Baker Summer Discovery

Family Handbook - 2026 Season

Baker Summer Discovery Website

Summer Camp Overview

At Baker Summer Discovery Camp, every day is an adventure filled with creativity, exploration, and connection. Campers of all ages dive into hands-on experiences that inspire curiosity and confidence—whether they're making art, splashing in the pool, exploring nature, or discovering new passions through movement, music, and imaginative play. With a beautiful campus near Lake Michigan and spaces designed for learning and fun, Baker offers a warm and engaging environment where campers can follow their interests, build friendships, and create memories that last long after summer ends.

Camp Session Dates and Pricing for 2026 Season

Baker Navigators Program *Open to Rising 1st - Rising 6th Grade Campers*
Open to Rising 1st - 6th Grade Campers
Baker Navigators - June 8 - June 12
Early Bird: $560 - After Dec 31: $585

Baker Navigators is a one-week camp experience designed for adventurous campers ready to take their curiosity off campus and into the real world. Each day, Navigators travel to local and/or city destinations to explore new environments, meet community experts, and participate in hands-on activities that connect learning to everyday life. Whether it's discovering local art, science, or culture, campers gain confidence, independence, and a fresh perspective on the world around them—all while having fun with friends and exploring something new every day.

Main Camp Session Offerings *Open to Preschool - Rising 6th Grade + CIT Campers*
Session 1: June 15 - June 18
**No Camp Friday, June 19th*
Early Bird: $448 - After Dec 31: $468

Session 2: June 22 - June 26
Early Bird: $560 - After Dec 31: $585

Session 3: June 29 - July 2
**No Camp Friday, July 3rd*
Early Bird: $448 - After Dec 31: $468

Session 4: July 6 - July 10
Early Bird: $560 - After Dec 31: $585

Session 5: July 13 - July 17
Early Bird: $560 - After Dec 31: $585

Session 6: July 20 - July 24
Early Bird: $560 - After Dec 31: $585

Session 7: July 27 - July 31
Early Bird: $560 - After Dec 31: $585

Session 8: August 3 - August 7
Early Bird: $560 - After Dec 31: $585

Schedule Details

Our camp days are designed to balance creativity, exploration, active play, and time for rest and connection. Campers rotate through a Monday/Wednesday, Tuesday/Thursday, and Friday schedule that ensures everyone experiences a mix of structured learning, movement, and choice-based activities throughout the week.

During the lunch hour, all groups gather on the field for a picnic-style lunch followed by all-camp recess — a chance for campers to make new friends across age groups and enjoy unstructured outdoor fun.

Preschool Schedule

Our youngest campers follow a developmentally appropriate schedule that balances guided activities and plenty of time for play. Preschoolers will:

- Rotate through structured Art and Music sessions twice per week.
- Enjoy swimming three times weekly in the Baker Pool and Friday Water Play on the Field
    - Twice a week students will receive swim instruction
- Participate in movement, storytime, and creative play each day.

- Have structured rest time built into their afternoon to recharge for more fun. Campers rest from 1:30 - 2:30pm each day. They are welcome to bring a nap blanket/stuffy to get comfortable on their cot with.

Preschool days are full of discovery and gentle structure, helping campers grow their independence, confidence, and friendships in a nurturing environment.

Rising Kindergarten – 2nd Grade Schedule

These campers thrive on variety, activity, and imaginative exploration. Rising Kinder–2nd graders will:

- Attend Art and Music classes twice weekly with a specialized instructor.
- Swim daily — Monday through Thursday in the Baker Pool, and Friday at the Beach.
    - Twice a week students will receive swim instruction
- Take part in outdoor movement, group projects, and choice time each day.
- Enjoy moments of quiet play or reading in the Library to unwind.

This schedule supports a balance of creativity, physical activity, and downtime while encouraging campers to explore new interests and build lasting friendships.

Rising 3rd – 6th Grade Schedule

Older campers participate in a more flexible and interest-driven schedule, promoting leadership, creativity, and teamwork. Rising 3rd–6th graders will:

- Join Art and Music specialty classes twice weekly.
- Swim three times per week — twice in the Baker Pool and on Fridays at the Beach.
- Engage in movement sessions, group challenges, and choice-based activities both indoors and outdoors.
- Spend time in the Library for reading, games, and relaxation.

This balanced schedule encourages independence and collaboration while keeping campers active, curious, and connected.

Swimming at Baker

Swimming is a highlight of summer camp! Our experienced swim staff is trained to work with campers of all ability levels, from beginners to confident swimmers. All swim staff members are certified Lifeguards, ensuring a safe and supportive environment in and around the water.

Camp swimming takes place in the Baker Pool, which features both a shallow and deep end, with a maximum depth of 8 feet. The pool is comfortably maintained between 82–85°F, making it perfect for fun, learning, and cooling off on warm days.

On each camper's first swim day, they'll participate in a swim evaluation to help our staff assess ability level and water safety skills. For campers in grades that include instructional swim, groups are organized by ability so that every swimmer can learn and progress at their own pace.

Whether splashing with friends, practicing new strokes, or enjoying beach day adventures, swimming at camp is all about building confidence, safety, and a lifelong love of the water.

Swimming at the Beach

On Fridays, when the beach is open and weather conditions are favorable, our 1st–6th grade campers enjoy a fun-filled trip to Lighthouse Beach in Evanston. Campers walk to the beach either in the morning or in the afternoon, accompanied by camp staff, for a day of swimming, sand play, and summer adventure.

Safety is always our top priority. Campers only enter the water when Evanston Lifeguards are officially on duty, and our camp staff adds an extra layer of supervision by forming a "human box"—a designated swim area where all campers remain visible and safely contained.

Campers may swim only in water up to their waist, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Those who prefer to stay on shore can build sandcastles, play beach games, or relax with friends under the supervision of our counselors.

Beach Days are a beloved camp tradition, offering the perfect mix of sunshine, teamwork, and summertime fun by the lake.

Camp Policies and Procedures

Registration Cancellation Policy - Updated for 2026 Season

- Before April 1, 2026: Full refund, minus credit card processing fee and a $50 non-refundable deposit per registered session.
- April 1 – June 1, 2026: 50% refund, minus credit card processing fee and a $50 non-refundable deposit per registered session.
- After June 1, 2026: No refund available.

Medical Refunds - Following the April 1, 2026 deadline for standard refund eligibility, a full refund may still be issued in cases where a registered camper receives a medical diagnosis that prevents participation in camp programming. To qualify for this refund, an official, signed doctor's note must be submitted. The note must include the camper's full name and the duration of the restriction, during which their camp registration must fall.

Toilet Independence Policy

At camp, all campers must be fully toilet trained in order to participate. We understand that occasional accidents can happen, especially as children transition into the camp environment. However, in the interest of maintaining a safe and comfortable experience for all campers:

- If a camper has three accidents (urine or bowel) within one week, we will unfortunately need to ask that they withdraw from camp for the remainder of the season.
- In this case, you will receive a full refund.

Swimming Policy Following Bowel Accidents

If a camper has a bowel accident, they will need to sit out of swimming for the rest of the week.

This policy is in place to protect the health and safety of all campers and aligns with our school-year guidelines — which are more stringent (children must refrain from swimming for two weeks following a bowel accident during the school year).

Because a bowel accident in the pool would require us to close the pool for the entire day, this policy helps us reduce the risk of such disruptions and maintain a safe swimming environment for everyone.

Camper Conduct and Safety Policy

At Baker Summer Discovery, our goal is to help campers have fun, try new things, and grow as caring members of our community. We ask campers to:

- Treat others and themselves with respect and kindness.
- Include others, cooperate, and solve problems peacefully.
- Take responsibility for their choices and care for our camp environment.

Supporting Growth:

We know everyone makes mistakes. Our staff work with campers to reflect, repair relationships, and make positive choices moving forward. This restorative approach helps campers learn, reconnect, and grow.

If Challenges Continue:

If a camper struggles repeatedly despite guidance and support, staff will work closely with the camper and their family to find solutions. In rare cases, if a camper's behavior continues to put themselves or others at risk, they may be asked to leave camp. This step is always taken thoughtfully, with care for both the camper and the camp community.

By following these guidelines, campers help create a safe, welcoming, and joyful environment where everyone can thrive.

Camp Fee Discounts

We are pleased to offer several discount opportunities for eligible families:

- **Multiple-Child Discount:** Families enrolling more than one child will receive a 5% discount on camp fees for each additional child after the first. After you submit your registration, please reach out to our team at summer@bakerdemschool.org to have the credit applied to your account.

- **Full Summer Enrollment Discount:** Families who enroll their child(ren) in the full 8-week Main Camp program will receive a 10% discount on camp fees. After you submit your registration, please reach out to our team at summer@bakerdemschool.org to have the credit applied to your account.

- **Baker School Family Discount:** Baker School families who receive a tuition discount during the school year are also eligible for camp tuition discounts. To receive this discount, please contact summer@bakerdemschool.org to obtain a specialized registration code.

Food Policy

To ensure the safety and well-being of all participants, our camp maintains a strict nut-free environment. Campers are not permitted to bring peanuts, tree nuts, or any products containing these ingredients in their lunches or snacks brought from home. This policy is in place to protect campers with severe nut allergies.

The camp provides a nut free morning snack for all participants each day. Additionally, as a special treat, popsicles are provided to all campers at the end of the camp day on Mondays and Fridays.

We kindly request that parents and guardians review ingredient labels carefully before packing lunches to help us maintain a safe and inclusive environment for everyone.

Waitlist Policy

Once a camp session has reached full capacity, a waitlist will be established for families interested in that specific grade level and session.

If a space becomes available, families will be contacted by camp staff. The email will provide a 72-hour window to either accept or decline the offered spot. If no response is received within 72 hours, we will automatically release the spot to the next individual on the waitlist, and the original offer will be withdrawn. Families who miss the response window and wish to rejoin the waitlist must register again, which will place them at the end of the waitlist.

Drop Off and Pick Up Policies

Last summer, we updated our carpool procedures to prioritize camper safety and create a smoother, more efficient pickup process for all families.

Baker Carpool Tags

As part of these updates, we introduced Baker Carpool Tags to be used during afternoon carpool. These tags, printed by our team, will be available for pickup at the Open House and on the first morning of each session. Featuring your family's last name, the Baker logo, and the current camp season, each tag serves as a clear, visible identifier to help staff quickly recognize authorized vehicles and adults. This added layer of organization supports a safer and more streamlined dismissal experience.

Morning Drop Off

Families should enter the parking lot via Maple Street and follow the YELLOW directional arrows through the lot, exiting onto Sheridan Road.

- 1st - 8th Campers + CITs may be dropped off along the sidewalk and proceed independently to the field entrance.
- Alternatively, families may park in the main + east lot and walk their campers to the field entrance.
- Once at the field, campers should proceed to their Lead Instructor to check in prior to morning play.
- PreK/Kinder Campers should be dropped off at the East Playground by an adult and checked in with their Lead Instructor.

Afternoon Pick Up

Families should enter the parking lot via Maple Street and follow the YELLOW directional arrows, exiting onto Sheridan Road.

Campers 1st - 8th (including CITs) will be staged in the front of the building in their grade cohorts.

- The Baker Carpool Tag must be clearly displayed in the front right windshield of each vehicle.
- Drivers without a visible Carpool Tag will be asked to present a valid photo ID.
- All individuals picking up a camper must be listed as a parent/guardian or authorized pickup in Active. For those not in Active, they must be identified in advance by the parent or guardian via email to camp staff. Any adult not displaying a Baker Carpool Tag will be required to show a valid photo ID.

Prek/Kinder Campers will be located on the East Playground.

- All individuals entering the playground to pick up their camper, must present the Baker Carpool Tag to the staff gate attendant.

- All individuals picking up a camper must be listed as an authorized pickup in Active or have been identified in advance by the parent or guardian via email. Any adult not displaying a Baker Carpool Tag will be required to show a valid photo ID.

Considerations for...

Morning Care Procedures for Drop - Off

Families should drop their camper off at the Baker main entrance. 1st - 8th should buzz the front door and join the Morning Care group in room G-51, across from the Front Office. PreK/Kinder campers should be walked in and checked in with staff by parents/guardians.

After Care Procedures for Pick Up

- All individuals entering the west playground to pick up their camper, must present the Baker Carpool Tag to the staff present.
- All individuals picking up a camper must be listed as an authorized pickup in Active or have been identified in advance by the parent or guardian via email. Any adult not displaying a Baker Carpool Tag will be required to show a valid photo ID that matches an authorized pickup name.

Multiple Family Carpool

Any campers that are going home with another camp family, must have their parent/guardian send an email to summer@bakerdemschool.org with the updated information on pick up prior to the end of the camp day. Campers will not be released without formal documentation to camp staff.

Campers that Walk and Bike to/from Home

Any camper that will be walking/biking to and from camp will need a parent/guardian to send an email to summer@bakerdemschool.org with their permission for their child/ren to walk/bike to and from camp.

Extended Care Opportunities

Before and After Care

For families needing extended camp hours, Before Care and After Care are available at an additional cost during the registration period. Registration is available for the duration of a session.

- **Before Care:** 7:30–8:15 a.m.
  Campers from all grade levels come together for supervised open play inside, located across from the Main Office.

- **After Care:** 3:30–5:00 p.m.
  Campers enjoy a relaxed, mixed-age play period, typically held on the West Playground (weather permitting). Each camper also receives an afternoon snack to tide them over until pickup.

These programs provide a safe, engaging, and flexible option for families requiring care beyond standard camp hours.

Drop-In Care for Before/After Care

We understand that unexpected scheduling needs may arise. Should your camper require care at the last minute anticipated need, we can accommodate drop-in participation in Before or After Care when space allows.

To request drop-in care, families must email camp administration at least 24 hours in advance and complete payment through the camp website prior to the care date.

Camper Health

Nurse On Staff

Baker Summer Discovery staffs a camp nurse during main camp sessions from 8:30 - 3:30pm. Our nurse is available to address minor injuries, manage medications, provide first aid, and respond to any health concerns that may arise. With a professional healthcare presence on-site, families and campers can feel confident that care is always close at hand, ensuring a safe and healthy camp experience for everyone.

Illness at Camp

A child should be sent to camp only if they are healthy and prepared to participate in all activities including gym, swimming, and recess. A child will be sent home from school in the case of:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees F or above
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Head lice
- Communicable disease – confirmed or suspect
- Rash of suspicious nature
- Acute abdominal distress
- Cold/flu when in contagious stage (especially when accompanied by coughing and nasal drainage)
- An accident or injury when it is advisable for the safety and well-being of the child
- Symptoms of Covid-19

Parents will be called if a child becomes ill during the camp day. A designated emergency contact will be called in the event that a parent cannot be reached. Please be certain that these individuals understand the camp procedure and are willing to be of assistance. We expect a sick child to be picked up within one hour.

Campers must be fever-free (without the use of medication) for at least 24 hours before returning to camp. In addition, a camper may not return for at least 24 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.

Health Emergencies at Camp

If a serious emergency that requires calling 911 occurs at camp, Baker will make every effort to reach the parent/guardian (or emergency contact, if necessary, so that a family member has the opportunity to arrive while EMS is still at camp. If a family member or emergency contact is unable to arrive on time, a senior level camp staff member will ride in the ambulance with the child and stay with the child in the hospital until the family is able to arrive.

Concussion Policy

At Baker Summer Discovery, the safety and well-being of our campers is our highest priority. Due to the highly active nature of our program—which includes significant time spent in physical activities indoors, outdoors, and at the beach—we are unable to provide a controlled environment that guarantees safety for campers who are currently recovering from a concussion.

Policy Guidelines:

1. No Attendance During Active Concussion Protocols: Campers who are under an active concussion protocol may not attend camp until they have been medically cleared.

2. Medical Clearance Required: To return to camp after a concussion, a camper must provide a written release from a licensed healthcare professional stating they are fully cleared to participate in all camp activities.

3. Refund for Missed Days: Campers who are unable to attend due to a concussion will be eligible for a refund for the missed days upon submission of a medical release note confirming the camper's inability to participate.

4. Safety Priority: This policy is in place to ensure that all campers can safely enjoy our program without risk of exacerbating injuries.

Accident Notification

We will call a parent or guardian immediately in the following situations:

- Serious Injuries: Any injury that requires professional medical attention, such as fractures, concussions, deep cuts, head injuries, or injuries requiring transport to an urgent care or emergency facility.
- Significant Health Concerns: Any medical incident where the camper exhibits unusual symptoms such as difficulty breathing, severe allergic reactions, fainting, or prolonged pain.

For Minor Injuries:
For minor injuries such as scrapes, bruises, or small cuts that can be treated with basic first aid, we will administer care at camp and document the incident in your campers CampBrain account. You will not receive a notification for minor injuries.

Distribution of Medicine

The camp nurse, camp director and assistant director can administer medications that are necessary to maintain a child's health during camp hours. A completed *Camper Health Form* must be on file for a child to receive medication for any stocked over-the-counter medicine. For a camper to receive their prescription medication at camp a specialty form called *Asthma, Anaphylaxis and Prescription Medicine Authorization.*

All prescription medicines must be supplied in the original bottle and delivered to the Health Office by a parent/guardian. All medications are stored in the Health Office to ensure the safety of our students. By law, an exception is made for those students who self-carry their insulin, Epipen, and/or inhaler with the written authorization of their physician. For your convenience, the Health Office maintains a supply of the following over-the- counter medications: Children's Tylenol and Motrin, Adult Tylenol and Advil, Children's and Adult Benadryl, Tums, Chloraseptic Lozenges, Throat Drops, Cough Drops, Hydrocortisone 0.5% Cream, and Benadryl Cream.

If your child has a food, bee, or other allergy that requires them to have an Epipen available at camp an Anaphylaxis - Emergency Health Care Plan should be submitted along with the completed *Asthma, Anaphylaxis and Prescription Medicine Authorization form.* The information in this health care plan will be shared with your child's Instructor and appropriate camp personnel. We request that at least one epinephrine auto-injector device be provided to the camp to use in case of an anaphylactic reaction.

If your child has asthma, an Asthma Action Plan form should be submitted along with the completed *Asthma, Anaphylaxis and Prescription Medicine Authorization Form* and an inhaler provided. The information in the plan will be shared with your child's Instructor and appropriate camp personnel.

All health forms are available within your campers CampBrain account.