@gmail.com
sites.google.com/gm.sbac.edu/summerband/home

Sun Country Sports Center Camp Sunny Summer Camp

333 SW 140th Terrace
Jonesville, FL 32669
(352) 331-8773
camp@suncountrysports.com
suncountrysports.com/campsunny-summercamp
Dates: Entire summer, June 4 until the last week before school starts back
Ages: 2 1/2 year-old to rising 6th graders
Camp Sunny provides children an opportunity to learn, socialize and stay active while also incorporating unique fitness opportunities. Kids will make friends, share adventures and try new activities each day! ~ ✕ ○ ▶

SEE AD ON PAGE 48

Swimming Lessons

(352) 334-5067
gainesvillefl.gov

Traveling Art Camp for Kids

9501 SW Archer Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
(858) 692-7303
travelingartcamp.com

Trinity United Methodist Church

4000 NW 53rd Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32653
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trinitygnv.org

UF Entomology Field Camp

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entnemdept.ufl.edu/outreach/uf-entomology-field-camp

UF/IFAS 4-H Camp Timpoochee

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florida4h.ifas.ufl.edu/camps/camp-timpoochee

University of Florida Summer Media Institute

jou.ufl.edu/summermediainstitute

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IT'S TIME TO START PLANNING FOR

SUMMER CAMPS!

BY REBECCA VITKUS

For many kids this summer, camp is where they're headed. It is a place to create lifelong friendships and memories that last for decades to come. There are many options and activities to choose from, so it's time to start planning for summer camps now!

THE DAY CAMP EXPERIENCE

When parents have great memories of childhoods spent singing campfire songs, it's hard to understand the reluctance their kids may have about going away for the summer. The decision of whether or not to send a kid to summer camp can be incredibly stressful and often lasts for years. So what's a parent to do when a kid just won't go?

If you're an anxious parent with an anxious child, the best bet is to wait

until you're both more comfortable. Try introducing your child to a day camp so they can meet new friends and experience what it's like, just for a few hours. Let them know it's fine to be nervous, but try not to let any of your own anxiety show.

To encourage your child to try out a new camp, involve them in the selection process. Find camp environments that will interest them, and give them power to choose their own experience. Take them shopping for new camp clothes and invite their questions, doing your best to put off any worries they may have.

You know your child best, so use your instincts to determine when, if ever, is the right time for sleep-away camp, and remember to consider day camp as an alternative route.



KEEP IN TOUCH!

Some of the best friendships in a child's life develop through hours spent at camp, so it's important for campers to stay connected. In the world of social media and instant messaging, there's no excuse for lost friendships just because the kids live far away. Connect with the other campers' parents online to stay in contact. Even better, encourage the kids to write to each other, and help them send mail to their new pen pals. After all, everyone loves getting a letter!

Start planning now for summer camp so that when the time comes, both you and your kiddo are ready. Happy camping!

OVERNIGHT CAMP LIST

With all the excitement of a summer at sleep-away camp, it's easy to forget something important! Make sure your children have all the necessities before you send them off to camp.

- Bedding and linens (beach and bath towels)
- Clothes for all weather (heat, cold, rain) and activities (bathing suits, pajamas)
- A journal and pens or pencils
- Plenty of stamped, addressed envelopes for writing letters home
- Sneakers, shower shoes and extra socks
- Toiletries and lip balm
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Flashlight and water bottle
- Medications or other health needs
- Cash, as you see fit

PACKING A HEALTHY CAMP LUNCH

Keep kids healthy, hydrated and happy at summer camp with these yummy lunch options.

- Veggie sticks
- Rice cakes
- Apple slices
- Raisins
- Hummus
- Bananas
- Grapes
- Pretzels
- Oranges
- Peanut butter and apples
- Graham crackers and Nutella
- Chips and salsa
- Fresh fruit cups
- Applesauce
- Nuts
- Granola bars
- Cheese sticks

NOTES:

- Always pack an ice pack, hand wipes and disposable silverware.
- Avoid mayo-based foods.