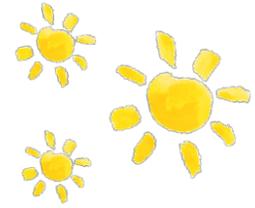




Updated 3/24/2021



## Summer Camp 2021 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **How will 2021 Summer Camps be structured?**

There will be three sessions over the course of the summer, and each session will run for approximately three weeks. During each session, we will offer an array of options in hopes of meeting the varying needs of our community, including full-day and half-day City-Run and Specialty options. Campers will only be able to participate in one camp per session, and they will remain in this same “pod” of children with the same staff throughout the entire session.

### **What is a "Pod"?**

The pod model follows CA Department of Public Health’s Youth Cohort Guidance, which outlines the safest way to organize supervised youth programs during the pandemic. A pod refers to a cohort or group of 16\* or less campers who will remain together for the entire session, and do not intermix with other pods of campers. Each pod will have its own designated camp site and supplies, and be led by staff or instructors dedicated specifically to that group.

*\*This number is subject to change.*

### **Why 3-Week Sessions?**

Best practice under the state’s Summer Camp Guidance is to keep youth pods as stable as possible. In addition to pod capacities and staffing requirements, it is also recommended that each pod be kept together for an extended period for increased stability. The Contra Costa County Health Officer has stated that keeping groups together for a minimum of three weeks can significantly decrease the risk of both potential exposures and transmissions. The Recreation Department understands three weeks is a bigger commitment for families to make compared to programs held before the pandemic. To help, we have taken steps including re-vamping our scholarship program and adding the ability to spread out camp payments for families who choose the deposit option (more information below).

### **What are the session dates?**

All camps run Monday through Friday, with the exception of being closed the final Friday of each session.

Session 1: Mon, June 14 - Thurs, July 1

Session 2: Tues, July 6 - Thurs, July 22 (No camp Mon, July 5)

Session 3: Mon, July 26 -Thurs, August 12

### **Why do the sessions end on a Thursday?**

Ending the sessions on the Thursday of the last week of the session allows custodial staff time to deep clean and sanitize the camp facilities, surrounding areas, and equipment prior to the start of a new session. It also allows a much-needed break for our camp counselors who cannot take time off as they normally would due to cohort staffing requirements.



## How do I register for 2021 summer camps?

Registration will be available online only at [www.el-cerrito.org/onlinereg](http://www.el-cerrito.org/onlinereg) beginning Monday, March 29, 2021 at 8am. Please note that trying to register before the registration opening date and time will result in an error message. After completing your online registration, please also submit an Emergency JotForm (required once per summer). Online registration closes the Tuesday prior to the session start. If there is space, registrations after this may be accepted (email [recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)).

## How do I pay for camp?

Payment information will be collected at the time of online registration. Families will have two options:

1. Pay in full at the time of registration. This secures your space, and no additional payments will be charged at a later date.
2. Pay a \$150 deposit per camp at the time of registration and make two automatically charged payments at later dates according to the schedule below using a credit card on file. Paying the deposit also secures your space.

*Families that register for a session after the deposit period will need to pay in full.*

*The deposit option excludes virtual camps which are due in full at the time of registration.*

### Payment Schedule:

Session	Deposit Period (\$150)	Payment 1	Payment 2
Session 1: 6/14 - 7/1	3/29 – 4/27	4/28	5/28
Session 2: 7/6 – 7/22	3/29 – 5/16	5/17	6/21
Session 3: 7/26 - 8/12	3/29 – 6/6	6/7	7/12

Both card payments and system credits are accepted online. Alternate forms of payment, including childcare subsidies, may be accepted with arrangement through [recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

## Are there scholarships available?

The Recreation Department is excited to introduce our more robust scholarship program. Families are now eligible to receive up to \$300 per child, up to two times per year. Additionally, eligibility criteria has been expanded so that more families qualify. More information can be found at [www.el-cerrito.org/scholarship](http://www.el-cerrito.org/scholarship).

## I have a credit from cancelled 2020 summer camp. Can I use that toward the cost of camp?

Yes! Account credits from any cancelled 2020 programs can be applied towards camp fees. When registering online, the registration system will automatically apply any credits to your balance. After your transaction is complete, your receipt will show at the bottom the amount paid by credits, and the amount paid by card (if applicable).

## Who is eligible to register for summer camp?

All children are eligible to attend ONE camp per session. Registration is open to both El Cerrito Residents and Non-Residents.

## I am currently in a school year pod. Will I receive priority registration?

There will be no priority registration for summer camp. Enrollment for all sessions will begin on Monday, 3/29 and is first come, first served. At this time, we recommend signing up for all sessions that you are interested in as historically our programs have filled up.

### **How old does my camper need to be?**

You can find camp offerings for children entering Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade for Summer 2021. [The grades listed for each camp refer to the grade your child will be entering for the 2021-22 school year.](#)

### **Can my Transitional Kindergartner attend camp?**

Last summer demonstrated just how vital the last three months of school is in preparing children for the big transition to elementary school and activities like camp. 2020 entering Kindergarten children were more challenged by the transition than in previous years. For this summer, there are a limited number of spots for children entering Kindergarten, and no spots are offered for those entering Transitional Kindergarten.

### **I want my child and their friend/sibling to be in the same pod. How do I do that?**

For siblings or friends to be together, they must be enrolled in the same pod, at the same location, for the same time slot (make sure you are using the same Activity #). Please coordinate directly with family/friends to ensure you are enrolling in the same pod. We will not be able to accommodate transfer or special requests. Mixed grade K-6 camps that keep siblings together will be offered and is highly recommended where feasible to keep households contained as much as possible. Keep in mind that space in pods is limited due to the 14-camper allowed maximum.

### **What if I register then need to cancel?**

Cancellation requests must be made no less than two weeks prior to the camp start date. All cancellations will result in the loss of the camp deposit amount (\$150). Cancellation/refund requests with less than two weeks' notice will not be permitted except for medical reasons supported by a doctor's note. Transfer requests also require two weeks' notice and a transfer fee of \$21 will be incurred if transfer is approved.

### **Can I register for more than one camp in a session?**

Camper may only be enrolled in one camp per session, including camps or cohort programs not run by the City of El Cerrito. This means they cannot participate in a morning camp and an afternoon camp in the same session. If a camper is registered for two camps during a session, they will be automatically un-enrolled in one camp at the Recreation Department's discretion.

### **Can I register for more than one session?**

Yes! While you can only participate in one camp per session (meaning you can't do an AM camp and PM camp in the same session), there is no limit to the number of sessions you can participate in. You can choose to participate in just one, or all three.

### **My family is considering traveling this summer. Will my child still be able to attend camp?**

We will ask families to follow whatever travel advisories (if any) are in place by the state. For example, as of late March 2021 an advisory is in place for out of state or out of country travel. The advisory that states unvaccinated travelers should self-quarantine for 7 days upon return to CA. Families will be able to travel this summer and still participate, but they may need to be strategic with their scheduling or be okay with missing some camp time in order to satisfy any self-quarantine advisories (if still in effect or not updated).



**Where will camp be offered?**

Camps will be offered at different outdoor locations throughout the City to maximize physical distancing. Locations include the Community Center, Cerrito Vista Park, Harding Park, Castro Park, Fairmont Park, and Portola Clubhouse. Most camps will spend the majority of time outside in nature with the same group of friends and staff. For sites that will be home to more than one pod, a designated distanced area will be set up for each pod to prevent the intermixing of campers.

**Is Extended Care (Early Birds & Late Birds) Available?**

Unfortunately, as campers cannot intermix with other children in different pods, and because camp drop-off and pick-up times are planned strategically to prevent congestion and congregation, extended care cannot be offered this summer.

**How do the pod drop-off and pick-up windows work?**

Pods at the same location may have staggered start and end times to prevent congestion and congregation. Your drop-off time is the first 15 minutes of your camp time, and your pick-up time is the last 15 minutes of your camp time. For example, if you are registered for an 8:30am-5pm pod, your drop-off window is 8:30am-8:45am and your pick-up window is 4:45-5pm. We strongly recommend that families do not put siblings in different pods at different locations that occur at the same time, because that would mean you would need to be in 2 locations within the same 15-minute time window. Drop-offs and pick-ups outside of these windows requires communication with and approval from your site Coordinator.

