

Camp CBG

Camp CBG offers exciting and enriching learning experiences for your child, with programs for children ages 2 to 15 years. All camps incorporate nature exploration, hands-on learning, games, crafts, and planting.

Members may register early, starting on January 14. Registration opens to everyone on January 21. As always, Garden Plus members receive a 20 percent discount on camps.

Visit chicagobotanic.org/camp for complete information about registration, membership, cancellation policies, and special attention services.

My First Camps

A smaller version of Camp CBG for little ones with their grown-ups

My First Camps Ages 2 and 3

Our early childhood camps feature developmentally appropriate activities for children exploring the natural world with a caring adult. Campers and their adults spend time together learning, exploring, and creating. Age 2 Camp meets Tuesdays and Thursdays and Age 3 Camp meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Please note: An adult must accompany each registered child. Please do not bring unregistered children, including siblings, to camp. Nursing mothers may call (847) 835-8361 to make arrangements.

My First Camp Age 2

Born on or before September 1, 2018

\$38/\$48 per child per week | Learning Campus
10 – 11 a.m., dates as noted below

My First Camp Age 3

Born on or before September 1, 2017

\$57/\$72 per child per week | Learning Campus
10 – 11 a.m., dates as noted below

New! Flower Power

Budding gardeners will work in the garden, discover garden critters, and learn about the life cycle of plants. Busy hands will dig, plant, water, sort seeds, and harvest with real tools and experience the thrill of growing something.

Age 2: June 16 & 18 or August 11 & 13

Age 3: June 15, 17, 19 or August 10, 12, 14

New! Muddy Buddies

Create muddy masterpieces in this camp that focuses on creative processes and the beauty of fleeting, ephemeral art. Campers will use natural materials such as leaves, bark, and mud to paint, draw, weave, and build.

Age 2: July 14 & 16 or July 21 & 23

Age 3: July 13, 15, 17 or July 20, 22, 24

New! Sticks and Stones

Curious children will explore the natural world in this nature play-focused camp. They will exercise their imaginations as they encounter many different natural materials and loose parts through sensory play with mud, sand, wind, plants, sticks, and stones.

Age 2: July 7 & 9 or July 28 & 30

Age 3: July 6, 8, 10 or July 27, 29, 31

New! Wonderful Water

Little scientists will investigate water in this exploration- and observation-focused camp. Campers will observe how water changes, use tools to practice measuring and pouring, and play with colorful liquids and snow and ice.

Age 2: June 23 & 25 or August 4 & 6

Age 3: June 22, 24, 26 or August 3, 5, 7

Camps for Grades K – 8

June Adventure Camp

Each day, campers will visit a different area of the Garden, conduct a science investigation, dabble in art, and prepare their own healthy snack as they learn more about the natural world at the Garden. Sign up for single days or the whole week.

Pack a water bottle and nut-free lunch daily.

\$68/\$85 per child per day | Learning Campus
June 8 – 12, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Grades 1 – 4

Grades 5 – 8

August Adventure Camp

Grades 1 – 4

Campers wrap up summer with their favorite games and activities: capture the flag, scavenger hunt, dance party, s'mores and campfire, along with art, science, and nature activities and a visit from the Frog Lady and her collection of live animals. Pack a water bottle, nut-free lunch, and snack daily.

\$360/\$450 per child | Learning Campus

August 10 – 14, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Green Sprouts

PreK – Kindergarten

Most children are 4 or 5

\$180/\$225 per child per camp | Learning Campus

Monday through Friday, dates and times as noted below

Bug Brigade

Is your child fascinated by bugs? Children will get up close and personal with butterflies and bees, learn how their favorite insects see, and make a bug sucker to collect and study insects.

July 6 – 10, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

July 27 – 31, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Fun with Physics

Green Sprouts will perform basic physical science experiments and discover the laws that rule the natural world. They'll explore why items sink or float, discover how magnets work, and learn about static electricity.

July 6 – 10, 9:30 a.m. – noon

July 20 – 24, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Garden Expedition

Young ecologists will investigate trees, leaves, prairie plants, and aquatic creatures, discovering all that the natural world of Illinois has to offer. They'll learn how to preserve these wonders for future generations.

June 15 – 19, 9:30 a.m. – noon

August 10 – 14, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Habitat Hunters

Habitat Hunters will explore the different habitats the Garden has to offer, learn how to track animals, and make a habitat for one of the creatures that live here.

June 22 – 26, 9:30 a.m. – noon

July 13 – 17, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

August 10 – 14, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Hidden Treasures

Campers will use a map to find their way, create a treasure chest, and dig up a treasure to keep. They'll also bring home a plant with a hidden treasure to share.

June 15 – 19, 9:30 a.m. – noon

July 20 – 24, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

August 10 – 14, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Mad Scientists

Young explorers wonder how fireflies glow, why leaves change, whether fish sleep, or just why. They'll find these answers and many more as they become not-so-mad scientists.

July 13 – 17, 9:30 a.m. – noon

August 3 – 7, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Nature Art

Explore all the ways to make art from nature. Green Sprouts will use the sun's power to make prints and dyes, use clay for sculpture, and become inspired by flowers with watercolor or painting.

June 15 – 19, 12:30 – 3 p.m.
July 6 – 10, 9:30 a.m. – noon
August 3 – 7, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Salad Science

We eat parts of plants every day. Young food scientists will explore the Garden to discover how foods grow. We'll discover how plants change the sun's energy into energy for our bodies, prepare our own snacks, and plant a salad to take home.

July 13 – 17, 9:30 a.m. – noon
August 3 – 7, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Sprouting Wizards

Kids become science wizards as they explore basic chemistry and the properties of solids, liquids, and gases through experimentation. No need to bring magic wands...we'll make our own.

June 22 – 26, 12:30 – 3 p.m.
July 27 – 31, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Super Seedlings

Campers will dig, plant, water, weed, and sow in the Garden. Working together, they'll create a garden, practice seed dissection, and become true gardeners.

June 22 – 26, 9:30 a.m. – noon
July 20 – 24, 9:30 a.m. – noon
July 27 – 31, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Green Thumbs

Grades 1–2

Most children are 6 or 7

\$176/\$220 per child per camp | [Learning Campus](#)
Monday through Friday, dates and times as noted below

Art in the Garden

Green Thumbs discover different natural artistic styles while they explore the Garden. They'll sculpt with clay, make plant dyes, and create their own paper.

June 15 – 19, 9:30 a.m. – noon
July 6 – 10, 12:30 – 3 p.m.
August 3 – 7, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

New! Digging into Math

Campers will search for numbers and shapes in nature in this STEM-focused camp. Each day's activities will unveil mathematical patterns in the world around us.

August 3 – 7, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Expert Wizardry

Young wizards will discover the magic of science as they create strange potions and perform unbelievable experiments while learning basic chemistry. No book of spells necessary—we'll make our own.

June 22 – 26, 9:30 a.m. – noon
July 27 – 31, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Explore Your World

Curious campers will learn about the natural world through guided exploration and discovery by visiting the many habitats at the Garden. They'll also learn how to help preserve these habitats.

July 20 – 24, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Grossology

Campers will uncover the science behind "gross" things around and inside them as they explore slimy and smelly natural phenomena. They'll use their observation skills along with scientific tools.

June 15 – 19, 9:30 a.m. – noon
July 13 – 17, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Incredible Edibles

Young chefs will explore the Garden with their taste buds and find out how plants turn the sun's energy into fuel for our bodies. We'll explore how we eat plant parts every day, harvest food grown in the Outdoor Classroom, make our own tasty snacks, and plant a vegetable garden to take home.

July 13 – 17, 9:30 a.m. – noon
August 3 – 7, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Insect investigation

Bug lovers, unite! Green Thumbs will search for insect homes, make insect display cases, and create insect-vision glasses to take home.

July 6 – 10, 9:30 a.m. – noon
July 27 – 31, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Kinetic Kids

Budding physicists will discover cool science tricks, explore the laws of motion, and perform physical science experiments with toys.

July 6 – 10, 9:30 a.m. – noon
July 20 – 24, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Plant People

Young horticulturists will explore the fascinating life cycle of plants with plenty of opportunity for scientific discovery, hands-on experiments, and garden cultivation.

June 22 – 26, 9:30 a.m. – noon
July 27 – 31, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Treasure Hunt

Campers will develop map-reading skills, use compasses, and discover how archaeologists excavate sites. They will create a hidden treasure map and find secret plant treasures too.

June 15 – 19, 12:30 – 3 p.m.
July 20 – 24, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Wildlife Wanderers

Junior ecologists will study creatures on the ground, in the air, and in the water. Create a science kit, plant a terrarium, identify trees and animal tracks, and record everything in your journal.

June 22 – 26, 12:30 – 3 p.m.
July 13 – 17, 9:30 a.m. – noon



Explorers

Grades 3 – 4

Most children are 8 or 9

\$176/\$220 per child per camp | Learning Campus

Monday through Friday, dates and times as noted below

Engineering Investigations

Campers will design solutions to different engineering problems every day. We will build towers, work with water, investigate flight, and wrap up with a day of STEM challenges.

June 15 – 19, 9:30 a.m. – noon

July 20 – 24, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Garden Photography

Campers will discover how the art of photography has been inspired by nature. Focusing on the work of famous photographers, campers will learn composition and framing while taking photos around the Garden with digital cameras.

July 13 – 17, 9:30 a.m. – noon

July 27 – 31, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Forensic Files

This year's all-new mystery will require young CSI team members to try investigative techniques used by the pros to help us get to the bottom of this summer's hot case.

June 15 – 19, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

July 27 – 31, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Garden Caching

A new Garden adventure awaits. Explorers will search for hidden caches using compasses, maps, and GPS as they learn the etiquette of geocaching. They'll also create a cache for others to find.

July 20 – 24, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Garden Spa

Create plant-based products for yourself and your home. Campers will make their own soap and lip balm, discover how herbs and essential oils can make soothing sachets or potpourri, and make their own tea blend.

July 6 – 10, 9:30 a.m. – noon

August 10 – 14, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Konnichiwa Japan

It's time for immersion in Japanese culture as we explore Sansho-En, learn the art of bonsai, create sushi-inspired snacks, discover the art of calligraphy, and visit the Shoin House.

June 22 – 26, 9:30 a.m. – noon

July 6 – 10, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Making Art Supplies

Art-inspired campers will make their own materials to create masterpieces. This hands-on experience will include paper-making, chalk and chalkboards, watercolors, stencils, ink, and more.

June 22 – 26, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

August 10 – 14, 9:30 a.m. – noon

New! Math Mysteries in the Garden

Campers will discover the amazing mathematical patterns found in nature—spider webs, honeycombs, sunflowers, and more. They'll learn the science and math behind the beauty as they explore the Garden.

August 3 – 7, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Surviving Outdoors

Explorers will discover the secrets pioneers used to find water, make a collection of safe and useful plants, create a shelter, and learn how to predict weather and storms.

July 13 – 17, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

August 3 – 7, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Rovers

Grades 2 – 4

Most children are ages 7, 8, or 9

Campers will experience the most the Garden has to offer in these two-week, full-day camp sessions. Pack a water bottle, nut-free lunch, and snack daily.

\$720/\$900 per child per camp | Learning Campus

Dates and times as noted below

Create & Grow

Does your child enjoy the arts? Campers will explore the Garden with art, music, cooking, yoga, and planting activities that encourage creative multimedia expression. Spend two weeks of your summer being inspired by the Garden.

July 6 – 17, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

August 3 – 14, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Science Explorer

Explorers will investigate plant, animal, and human adaptations while utilizing the scientific process. Ecology, botany, physics plus chemistry equals a whole lot of fun in this exciting two-week camp.

June 15 – 26, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

July 20 – 31, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Adventurers

Grades 5 – 7

Most children are 10 to 12

\$360/\$450 per child per camp | Learning Campus

Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Pack a water bottle, nut-free lunch, and snack daily.

Art

Gathering inspiration from the Garden, campers will use a variety of media to develop their photography, sculpture, and drawing skills and create their own brilliant works of art. They will explore the use of natural materials and learn various techniques used by professional artists.

July 6 – 10, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

August 3 – 7, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Botany

Explore the fascinating world of green plants. Examine plants under a microscope, measure the oxygen they produce, and perform experiments to understand the inner workings of plants and why they are essential for our survival.

July 13 – 17, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

August 10 – 14, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Chemistry

Who knew chemistry could be so cool? Adventurers will investigate the basic principles of chemistry and chemical reactions. Campers will perform simple experiments to learn about acid and base reactions, improve their laboratory skills, and find out what it takes to be a scientist.

June 15 – 19, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

July 27 – 31, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ecology

Adventurers will discover what naturalists and ecologists do at the Garden as they explore prairie, wetland, and woodland habitats. They will perform field observations, test water quality, and learn to identify plants and animals as they get to know the local flora and fauna better.

June 22 – 26, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

July 20 – 24, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Leaders in Training

Grades 8 – 10

Ages 13 – 15

The Leaders in Training (LIT) enrichment program builds leadership skills that are essential for success in high school, college, and career. Each LIT spends two weeks assisting with Camp CBG in the morning and working on 21st-century life skills in the afternoon. Students apply for this opportunity in winter and then interview for a position. Students who are accepted must attend a mandatory training session in June prior to their summer session. For an application and more information, please contact the camp manager at (847) 835-8361.

\$420 | Learning Campus

ITW Kitchen Camps

Cooking campers will cook up something good each day in the teaching kitchen. Each camp below focuses on vegetables and fruits harvested from the Garden (when available) and healthy recipes. Camp tuition includes materials fee.

Please note: We will make every attempt to accommodate participants with food allergies by substituting alternative ingredients as needed, however, our kitchen is not certified gluten-free and it is not kosher. Kindly consider your child's needs before enrolling in any camp involving cooking and food.

Cooking A – Z

Grades 1 – 3

Most children are 6 to 8

The kitchen challenge this week is to make recipes that use ingredients that start with every letter of the alphabet. Campers will make a new recipe every day, and bring home an A – Z recipe book at the end of the week.

\$188/\$235 per child per camp | ITW Kitchen, Learning Campus

Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. – noon

July 6 – 10

July 27 – 31

Botany in the Kitchen

Grades 3 – 4

Most children are 8 or 9

This new full-day camp allows young chefs to spend more time in the kitchen. Campers will review kitchen safety, learn how to properly hold a knife and chop, cook savory and sweet muffins, create homemade spaghetti sauce, and more. Pack a nut-free lunch that does not require refrigeration.

\$384/\$480 per child per camp | ITW Kitchen, Learning Campus

Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

June 15 – 19

July 13 – 17

August 3 – 7

Cuisine

Grades 5 – 7

Most children are 10 to 12

Campers will discuss menu techniques and preparation; learn principles of cooking with fruits, vegetables, and grains; improve knife-handling skills; and learn the importance of kitchen safety, setting a table, plating dishes, and creating a healthy meal. Pack a nut-free lunch that does not require refrigeration.

\$384/\$480 per child per camp | ITW Kitchen, Learning Campus

Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

June 22 – 26

July 20 – 24

August 10 – 14



Other Camp Programs

Before-Camp Care

Grades preK to 7 (ages 4 – 13)

Supervised care includes games, art projects, and gardening. More information is available on the Camp CBG webpage.

\$53 per week per camper | Learning Campus
June 15 – August 14
7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch

Grades preK to 7 (ages 4 – 13)

Camp CBG offers a supervised lunch period for Green Sprouts, Green Thumbs, and Explorers campers attending morning and afternoon camps. Camp staff supervises the lunch and escorts campers to their afternoon sessions. Pack a nut-free lunch that does not require refrigeration.

\$10 per child per week | Learning Campus
June 15 – August 14
Noon – 12:30 p.m.

After-Camp Care

Grades preK to 7 (ages 4 – 13)

Supervised care includes games, art projects, and gardening. More information is available on the Camp CBG webpage.

\$66 per week per camper | Learning Campus
June 15 – August 14
3 – 5:30 p.m.

No member discount for Lunch Bunch or Before- or After-Camp Care.

Camp CBG Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made by May 31 will be refunded at 75 percent of the total fee. Transfers will be granted until May 31 at no cost. Registration fees are nontransferable after that date.



Camp CBG Schedule

		Week 1 June 15 – 19	Week 2 June 22 – 26	6/29-7/3 NO CAMP	Week 3 July 6 – 10	Week 4 July 13 – 17	Week 5 July 20 – 24	Week 6 July 27 – 31	Week 7 August 3 – 7	Week 8 August 10 – 14	
Ages 2-3 My First Camp		10 – 11 a.m.	Flower Power	Wonderful Water	NO CAMP	Sticks & Stones	Muddy Buddies	Muddy Buddies	Sticks & Stones	Wonderful Water	Flower Power
Grades PreK-K Green Sprouts		9:30 a.m.–noon 9:30 a.m.–noon 12:30–3 p.m.	Hidden Treasures Garden Expedition Nature Art	Habitat Hunters Super Seedlings Sprouting Wizards	NO CAMP NO CAMP NO CAMP	Nature Art Fun with Physics Bug Brigade	Mad Scientists Salad Science Habitat Hunters	Fun with Physics Super Seedlings Hidden Treasures	Sprouting Wizards Bug Brigade Super Seedlings	Nature Art Mad Scientists Salad Science	Hidden Treasures Garden Expedition Habitat Hunters
Grades 1-2 Green Thumbs		9:30 a.m.–noon 9:30 a.m.–noon 12:30–3 p.m.	Art in the Garden Grossology Treasure Hunt	Expert Wizardry Plant People Wildlife Wanderers	NO CAMP NO CAMP NO CAMP	Insect Investigation Kinetic Kids Art in the Garden	Wildlife Wanderers Incredible Edibles Grossology	Treasure Hunt Explore Your World Kinetic Kids	Plant People Insect Investigation Expert Wizardry	Digging into Math Incredible Edibles Art in the Garden	August Adventure Camp Grades 1-4 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Grades 3-4 Explorers		9:30 a.m.–noon 12:30–3 p.m.	Engineering Investigation Forensic Files	Konnichiwa Japan Making Art Supplies	NO CAMP NO CAMP	Garden Spa Konnichiwa Japan	Garden Photography Surviving Outdoors	Garden Caching Engineering Investigation	Forensic Files Garden Photography	Surviving Outdoors Math Mysteries	Making Art Supplies Garden Spa
Grades 2-4 Rovers		Full Day Two Week 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.	Science Explorer		NO CAMP	Create & Grow		Science Explorer	Create & Grow		
Grades 5-7 Adventurers		9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.	Chemistry	Ecology	NO CAMP	Art	Botany	Ecology	Chemistry	Art	Botany
ITW Kitchen			Botany in the Kitchen 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.	Cuisine 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.	NO CAMP	Cooking A-Z 9:30 a.m.–noon	Botany in the Kitchen 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.	Cuisine 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.	Cooking A-Z 9:30 a.m.–noon	Botany in the Kitchen 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.	Cuisine 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.