



2020 Tilth Alliance Summer Camp Guide

At Tilth Alliance's summer camps, kids 1-15 years old spend summer days outdoors being "urban farmers" - discovering where our food comes from and learning about the natural world. Summer camp is also a time to have fun adventures exploring our gardens and farm, engaging in science investigations, making art, singing songs and cooking up delicious dishes - all with urban farm flair!

Tilth Alliance is excited to expand camp offerings this year at both the Children's Garden at Good Shepherd Center and the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands. We are now offering weeklong garden, farm and cooking camps simultaneously at both sites all summer long. Each week offers a new theme with different activities to try out.

DIRECTIONS/PARKING

Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands

5513 S. Cloverdale Street

Seattle, WA 98118

[Get directions.](#)

Directions

- Bus: The farm is a 10-15 minute walk from stops on bus routes 7 and 9, or a 20 minute walk from the Rainier Beach light rail stop at MLK and Henderson.
- Driving: Limited parking is available on the farm. Additional street parking can be found at Beer Sheva Park or the Atlantic City Boat Ramp lot south of the farm, with an approximately 0.3 mile walk through Beer Sheva park to the farm.

Parking

We will often have multiple programs running concurrently on the farm, so we ask that drivers follow directional signs and park briefly in designated areas during drop-off. Please do not park on S. Cloverdale Street out of respect for the neighbors.

Good Shepherd Center

4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., Suite 100

Seattle, WA 98103

[Get directions.](#)

Directions

- Bus: Take route #44 (east-west) or route #16 (north-south); get off at 45th and Meridian, walk three blocks north, Meridian Park and Good Shepherd Center are on the right.
- Driving: From I-5, take Exit 169 for NE 50th St., head westbound one-half mile, turn left (southbound) on Sunnyside Ave. N., and use the second driveway on the right. When you enter the Good Shepherd Center roundabout, take a left into the first parking lot. There is a pathway

between the Good Shepherd Center and the Meridian school gym that leads directly into the Children's Garden.

WHAT TO WEAR

Clothing

Campers should wear clothes that are ready for a wide range of outdoor activities from soil digging to salsa-making. Camps run daily, rain or shine, so please make sure campers are prepared with clothing for forecasted weather. We recommend light layers for the morning, even on sunny days.

Footwear

Campers should wear closed-toe, comfortable shoes that can handle time on the farm and time on the playground. Please no flip flops.

Labels

Please label your child's belongings. We end up with many unclaimed items after camp.

Change of clothes

Though not required, we always appreciate you sending a spare set of clothes in campers' backpacks in the case of accidents/spills.

FOOD

Snacks/Lunch

Please send campers with small snack items for morning snack time and a sack lunch. Lunches will be stored in a cooler. Snack breaks and lunch typically take place out in the field. It is our policy that campers are not allowed to share snacks from home.

Food Allergies

Some food will be prepared during camp for sampling. All food is organic. Please be sure to make note of any food allergies your child may have during registration!

Although we do not prohibit nuts from camp, due to the high prevalence of nut allergies/sensitivities, we ask that you please consider sending nut-free snacks and lunches with your child.

MEDICATION

If you are bringing any medication to camp with your child (including rescue inhalers and EpiPens), we ask that you please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Please sign a Medical Authorization Release form which authorizes camp staff to administer medication to your child (required by state law).
- Please give all medications to your child's camp instructor at check-in and advise whether the medication should be returned at the end of each day or stay on-site for the duration of camp.

- All medications must be in their original packaging and labeled with appropriate prescription, dosing and/or pharmaceutical information.
- Over-the-counter medications can only be accepted and administered with written authorization and dosing information from a healthcare provider.

LATE ARRIVALS

If you are arriving late for any camp, and you are unable to find the summer camp group, please proceed to the Tilth Alliance office at the location of your camp. At the Good Shepherd Center, the office is located on the ground floor of the building in room 100. At the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands, the office is located in the black building at the top of the slope. You will be directed to camp staff.

EARLY PICK-UP

Please note that prior notification of any early check-outs will help to ensure a safe and organized process. Families who would like to pick up their children prior to regular check-out should coordinate with camp staff on the morning of the early-pickup to find a meet-up location.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Extended day care is available for all weeklong, full-day camps from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. and from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for an additional fee. **We have added an extended care option that runs until 5:30 this year for an additional fee. Before-care only is available for half-day camps.** Please select one of the Extended Day ticket options when registering.

LATE FEES

If you know in advance that you will be late to pick up your child, please let us know by calling camp staff. Full-day camp ends at 3:00 p.m. and check out ends at 3:10 p.m. Extended Day program runs from 3-5pm, with an option for 5:30 pm for an additional fee. If you are 10 or more minutes late for pick-up your child will join the Extended Day program and you will be charged \$10.

If you arrive 10 or more minutes late, you will be charged a fee of \$1.00 per minute for every minute you are late up until 6:00 p.m. Late fees are to be paid by cash, check or credit card at the time of pick-up.

CAMP STAFF

We work hard to hire experienced staff each summer for camp. Our Instructors have backgrounds in environmental education, gardening, and/or teaching fields. We also work with talented adult volunteers who are interested in learning about garden education and provide additional support.

COUNSELOR/CAMPER RATIO

We maintain a minimum 1:10 counselor to camper ratio at all times. Each age group will have a maximum of 20 campers at any given time and will be led by an Educator and Education Assistant. Our 6

summer staff, junior counselors, and volunteers lead camp activities and operations under the supervision of Tilth Alliance's Youth and Families Project Manager (Camp Director).

JUNIOR COUNSELORS

Junior Counselors are middle school and high school students who are at least 12 years old and are interested in being trained in leadership and outdoor education. Junior Counselors are never solely responsible for children during camp. They provide extra support to camp Educators and act as role models for campers.

CAMP CULTURE

About Our Camps

Tilth Alliance has been offering children's garden education for more than three decades. We provide a positive, structured and educational outdoor learning environment. Our camp schedule is posted at the beginning of the week, and our daily schedule stays consistent, so campers can learn routines and are able to anticipate what's next.

Campers are invited to participate in a wide range of activities throughout the week. We've found that the structure and flow of camps supports success for a wide range of learning styles and abilities. Campers often make new friends and form strong bonds with adult and junior counselors.

Camp Day Structure

Daily activity schedules at camp provide opportunities for structured activities while also allowing for plenty of supervised unstructured time. Periods of time are built into schedules for natural play, free exploration, nature journaling, fort-building, and other similar unstructured activities that allow campers to experience the joy of playing outdoors. Campers will fluctuate between engaging in focused science /cooking/arts activities and enjoying free-play time.

Friends and Siblings

As long as they are in the same age group, we often have siblings and friends attend camp together. Throughout the week, campers spend time in large groups for circle time, snack, lunch, field games, tea, and free exploration. They also work in smaller groups on projects and activities.

Camp Expectations

Campers and staff alike are required to follow camp rules at all times to ensure everyone stays safe and enjoys their time at camp. We will go over the camp rules with campers on the first day of camp, and gentle reminders are given throughout the week. We encourage you to review these expectations with your child prior to camp.

- 1. Be Safe:** Safety is our highest priority. In order to keep campers safe, we ask everyone to stay with the group at all times, walk in the garden, reserve running for the field and playground, and refrain from fighting (even play fighting).

- 2. Be Kind:** Kindness includes listening and showing respect. If we listen to the staff, each other and the living beings on the farm and in the garden, we can learn many exciting and wonderful things! We also work on being kind to each other and respecting each other's space and what everyone has to say. This also includes respecting the plants and animals in the garden and on the farm. We can do this by waiting to be invited before picking plants or touching animals. When we listen to others and respect what they say, they are more likely to listen to us when it is our turn.
- 3. Try New Things!** Campers may try a new activity or taste a new food while at camp. We understand that this can be scary, but we ask campers to keep open and positive minds. Being willing to try new things will lead to new experiences and lots of fun!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please note that we close online camp registration on the Thursday night before the camp week. For example, in order to register for Grow a Farm Stand week beginning on July 20th, you must register by end of the day on Thursday July 16th. This ensures that our staff has planning time to accommodate campers' needs. If you have not registered by Thursday night and wish to register on Friday, please email danfriedman@tilthalliance.org, and exceptions may be made. The Friday before the camp week will be the final day to register online or via special request.

MEMBER DISCOUNT

Tilth Alliance members and donors receive a \$5 discount on mini-camps and a \$10 discount on weeklong summer camps.

If you'd like to become a member, you can [make your gift online today](#). Once you've made your gift, you'll receive an e-mail with a discount code that you can use for summer camps.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Tilth Alliance strives to educate all children and adults regardless of their financial means. All summer camps include a limited number of reduced price tickets, which can be selected at checkout. If you would like to apply for additional scholarship for summer camp, please [apply for a scholarship here](#).

SAFETY POLICIES

Bathrooms

Counselors are never with children alone. We schedule time throughout the days to visit the bathroom in small groups. If a child needs to use the restroom facilities outside of these times, a camp staff member will take a minimum of two children and accompany them to the restroom. Staff remain outside and ask other staff or members of the public to wait until all campers have left the restroom.

First Aid

Camp staff carry a first aid kit with them wherever they go. Campers sometimes get minor scrapes and bruises while playing and exploring outdoors. Camp staff are prepared to administer basic first aid. While more severe injuries are extremely rare, we will always keep parent contact and medical release information close at hand and will call if needed. All incidents will be documented by camp staff in an Incident Report form, and a copy will be provided to the parent/guardian of the camper.

Behavior Policy

Campers are expected to be kind and respectful of their fellow campers. If an incident arises requiring the mediation of a staff-member, it will be documented in an Incident Report form and brought to the attention of the parents/guardians. Camp staff at Tilth Alliance will foster an environment where everyone is welcomed and treated respectfully.

In the instance that a camper exhibits repeated signs of disrespect toward fellow campers or staff, the Camp Director will arrange for a meeting with parents/guardians with the goal of correcting the behavior. In instances of violent or abusive behaviors, Tilth Alliance reserves the right to dismiss a child from camp.

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

If you are unable to attend summer camp, changes and cancellations are available by emailing register@tilthalliance.org. Please review the cancellation policy outlined below prior to contacting the registration office.

- **Tilth Alliance is monitoring the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation closely. If there is a need to cancel scheduled camps, we will contact you as soon as possible. Participants will receive refunds or camp/class credits for camps cancelled due to COVID-19.**
- **Full refund available prior to June 1** - Camp fees are fully refundable or transferrable to other camps prior to June 1st, 2019.
- **Change & Cancellation fees after June 1** - Any changes or cancellations received on or after June 1st until 2 weeks prior to the start of your camp week will be charged a \$50 change/cancellation fee. Unfortunately we are unable to offer any refunds or credits for changes or cancellations requests received less than 2 weeks prior to the start of your camp week.