



BEST Summer EVER

2026 5th Grade Camp

Entering Grades 5 • 8am-3:30pm

Soak up the summer sun while participating outdoors in lively group games, arts & crafts, science experiments, minigolf, walking field trips, a destination excursion and splashtacular fun swimming at Swanson Pool and Otter Cove!

Camp is held in Pottawatomie Park. Campers should be prepared to be outside for a majority of their day. Rain days will be spent inside Pottawatomie Community Center. Every day, campers will need to wear tennis shoes and a camp t-shirt, available for purchase at PCC.

Camp Communications/ePACT

As part of the District's Emergency Response Plan, it is critical that all camper information is accurate and updated in ePACT on an annual basis. All communications will be emailed to legal guardians' email addresses exported from ePACT each week. Communications regarding weekly updates to trips, weather, etc. changes will be posted to the Summer Camp Follow Your Interest. Counselors rotate throughout the day. Make sure your child's information is up to date in ePACT for allergies, medications, swimmer status, picture, emergency contacts and authorized pickup persons.

Follow Camp Updates Online....scan here:

From stcparks.org/camps webpage, look for this button:

For convenience, bookmark the website.



Camp Groupings

After all campers have arrived, counselors will create smaller groups for activities, pool visits and trips. Small groups will be decided, alphabetically by last name, on a weekly basis. There will be plenty of time to make new friends! To promote inclusion for all, friendship requests will not be taken into consideration.

Weekly Activities

The schedule will be emailed the Friday before each session begins. Each week, campers will participate in a variety of activities! Campers will swim at Swanson Pool on Tuesdays and Otter Cove on Wednesday. They will go on a weekly field trip, too.

Lost and Found

Located inside Pottawatomie Community Center. Counselors will return any items they find that are labeled to campers before turning them into Lost and Found. The Park District is not responsible for any lost, broken or stolen items.

Register Early

Camps fill quickly! There will not be a waitlist option for Flex Camp. Check online frequently for availability. Open spots are available on a first come, first served basis.

Transfers/Refunds

Refunds (minus a \$25 withdrawal fee) may only be granted before the final payment is scheduled to be collected.

Requests may be completed at Pottawatomie Community Center. Each change after May 1 will incur a \$7 processing fee. Registration changes can only be made in writing, before the final payment is collected seven (7) days prior to the weekly camp session. Outstanding or delinquent payments do not qualify for changes, credits or refunds.

Drop-off & Pick-up

Drop-off and pick-up will be in the south parking lot, between the river and tennis courts. Counselors will be ready for 5th Grade Camp participants to **arrive at 7:55am**. Campers must be **dropped off by 8:15am**, otherwise you will need to walk your child to their group for sign in.

Campers will be **ready for pick-up by 3:25pm** in the south parking lot. Any campers remaining at 3:45pm will be taken to After Camp, and may be picked up there. The daily After Camp fee will be charged if your child is not registered for After Camp.

If you arrive before 3:25pm, you must park in a parking spot as we have our Flex Campers still being picked up. **Do not park in the pickup lane or line.**

If you need to speak with a counselor, lead or coordinator at drop off or pick up, park in the south lot, near the drop off line, and walk up to your child's group. Have your child's name and camp tag visible on your dashboard at pickup each day. These will be available at Camp Open House and morning drop off.

Pick-up and Drop-off will still be outside if it is raining. If there is severe weather it will be inside, there will be a Camp is Indoors sign placed outside.

Patience is key! For the safety of your child, counselors will be reviewing names and photos of authorized pick-up people until they become familiar with authorized pickup persons. **Authorized pickup persons should have photos uploaded to ePACT for an expedited experience.** Expect the pick-up process to take longer than the drop-off process.

Skills to Practice for Success... (before camp begins)

Getting in and out of the car

With more than 200 campers per day, having your camper practice getting in and out of your car prior to drop-off and pick-up is essential for a more efficient drop-off and pick-up experience.

Campers should be on the passenger side of your car with their backpack on and ready. If your camper takes awhile to get in and out of the car, park and walk them up to sign-in. Parents are not permitted to get out of their car in the pick-up and drop-off lines.

Packing a backpack

Seems simple! But with groups of 30-40 campers, counselors will not be able to assist every camper packing up their belongings between activities.

BRING

- Water bottle, sack lunch, snack, sunscreen, bug repellent, labeled swim gear and towel, quiet activity (book, cards, coloring, pop-its, etc.) for downtime every day.
- Wear your camp t-shirt every day.
- Wear tennis shoes every day. Sandals and flip flops are not permitted.

DO NOT BRING

- Valuables: Leave these at home.
- Electronics: Counselors may hold on to any electronics they see throughout the day and return to parent at pick-up.
- Any toys (dolls, stuffed animals, etc.) or trading cards.

Communication

Each camper needs to be able to clearly communicate their needs to counselors. They need to be prepared to approach an adult when something is wrong.

Have your camper practice communicating their need about using the restroom, if an injury occurs or if they need a break from a specific activity. They should also approach a counselor if there is a concern with friendships or disagreements with other campers.

Applying sunscreen and bug repellent

Campers should come to camp already wearing both sunscreen and bug repellent. Counselors will provide time for sunscreen and bug repellent to be reapplied. They may assist with spray applications of both, but campers are expected to be able to apply both sunscreen and bug repellent on their own.

Changing in and out of swim gear

Campers need to change themselves completely in and out of their swim gear. Counselors will monitor locker rooms but will not assist with any undressing or dressing of swimwear or clothing.

If your child prefers to swim with goggles, make sure they are packed in their backpack. Goggles will not be provided.

Practice gathering all of their personal items after changing and putting them back in their bags. If possible, on swim days send your child already in their swim gear under their camp clothes and pack dry clothes for after swimming to speed up changing time and increase pool time.

Teach your child to put their socks together and put glasses in a case to tuck into their shoes.

Label all of your child's items with their first initial & last name.

A few last words...

Summer camp is very different and much more fast-paced than regular school — in fact, your camper will probably get worn out by all the fun they're having! Tell them to take this time to learn new things and try various activities. It's okay to get dirty and sweaty!

Experience summer like you never have before, like theater, exciting crafts or outdoor excursions. Explore new interests, and ask your camp counselors any questions you have. Remember, since you are packing old, grungy play clothes, it's okay to get dirty!

Remind them they will be meeting a lot of new people and making new friends every day, so encourage them to just be themselves – obey the rules, be respectful of others and have a great time!

Need to contact a counselor?

Email summerdaycamp@stcparks.org

Reference Summer FAQs

<https://www.stcparks.org/summer-camp-faq/>

Access ePACT & Emergency Info

<https://www.epactnetwork.com/>

Registration Changes

For more info, visit: stcparks.org/camps