



Germantown Academy
Day Camp & Summer Programs

Week 1 All Camp Newsletter

*See below for a recap of what we've been up to this week,
and visit [SmugMug](#) for more photos!*

DAY CAMP

Director: Dan Stahl



There is a level of magic that happens every year here at Germantown Academy. As I watch the campus transform and ready itself for the upcoming summer, I can't help but think about the amazing memories that are about to be made. Imagine a place where you can canoe and explore nature, paint and dance to the rhythms of music, ride a zip line, and play new and exciting games. There is something special in the air during that first week of camp. An anxious energy of fun to be had and friendships to be created. We are so excited to have your camper join us this year to paint, complete a challenge course, paddle a canoe, or code a robot. Our counselors and activity staff provide high-quality programming that keeps your campers engaged, challenged, active, and having a ton of fun.



One reason that I love camp is that camp is a place for children to take safe risks, and we see it as our mission to create an environment where they feel supported and encouraged to do so. If you haven't yet, go ahead and ask your camper what they've done for the first time this summer, in just one week. You may be surprised!

New Camp Activities:

This year we have a couple of new camp activities in store. STEM combines the best from science, technology, engineering, and math in fun and engaging activities. Just this week, campers were completing a video scavenger hunt and creating a candy catapult! Our literacy activity is continuing to





foster a love for reading through activities and design challenges. In our Community activity, campers prepared birdseed ornaments and discussed the importance of bumblebees. They even had the chance to visit our on-campus hives!



Field Trip Recap: Elmwood Park Zoo

Wednesday is our Trip Day at Day Camp. Right after our morning meeting, campers dropped off their lunches and boarded 4 yellow school buses with their troop counselors and Activity Directors. Where were we headed? The Elmwood Park Zoo! This little gem, nestled in suburban Norristown, was our destination. This trip fits in so well with our Jungle theme this week. When we entered the zoo, each troop split up between the counselors and Activity Directors to walk around and see the exhibits. We saw capybaras, jaguars, otters, and all sorts of amphibians, reptiles, and birds. Ask your camper what s/he liked most! Some of us were lucky enough to see the feeding of some of the creatures. We returned to the buses for the short trip back to camp and immediately had our own lunches! So we all got to see the feeding of the hungry blue shirted GA Camper and the rarer red shirted counselor.

Week 2 Sneak Peek

Next week we will kick off Survivor Week, a week filled with fun contests and prizes! Pathfinder campers will be traveling to Jumping Jacks next Wednesday, where they will bounce to their hearts delight! Trailblazers will travel to Get Air KOP for a jumping good time! Parents please fill out the online waiver here:

<https://kop.getairmanagement.com/Waiver2.html>

Camp Reminders

- The answers to many of your questions are on our camp website, under the “For Parents” menu. Head to gacamp.org for the Camp Handbook, Drop-off/Pick-up Maps, to Change your Camper’s Schedule, Add/Remove Authorized Drivers, and much more. You can also bookmark the [mobile version](#) of our camp website to access these forms more easily.
- The campers move around a lot and have a very busy and full day! Therefore, please send them in sneakers (not flip-flops or sandals), and remember to pack a water bottle and bathing suit and apply sunscreen before arrival each day. Also, since their schedule is so jam-packed, there is no need for cell phones or other electronics during the day. If your child brings these items, please be aware they will be required to keep them in their bags. Thanks for your cooperation!
- Photos will be posted by the end of each week on [SmugMug](#). We are also on [Instagram](#) if you’d like to follow us there! Plus, give us a ‘Like’ on [Facebook](#) to keep up with exclusive content.
- Germantown Academy’s new security measures require us to ID every driver at pick-up. Please make sure the person picking up your camper is on your list of authorized drivers. Please understand that these measures are in place for your children’s safety, and we appreciate your cooperation by remembering to bring ID every day and having it readily available when you pull into the pick-up area.

ITTY BITTYS and ADVENTURERS

Sports and Games and Wilderness with Carson

The campers had a great first week in Sports/Games and Wilderness. The Itty Bitty group played sharks and minnows, duck duck goose, red light green light, and parachute games. The older groups played soccer, hockey, and sharks and minnows. The older campers also went to the creek to play and catch minnows. I hope everyone has a great weekend, and is excited for week two!

STEM with Ms. Kelsey

Hi! I am excited to be teaching STEM this summer! This week’s theme was *Welcome to the Jungle*, and to go along with that, we worked on building bridges with Unifix Cubes and Popsicle sticks. We had to work together to get the bears to the other side without falling off or our bridges collapsing!

Art and Snacktivity with Ms. Kelly

In art this week, we used what we learned about camouflage to make safari gear! We painted hats, decorated animal print binoculars, and created lion or elephant masks, Our specialty camp also made rain sticks using sticks and rice! Then we used some of our projects on a “safari trip” outside. It was a very messy and exciting week in art!

For snacktivity this week we used the jungle theme! We put our favorite toppings on top of a bagel to make a mini monkey face.

Itty Bitty 1

Katie, Sandy, Chloe



Welcome to Itty Bitty 1 Camp! To kick off our first week of Camp, our theme is *Welcome to the Jungle!* We started off with a fun sing-along and music time with Ms. Arlyn. We also had a visit from the Elmwood Park Zoo. They came to our camp to show us some animal friends! During science this week, we made habitats using different materials for our animals and for Art, we made Safari hats and binoculars with Ms. Kelly. We went on an adventure outside to explore and search for animals in the jungle! Our campers have also had a BLAST with swimming and water play. It has been a great first week of camp and we are looking forward to the upcoming weeks together!

Itty Bitty 2

Sam and Imani

Itty Bitty 2 had a great first week. We loved going to the pool and playing in the sprinkler. We also enjoyed playing duck, duck goose and swim fishies swim with Mr. Carson. We were bakers and made Monster Cookie Balls with Ms. Kelsey during cooking this week. We learned about a screech owl, a hedgehog and a turtle when the Elmwood Park Zoo visited. We also made a bridge for safari animals using cups, popsicle sticks and a block. We were able to fit 17 animals on our bridge!

Adventurer 4's Kelsey, Emma and Anna

Summer is off to a great and busy start! We have been improving on our swimming every day with our kicks and floating. On Monday morning we had music with Ms. Arlyn and jumped around in the Bounce House. In the afternoon we had Wilderness with Mr. Carson and walked to the creek where we looked for bugs and practiced skipping rocks. On Tuesday we had Art with Ms. Kelly and made Safari Hats and binoculars. We used our binoculars to go out in the garden and look for "wild animals!" In the afternoon we played Sports & Games with Mr. Carson where we had a fun soccer game! Wednesday morning we had an adventurous time at the Elmwood Park Zoo. After we returned and had lunch we made a yummy snackivity. Thursday, we had STEM with Ms. Kelsey, we made bridges with Legos and popsicle sticks and had to get the animals across. In the afternoon we had a fun time cooling down from the heat at water play. On Friday, we had Art with Ms. Kelly and science. In the afternoon we had a fun time with Mr. Carson at Sports & Games!



Adventurer 5's Eilis and Abbie

We had an awesome start to the week meeting all our new friends! We loved swimming in the pool and playing in the water slide to cool off from the heat. We saw some fish in the creek and skipped some rocks to the other side. The zoo was incredible! We saw fox, jaguars, an alligator as well as many other animals, but the playground was still our favorite! Thanks for a great week!

Nature Explorers Jacqui and Kait

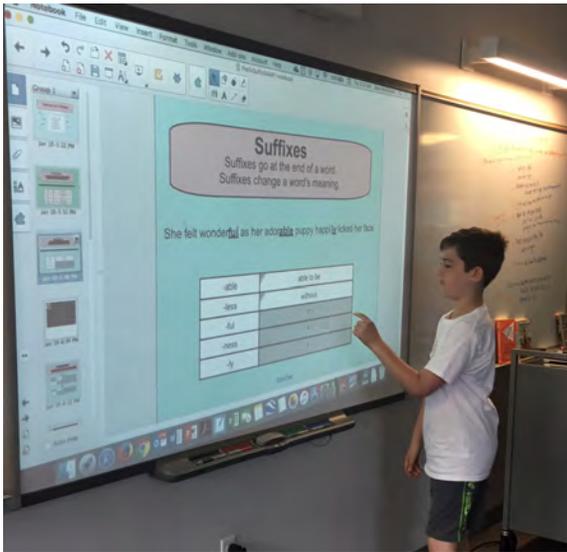
The Nature Explorers had a great and busy week exploring every inch of nature we could find! We visited (and swam in) the creek and enjoyed using nets to catch small fish. We met a frog and some bigger fish at The Preserve. We went on a nature walk and crossed some really cool bridges and saw a lot of bugs and fallen trees. We collected nature items and used them to make art and on Friday we went fishing with Carson! The Nature Explorers were always on the move this week and we had a lot of fun learning about nature!

SPECIALTY CAMPS

Gene Smashers

Counselor: Becky

This week in Gene Smashers, we focused on biotechnology by experimenting with a mystery organism (yeast!) and observing and testing the process of fermentation by making homemade root beer. We explored proteases enzymes that are found in laundry detergent and used to make cheese, and collected soil samples from campus in search of the enzyme amylase, which helps digest starch. Finally, we introduced the concept of gel electrophoresis, separating mixtures of dyes, as well as extracted DNA from kiwis and bananas. It was a great week!



Study Skills Junior

Counselor: Ellen

It has been such a productive and enriching week for the super students who were actively engaged in this course. With an excellent student/teacher ratio, they received lots of one-on-one attention. Students got to know themselves better as learners, and discovered their own personal learning styles. We explored whether we were “right brain” or “left brain” and what that indicates about us.



Kids Kitchen

Counselors: Carol, Zoe and Jane

The Executive Chefs rolled up their sleeves and got messy as they made ravioli and biscuit dough from scratch. We discussed the similarities of food around the world from Asia, Europe and North America. Each day we cooked food from a different culture. We had lots of fun and tasty food that you can now try at home!

SPORTS

Field Hockey



Coach Magerman and Coach Watson are back for another year, and there were 50 players looking to improve their game. Field Hockey week continues to be a great week with daily themes (like crazy hair day) and no shortage of afternoon prizes. Each day, the players continue to work on their dribbling, passing, and shooting skills. Then, in the afternoon, the players are able to apply these skills during games.

Basketball



Boys basketball camp continues to be one of the biggest sports camps of the summer. Each day Coach Fenerty and Coach Caramanico have the boys improving their shooting, dribbling, and passing skills. These skills are constantly on display during the afternoon games. The player contest to pick the correct draft order continues to be a fan favorite, and the air conditioning in the Annex is always a plus.

Thanks for a great week!