



## Summer Adventure Parent Handbook (215) 247-5777 ex127

Dear Parents,

We are delighted that your child will be spending their days making sweet summer memories at the Morris Arboretum. For almost ten years, we have been offering summer programming that is uniquely designed within the 92 beautiful acres of the Morris Arboretum. Our goal is to get children as comfortable as possible around nature through fun immersive experiences that encourage scientific inquiry, curiosity and discovery about the world around them. It is our belief that when children are surrounded by trees, birds, animals, and insects, they will come to appreciate and protect them as future stewards of our planet.

Creating sweet summer memories for nature lovers ages 4 to 10

Our youngest adventurers, Little Lightning Bugs (ages four to six), will spend their summer headquartered on the garden side of the Arboretum, where most public events take place. Parents park in our lot (rain or shine), and meet our counselors at the Widener Visitor Center at both drop off and pick up.

Our more experienced campers, Bloomfield Buddies (ages seven to eleven), are headquartered at Bloomfield Farm, located directly across from the main entrance of the Arboretum on Northwestern Ave. Bloomfield Farm is a wonderful place for our campers to explore, as it's filled with wildlife, lush meadow paths that are freshly mowed weekly, honey bee hives, and our Springfield Mill.

### Weather & Clothing

Camp is held **rain or shine**. In the case of inclement weather, activities will be modified and moved indoors. Please dress your child in clothes that can get dirty! Hats, t-shirts, and sneakers are strongly encouraged. **Flip Flops and open-toes shoes are NOT permitted.** Water shoes and bathing suits are appropriate to wear on water days. Please be sure that your child is covered with sunscreen and insect repellent before their arrival to camp. The Hillcrest Building (Little Lightning Bugs) is air-conditioned. Bloomfield Barn (Bloomfield Buddies) is not air-conditioned, however, multiple fans are mounted throughout the barn.

### What to Bring

Campers should bring **a backpack with the following items: a lunch, snack or two, refillable water leak proof water bottle, change of clothes, and water shoes.** Please label all items. Less is more! **Please do not bring toys, phones, cameras, electronic devices, money or valuables to camp.** The fewer items that your child the better!

### Camper Code of Conduct

Our camp environment is informal and fun, but structured. Campers will be informed of Arboretum rules and etiquette on the first day of camp. All campers are expected to respect each other, as well as the Arboretum staff, plants and wildlife. Disruptive behavior affects the fun, safety, and overall quality of the camp experience. In the event of repeated misbehavior, counselors will notify the parent/guardians and request that the camper be picked up or dismissed. No refunds will be given to campers dismissed.

### **Safety & Medical information**

Summer Adventure Camp is an outdoor camp that incorporates physical activity. Nature interpretation and hikes to different areas of the Morris Arboretum may have hidden dangers (*including but not limited to*: risk of bee stings, poison ivy, ankle sprains, and exposure to ticks and mosquitoes). Camp staff are trained in administering first aid, and will contact authorized medical personnel in the case of an emergency. In the event of an emergency during camp hours, please contact (215) 247-5777, or ask a Visitor's Services representative to reach our camp counselors, who will be called on portable radios.

### **Sun, Mosquitoes & Ticks**

Please apply sunscreen and/or insect repellent prior to camp. Counselors will apply as needed with permission (see Registration Form) for Little Lightning Bugs campers. While ticks have not posed a problem in the past, we suggest that tick checks be done when campers are home. Neem oil is a natural critter deterrent, but cannot guarantee that Lyme disease will not be transmitted.

### **Registration Policies**

Register on-line (<https://experience.morrisarboretum.org/Login.aspx>). A completed Registration Form, Parent Permission & Liability Form, and health insurance info must be submitted **two weeks after the on-line registration has been completed** in order to hold a camper's place in the program.

### **Cancellation Policies**

Please note our new cancellation policy. Cancelling at the last minute makes it very difficult to fill openings that other families would have otherwise taken. We understand that scheduling months in advance can be challenging, but please be mindful when making your camp registrations. We try to accommodate requests to change scheduled weeks, however, since we fill up so quickly it not a guarantee.

### **Updated Cancellation Policy**

#### **Per camper/Per week**

**On or before April 1<sup>st</sup>**: \$10 fee will be deducted from refund

**Cancellations April 2<sup>nd</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>**: \$50 fee will be deducted from refund

**After JUNE 7<sup>th</sup>**: No Refunds will be issued

The Morris Arboretum reserves the right to cancel camp due to insufficient registrations.

### **Morris Arboretum Membership**

Arboretum members receive a member discount on summer camp and a number of other great benefits. To learn more about becoming a member contact the Membership Office at (215) 247-5777.

## Frequently asked questions

- **Are counselors required to submit a background check?**

We take the protection and security of our visitors and campers very seriously. All Morris Arboretum counselors, education staff, and education volunteers must be vetted through a three point background check (state, federal, child abuse) and approved by the Human Resources department of the University of Pennsylvania.

- **What should I do if my child cannot attend camp during their scheduled week?**

If your child is sick, please notify the camp counselors or call (215) 247-5777 ext. 127.

- **Can I send my child home with another parent?**

Changes in pick up can be arranged by email ([tifstahl@upenn.edu](mailto:tifstahl@upenn.edu))

- **What happens if I am late dropping off or picking my child up?**

Drop off begins at 9:00am each day. If a camper will be late, please call (215) 247-5777 and leave a message. Pick up is at **3:00pm**. Campers picked up after 3:15 will be charged a late fee.

- **Can I stay at the Arboretum after I drop my child off?**

Unfortunately, parents and family cannot stay on the grounds after a child is dropped off, however, they are welcomed to walk the Arboretum public gardens once the Arboretum opens at 10am.

- **What do campers do when there is an excessive heat warning?**

On days when the temperatures and humidity are excessive and high, we scale back the number of activities that involve physical activity. Instead, we focus our energy of crafts, splashing in the sprinklers, and playing games in the shade. Campers are reminded to keep their water bottles handy at all times, and to reapply sunscreen throughout the day.

- **Can I pack peanut butter and jelly?**

Yes. We are not a peanut-free camp. We strongly discourage campers from sharing lunches or snacks, and will place campers with peanut allergies at separate peanut-free tables per parent request.

- **What do you do when it is raining?**

During times of inclement weather, campers stay indoors. Little Lightning Bugs find safety at the Hillcrest Building and Widener Visitor Center. Bloomfield Buddies shelter in place at the Bloomfield Barn. We play indoor games and conduct craft activities on rainy days.

Typical Adventure Camp Schedule	Bloomfield Buddies & Lightning Bugs
<b>9:00 to 9:30</b>	Bloomfield Buddies Car Line Drop off/Lightning Bugs Widener Drop Off
<b>9:30 to 10:15</b>	AM Meet and Greet; Sharing time; Out on a Limb time; Announcements
<b>10:15 to 11:15</b>	Snack; Morning lesson with Hike/Garden Exploration; Creek Exploration; Guest Speaker Visits
<b>11:15 to 12:00</b>	Science time/Experiment; Cleanup for Lunch
<b>12:00 to 1:00</b>	Lunch; Rest for Little Lightning Bugs; Field Activities
<b>1:00 to 2:00</b>	Afternoon Hike; Garden Exploration; Mill tours; Craft; Story time
<b>2:00 to 2:45</b>	Table Choice Time (Legos, board games, crafts, Jenga, clay, etc)
<b>2:45 to 3:00</b>	Afternoon Meeting/Prepare for home

### Drop off & Pick Up Procedures

#### Little Lightning Bugs: Ages 4 to 6

**Drop Off/Pick up Location:** Widener Visitor Center (Please park your car in the lot and walk to Visitor Center)

**Drop off:** 9:00am

**Pick up:** 3:00pm

Campers ages 4 to 6 will begin and end their camp day at the Widener Visitor Center, accessed from the main entrance on Northwestern Avenue. Please park in the parking lot and walk to the Widener Plaza to sign-in or sign-out your child with a camp counselor. If you have a child in both programs of camp, please consider dropping off your youngest one first. **Curbside drop-off and pick up in front of the Widener Building is not permitted due to our high volume of bus traffic.** If you arrive before 9am, please wait outside the Widener Building with their child until a counselor is present. During inclement weather, please go straight to the café tent, or in the Widener Visitor Center to pick up. Campers will be permitted to leave with **authorized adults** (as listed on the Registration Form). If you need to make changes to this list, please email Tiffany Stahl (tifstahl@upenn.edu) or call (215) 247-5777 and speak with an Arboretum staff member. Please be respectful to Counselors and Arboretum staff and pick up your camper no later than 3:00 each day.

### **Bloomfield Buddies: Ages 7 to 11**

**Car Line Drop Off/Pick up Location:** Bloomfield Farm (see map on next page)

**GPS Address:** 303 East Northwestern Ave. Flourtown, PA

(Directly across the road from the Arboretum's main entrance)

**Drop off:** 9:00am

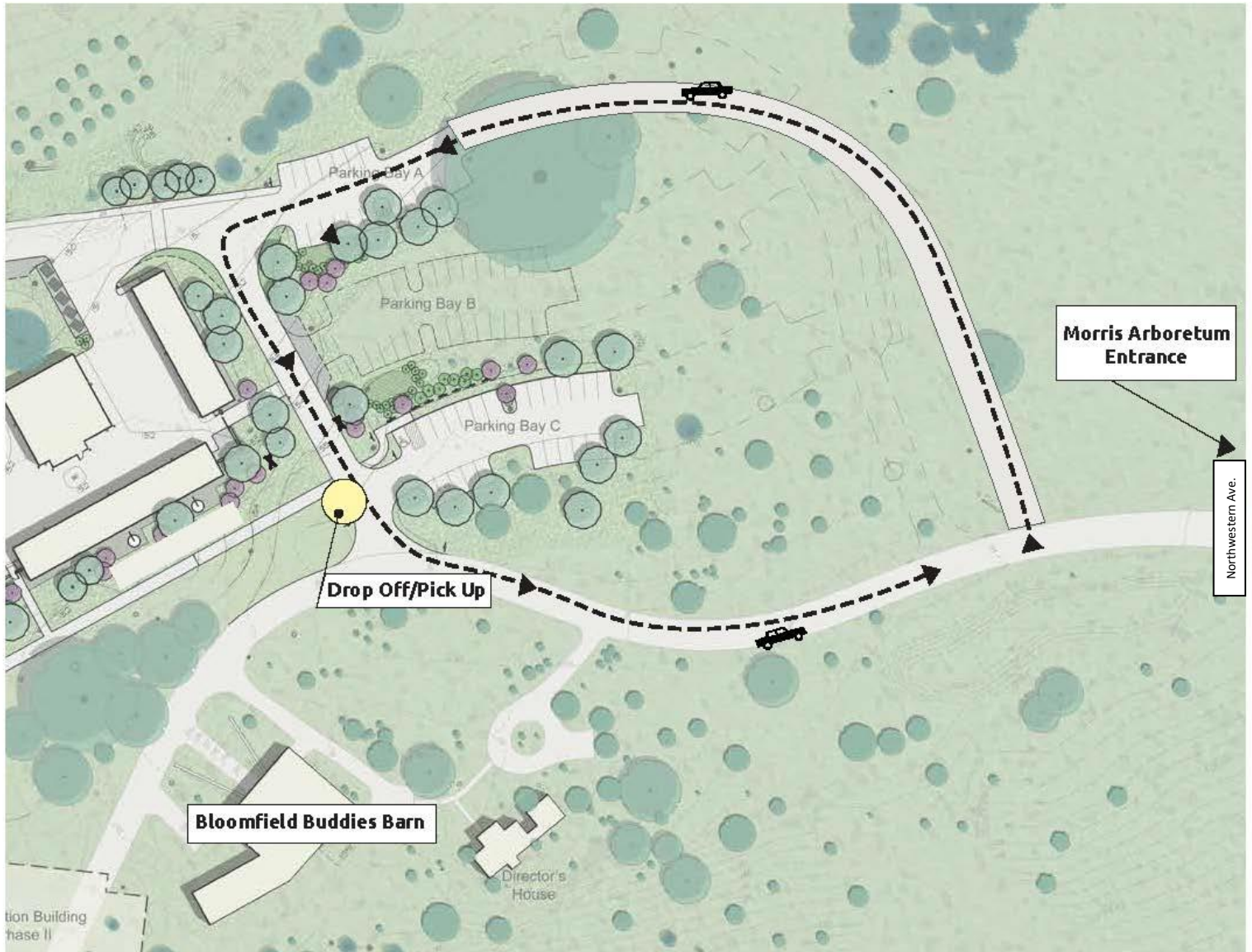
**Pick up:** 3:00pm

Bloomfield campers will be dropped off and picked up in a car line across the street from the Arboretum Garden at Bloomfield Farm. A map (see below) will also be emailed to all Bloomfield Buddy parents a week before camp begins. Follow the arrow signs around to the pick-up/drop-off location. There will be lots of signs to guide you 😊. On the first day of camp, a counselor will give you a name card to place on your visor when your child exits the car at the DROP OFF HERE sign. Please have your visor down at pick up so that counselors can identify which camper belongs to you, notify the counselor each day at pick up. Please drive slowly as horticulture staff and township employees' use these roads as well. Students should exit the car on the *passenger side only* at designated the pick-up and drop off spot. We also kindly ask that parents and guardians remain in the car line so that traffic flows naturally.

Campers will be permitted to leave only with authorized adults (as listed on the Registration Form). If you need to make changes to this list, please email Tiffany Stahl ([tifstahl@upenn.edu](mailto:tifstahl@upenn.edu)) or call (215) 247-5777 and speak with an Arboretum staff member. See Car Line map (next page)

**Bloomfield Buddies Car Line Map (Campers age 7 to 11 only)**

We promise to have lots of signs at Bloomfield to help guide you. ☺



More Questions? Please contact Tiffany Stahl 215-247-5777 ex127, or via email [tifstahl@upenn.edu](mailto:tifstahl@upenn.edu)  
We are looking forward to seeing you!