



# BEST Summer EVER

## 2026 Kindergarten Camp

### Entering Kindergarten • 8:30am-3pm

Soak up the summer sun while participating outdoors in lively group games, arts & crafts, science experiments, minigolf, walking field trips and splashtacular fun with wild watermania days and swimming at Swanson Pool!

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](http://stcparks.org/camps) webpage, look for this button:

For convenience, bookmark the website.



### Camp Groupings

At arrival, campers will be placed in one large group. After all campers have arrived, counselors will create smaller groups for activities, pool visits and walking trips. Small groups will be decided on a weekly basis. There will be plenty of time to make new friends!

### Weekly Activities

The schedule will be emailed the Friday before each session begins. Each week, campers will engage in various walking trips, minigolf and more! Schedule changes will be communicated and posted to Follow Your Interest. Kindergartners will swim at Swanson Pool on Wednesdays and Thursdays. When at the pool, campers will be given a lifejacket and red wristband to wear. Campers will enjoy the small pool with a max depth of 3.5 feet as well as the sand play area. The home-base at the pool is shaded and monitored for those who choose to not swim.

### 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.

### 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 east Pre-K classroom using exterior door #3. Parents should park vehicles in the parking lot and walk campers to the door for check-in.

If you have children in camps for grades 1-5, please drop them off first in the south parking lot, via the drive-thru line and then park to bring your Kindergartener into PCC.

Counselors will be ready for Kindergarten Camp participants to **arrive at 8:25am**. Campers must be **dropped off by 9am**.

Campers will be **ready for pick-up by 2:45pm** at the same location as drop-off. Any campers remaining at 3:15pm 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.

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)

## Arriving to camp

Each day, parents need to park in the lot and walk campers up to door #3 at PCC for check-in. At the end of camp, campers will be released only to those authorized pick-up persons listed in ePACT and must be signed out. Please understand that this process may take a few minutes. Campers should be able to carry their own backpacks as we are practicing independence while we prepare for Kindergarten in the fall!

## 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. **Please practice this skill with your child before the first day of camp.**

### BRING

These items must be labeled with your child's name:

- Water bottle, sack lunch, snack, sunscreen, bug repellent, labeled swim gear and towel, quiet activity (book, cards, coloring, pop-its, etc.) for downtime.
- 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 must 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 be able to 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 labeled and 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. 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...

Kindergarten Camp will be very different than what your child may have experienced in a preschool setting. The days will be long — in fact, your camper will probably get worn out by all the fun they're having! Know that, throughout the summer, we will build their stamina to handle a full day of school. Tell them to take this time to learn new things and try various activities. Remind them it's okay to get dirty and sweaty!

Experience summer like you never have before. 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 [kguizzetti@stcparks.org](mailto:kguizzetti@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](http://stcparks.org/camps)