



Mote Camp FAQs

How do I register for camps?

We are excited to have your camper joining us at Mote Camp! The registration buttons are located online for each camp:

- www.mote.org/springbreak
- www.mote.org/summercamp
- www.mote.org/winterbreak

Can I register for only one day of camp?

Our camps are offered in multi day or week long camp programs. Visit the break camp of your choice to see all dates and times.

What perks do Members receive?

Members receive many benefits at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium including a discount on all of our camp programs. Each camp program will have the listed price for non-members and members.

Can I register for camp and then become a member after and still receive the discount?

In order to receive the member discount on camps, you must become a member before registering. Members receive other incredible benefits at Mote Aquarium as well. You can become a member by visiting mote.org/membership.

What will my campers do during the day? What is included in the registration cost?

Each camp is different, but all are packed with FUN! All of our camps include classroom activities and aquarium and mammal center exploration. Our spring and summer camps offer water activities (weather permitting).

Can I bring an unregistered camper to the first day of camp?

Due to extensive prep and planning for our camps we cannot accept onsite registrations.

Can I register my camper's friend for camp?

In order for us to have the correct health, safety, and emergency information for each camper, we advise only their parent/guardian register each camper; all paperwork must be completed by the minor's parent/guardian.

Can I find out if my camper's friend is registered for the same week of camp?

For the safety and privacy of our participants, Mote staff is not allowed to disclose any personal information about another camp participant. Families must communicate with each other to plan out campers' week.

MOTE CAMP

Can I transfer camp weeks?

Campers can transfer weeks of camp if there is availability. Should a family wish to transfer their camper's registration, they must email camps@mote.org and include the information listed below. Upon receiving the email, Mote staff will look into the matter and families will be notified if their camper is able to transfer or not. If the desired transfer date is unavailable, families can be placed on a waitlist for that week and still remain in the current registered week. If the requested transfer slot is unavailable, you are still responsible for payment of the originally scheduled camp and must abide by our cancellation policy.

- Campers Full Name
- Account Name
- Camp Date Currently Registered for
- Desired Camp Date Transfer
- Best Email & Phone Number

Can I cancel my camper's registration?

Cancellation Policy: There are no refunds on Mote Camp Programs. If you must withdraw your camper(s) and you do so more than two weeks in advance, you will receive a credit that may be used for a future Mote education program (Camp, Homeschool Day, Public Programs and any virtual program). Any changes or cancellations must be made in writing to camps@mote.org. Changes or cancellations made within two weeks of the program and no-shows will be charged in full. Mote reserves the right to modify any program or schedule. Modification of a program schedule by Mote does not constitute grounds for a refund. If camp registrations do not reach the minimum number, you will be notified the week before.

Can I register my two campers in the same camp if they are different ages?

Camp groups are divided up by age ranges. The curriculum and activities for each camp is developed specifically for those ages. Campers must attend the camp for their appropriate age group.

Can I stay with my campers during the duration of camp?

Our camps are for youth ages 5 - 18 years old only. For the safety of our youth participants, adults cannot stay at or attend camp. Families can drop off their campers at the scheduled check-in time and pick them up after camp is over. Mote is a public aquarium and families are welcome to explore!

Note: Our Shark Pup & Grown Up Programs are for toddlers 2 - 5 years old and one (1) favorite adult

Is there food provided or should my camper bring food?

We ask that you pack your camper(s) with one nut-free snack. Each camp will have a mid-session snack break. Mote Camp is a nut-free camp and we ask that families respect our policy when packing their camper's snack. We highly recommend campers come to camp with a full and happy tummy as we are very active throughout the morning.

MOTE CAMP

Note: If your camper has a serious allergy or medical condition please contact camps@mote.org and make sure to include information on their medical release form.

Who do I call if I have an urgent question?

Our camp staff do their best to be able to answer any and all calls in a timely manner; however during camp times many of our staff are with campers and away from their desks. Our main numbers are listed below. Parents/Guardians are also welcome to call the general Mote phone number (941-388-4441) and our reception staff can assist you in reaching camp staff.

- Camp Programs Coordinator: 941-388-4441 ext 324
- Education Manager of Administration and Operations: 941-388-4441 ext 348
- Director of Education: 941-388-4441 ext 514

What is the appropriate dress for camp?

Campers should wear comfortable, lightweight clothing that they can be active in. Gym shoes or comparable footwear is highly recommended as we are walking to and from the aquarium and playing games in grass and in our courtyard. We also recommend a hat and sunglasses for your camper for outdoor activities. Sunscreen should be applied to all campers prior to arriving at camp and packed with them to reapply at camp as needed. During the cooler months, a light jacket is also suggested. During the rainy season, packing a raincoat for your camper is ideal.

For water activities, campers should wear a bathing suit or comparable attire that they are comfortable in. Closed-toe and closed-heel shoes are required for water activities (ie: Crocs, Keens, Tevas etc). Please send a towel, change of clothes & shoes, and a bag to put their wet clothes in after water activities with your camper each day of water activities.

What times should I drop my camper off or pick them up?

Camp times vary for each camp program. Please refer to the camp schedule and your confirmation email for details about check-in and check-out times.

Note: An additional charge of \$15 for every 30 minutes, or a fraction thereof, will be assessed for late pick-up. Please refer to the attached map for parking and check-in/out location.

Where does my camper store their belongings? Are there bathrooms and water fountains?

Each camp group has their own spaces in our education buildings. Campers will have their own carpet square or cubbie where they can store their belongings. We highly encourage not bringing any valuables to camp as these cubbies do not have locks on them. Mote Marine Lab & Aquarium is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

Each room/building has a water bottle filling station and bathroom for campers to use as needed.

MOTE CAMP

Who are the lead educators on my campers camp?

Each camp is led by an Education Specialist or an Education Specialist College intern. These leads are all first-aid certified and go through a rigorous training before camps begin. Our staff and college interns come from a diverse background from education to marine science to environmental education, all with the same passion to educate and inspire the next generation. Our wonderful education volunteers and high school interns will also be assisting with camps throughout the season. Before camp begins, they go through a variety of training to assist with campers and activities. To read more about our education team please visit www.mote.org/staff.

What happens during inclement weather/unsafe water conditions?

Your camper's safety is our number one concern. Mote Camp staff continuously monitor weather and other water-related conditions that may impact the well-being of our participants, staff and volunteers. Families will be notified via email if camps are cancelled due to inclement weather (i.e. a hurricane). Refunds are only given if Mote cancels a camp and will be prorated if the camp is not cancelled for the entire week. In the event of other environmental factors (such as red tide), camps will not be cancelled but activities may be altered. Mote Camp reserves the right to change camp activities for the health and safety of participants. This does not constitute grounds for a refund.

For additional camp policies please see the "Mote Marine Laboratory Camp Program Policies" document linked on our camp website.

My camper takes medication during camp times, will someone be able to help them?

Mote staff, college interns and volunteers are not allowed to administer any medications to campers while they are in camp. Should a camper need to take medication during their time with us, they must be able to administer it themselves. A parent/guardian must also complete the [Request for Self-Administration of Medication](#) form and discuss the camper's needs with Mote Camp's Coordinator prior to their session. Further questions regarding this can be emailed to camps@mote.org

I am registering my camper, but other parents/ grandparents will be picking him/her up from camp, is that an issue?

Not at all! We understand schedules can be hectic and it takes a village! If additional grownups are authorized to pick up your camper from camp, please make sure to list all approved adults when registering your camper and be sure to tell the lead staff at check-in on the first day of camp. Any adult that is picking up your camper must also know the password you set on the first day of camp. *For additional camp policies please see the "Mote Marine Laboratory Camp Program Policies" document linked on our camp website.*

MOTE CAMP

What swimming skills are required?

For our camps that participate in water activities, campers should feel comfortable in the water. For our Tidal Tykes camps (K-2nd grade) we begin to teach them the proper snorkeling techniques with their snorkel and mask. Campers are allowed to wear floaties if desired. During our Aqua Kids camps (3rd-5th grade), campers will practice their snorkeling skills using their mask and snorkel. Our Sea Sleuths camps (6th-8th grade) snorkel and participate in a kayak day and need to be comfortable treading water in about 6ft deep. During any snorkeling activities a lifeguard-certified Mote staff or college intern are on duty.

Can I pick my camper up early?

Campers may be picked up early if needed but this is discouraged (except for emergencies) due to the disruption of camp activities. Parents/guardians must speak with their camper's lead staff and set up the early pick-up time and location. It is important to schedule this ahead of time in case campers are scheduled for water activities that day. We also discourage late arrivals for the same reason. If you are running late, we advise you call the Mote Camp Coordinator to ensure your camper will be able to participate when they arrive at Mote. On certain days, camps leave for water activities shortly after check-in time and your camper's session may not be reachable if you arrive late. *Late arrivals or early departures are not subject to any partial or full refund.*

Will photos be taken and will I be able to access them?

Camp staff, interns and volunteers do take photos of the campers during the day's activities. Photos will be uploaded to our password-protected website at the end of each week. The link will be sent out to the email used during registration the following week. Please allow a week to receive the email as our staff takes time to edit each photo for every camp. For the safety and privacy of all campers, parents/guardians are not allowed to take photographs of Mote Camp sessions, nor are they allowed into the classrooms or education spaces during camp times.