



## 2019 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, 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 all summer long. Each week offers a new theme with different activities to try out.

### DIRECTIONS/PARKING

#### **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.

#### **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.

## **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 a lot of 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. Please note that we are unable to provide refrigeration or heat for food items. 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, vegan, and gluten-free. 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 and cooking camps from 8 to 9 a.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. for an additional fee. 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. If you are 5 or more minutes late for pick-up your child will join the Extended Day program and you will be charged \$10.

Extended Day ends at 5:00 p.m. If you arrive after 5:00 p.m. you will be charged a fee of \$1.00 per minute for every minute you are late up until 5:45 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 fantastic staff each summer for camp. Our instructors are often college students studying education or environmental programs or professionals in the environmental education or teaching fields. We also work with talented adult volunteers who are interested in learning about garden education who provide additional support.

Your child will always have the same counselor team working with the camp each week. If your child attends different camps throughout the summer (such as Field Science and Cooking Around the World), they may meet new counselor teams.

## **COUNSELOR/CAMPER RATIO**

We maintain a minimum 1:10 counselor to camper ratio at all times. Full registration for weeklong farm and garden camps is 24 campers. Each camp is led by four talented instructors who are supported by Tilth Alliance's Youth Education Manager, as well as a team of Junior Counselors and adult volunteers.

Each small group activity is led by an instructor, junior counselor and often an adult volunteer working with 7-10 children.

For weeklong Cooking Camps, Tilth Alliance is teaming up with Seattle Cucina. This means we will have Tilth Alliance and Seattle Cucina instructors at each camp session. Full registration for weeklong cooking camps is 20 campers. Each camp is led by three talented instructors. More information about Seattle Cucina instructors can be found here [seattlecucina.com](http://seattlecucina.com).

## **JUNIOR COUNSELORS**

Junior Counselors are middle school and high school students who are at least 11 years old and are being trained in leadership and outdoor education. Junior Counselors are never solely responsible for children during camp. They provide extra support to camp counselors and act as role models for campers.

## **SEATTLE CUCINA X TILTH ALLIANCE**

We're pleased to partner with Seattle Cucina Cooking School to offer these cooking camps. Seattle Cucina offers classes at schools, community centers, and after-school programs across the greater Seattle area. They lead creative, hands-on classes to improve students' nutrition, how they relate to their families and community, and how they participate in sustainable food systems. Visit [seattlecucina.com](http://seattlecucina.com) for a list of all current offerings.

In addition, we are thrilled to have access to the newly built teaching kitchen at the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands. Campers will be utilizing that space throughout the day, while also taking time to play games outside, explore the farm, and harvest fresh foods straight from the fields.

The different age groupings for these camps will allow us to tailor cooking activities and learning opportunities in ways that are successful for the entire group.

## **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. Camps have been designed to flow between large group and small group activities and provide balance between structured activity and student driven exploration. 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.

### **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 recess. They also work in smaller groups on projects and activities. Campers have the opportunity on the first day to request to be in small groups with their friends and siblings.

## **Camp Expectations**

Summer camps Campers and staff alike are required to follow camp favors at all times to ensure everyone stays safe and enjoys their time at camp. We will go over the camp favors 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:** Everyone's 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) as it may result in serious injuries.
- 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 nice 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 so much fun!

## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Tilth Alliance is excited to expand camp offerings this year. We are now offering weeklong garden, farm and cooking camps all summer long. Each week offers a new theme with different activities to try out. Many campers sign up for multiple sessions each summer. We love to see return campers.

Please note that we close camp registration one week prior to the start of each camp. For example, in order to register for Fun with Flowers on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, you must register by Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. This ensures that our staff has ample planning time to accommodate campers' needs.

## **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**

We bring a first aid kit with us wherever we 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.

## **CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY**

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

- **Full refund available prior to June 1** - Camp fees are fully refundable or transferrable to other camps prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
- **Change & Cancellation fees after June 1** - Any changes or cancellations received on or after June 1<sup>st</sup> 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.