

## Local nonprofits step in to make summer camps more affordable

By Laura Anders Lee

**F**or kids, summer is a long-awaited break, but for many parents, it can be a source of stress. Between searching for affordable activities and securing spots before they fill up, the season can be a logistical and financial juggling act.

Costs are up across nearly every category, including food, staffing and transportation, according to the American Camp Association, which represents more than 10,000 camps nationwide. The average accredited ACA day camp now charges \$435 a week, while overnight

camps average \$3,000 a week.

According to a 2025 LendingTree report, two out of three families struggle to afford summer activities. And with inflation and demand rising steadily since 2020, sending kids to camp can feel more out of reach than ever.

Many Richmond organizations are helping to ease the financial burden by offering affordable, discounted and even free summer programs.

### MORE THAN CHILD CARE

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond offer nine-week summer day camps at no cost for rising sixth through 12th

graders, with hours designed to accommodate parents with full-time jobs. Registration opens in April, and spots typically fill up by May.

"It brings me a lot of pride to be able to say that all of our after-school and summer programs are free," says Katie Rhodes, vice president of advancement. "We don't have a financial threshold, so as long as you're in our age range, you have access to all our programs."

Last summer, local Boys & Girls Clubs served nearly 500 youth with a broad array of programs focusing on mindfulness, mentoring, creativity, leadership and STEM. One popular offering, Elite

Gaming, engaged students in competitive play while introducing them to possible careers in gaming.

"Everything is grounded in life and career readiness, whether it's exposing youth to a new subject area or helping them get an internship," Rhodes says.

Students enrolled in the seven area clubs reported positive results—91% indicated their program made them more aware of possible careers, and 100% were confident they would graduate high school. They also reported developing new relationships, better managing their emotions, and choosing to do the right thing.

The largest child care provider in the area, YMCA of Greater Richmond offers 10 day camps for school-aged children and a half-day preschool summer program, as well as Camp Thunderbird, a regional day camp near Pocahontas State Park. There, participants enjoy amenities typically found at an overnight offering but with day program prices.

"We've got a great backdrop with a lake, outdoor pool, alpine tower, zip line and archery," says Josh Green, vice president of youth development operations. "It's a really cool experience."

The cost to attend Camp Thunderbird is \$319 a week for nonmembers and \$285 for YMCA members. The YMCA provides snacks and transportation to and from camp, but campers bring their own lunches to keep additional costs down.

"We never want finances to get in the way of a traditional summer camp experience," Green says. "At each of our locations, we offer financial assistance based

on income that can range from 50% to up to 90% in special circumstances."

### A GROUP EFFORT

Other nonprofits around the area also offer financial assistance for summer programming. Founded in 1981, the School of the Performing Arts in the Richmond Community (SPARC) runs one and two-week camps that culminate in performances. Up to one-third of program participants receive scholarships, with aid covering 25% to 95% of tuition based on a sliding income scale.

The Steward School, a PK-12 private school in Henrico County, offers more than 150 full-day and half-day camps that are open to the public. Subjects include baking, sports, Lego engineering, podcasting and outdoor survival. Chuck Robinson, Steward's director of auxiliary programs, says the school aims to make its Summer Experience as accessible as possible by offering flexible payment plans, discounts for returning campers and pro-rated fees for shortened days.

For children ages 2 1/2 to 13, Maymont offers 48 different week-long camp sessions covering outdoor exploration and history at its estate, nature park and museums. "Thanks to our generous donors, we're able to offer a number of scholarships for each session to families of children who attend Title 1 schools," says Melissa Abernathy, communications manager.

The United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg reports the cost of child care in Richmond often exceeds \$1,000



Girls in Gear's Camp GIG, a partner of NextUp

per month, per child. Through its WomenRise program, the United Way provides financial assistance for child care and summer programs to eligible single mothers who are taking classes toward a post-secondary degree or credential.

About 150 local youth organizations benefit from NextUp, a nonprofit organization that manages the City of Richmond's Positive Youth Development initiative. In 2025, NextUp allocated more than \$510,000 to 40 organizations, allowing qualified youth ages 11 to 19 to attend summer programs for free. Recipients last year included The A.C.E. Sports Academy, ART 180, the Boys & Girls Clubs, Girls for a Change, Virginia Outside, and the Youth Braid and Business Academy, just to name a few.

While summer camps appeal to a wide range of interests and budgets, parents agree on one thing: High-quality programs deliver big benefits. Children build friendships, discover new hobbies and talents, and develop skills they carry into the school year. ■



YMCA's Camp Thunderbird

### MONEY-SAVING TIPS

1. Apply for scholarships.
2. Look for early-bird rates.
3. Become a member to pay a discounted rate.
4. Avoid paying for unused days.
5. Enroll in half-day programs if your schedule allows.
6. Ask about sliding scale pricing and payment plans.
7. Check for sibling or employee discounts.



# OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

From history programming to nature adventures, regional parks and rec departments offer camps for all

By Adam Cheek

**T**he region's parks and recreation departments provide a variety of affordable options so every child can experience an enriching summer vacation.

## CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

"Campers get a wide variety of adventures and programs to enrich their summer and keep them engaged, so learning and friendships continue to grow while summer fun is maximized," says Shelly Goodman, marketing and communications supervisor at Chesterfield Parks and Recreation.

**Fun in the Sun**, a day camp for kids ages 5-12, is among Chesterfield's many offerings. It's hosted three times each summer at six county locations; each two-week session costs \$150. Also scheduled are four historical programs for ages 6-12 at Henricus Historical Park and an arts, movement and music camp for adults 18 and up who have disabilities. **Camp Red Tail Hawk** is a popular nature camp for kids ages 8-10. Registration begins April 20 at [chesterfield.gov/parks](http://chesterfield.gov/parks).

## HANOVER COUNTY

Hanover County's programs "are led by department staff and contracted instructors in order to offer the most diversity on subject matter," says Marcy Durrer, the county's deputy director of recreation services. She noted that partial and full-day options will be offered for school-age children, but additional details were not available at press time. Registration opens March 1 at [hanoverparksrec.com](http://hanoverparksrec.com).

## HENRICO COUNTY


Henrico Recreation & Parks will host "**Let's Grow, Henrico!**" a free camp for the county's rising first through seventh graders, from June 22 to July 30. "Camp participants will 'grow' by playing, creating and laughing in a safe and enriching space," says Pam Kempf, media manager for the department. Three sessions will last two weeks each. Registration opened Feb. 17 at [henrico.gov/rec](http://henrico.gov/rec).

## NEW KENT COUNTY

New Kent County's popular **Summer Recreation Camp** runs June 15 to July 31

at Quinton Elementary School. The full-day camp keeps kids busy with activities, themed weeks and field trips. It's open to rising first through fifth graders; rising sixth-grade students will be considered. The fee is \$125 per week (subject to change). New Kent also offers one- or two-day mini-camps from June 1 to Aug. 21 for rising first through fifth graders (cost to be determined) as well as various sports camps. Registration opens in early March at [newkent-va.us/307/parks-recreation](http://newkent-va.us/307/parks-recreation). Contact [nkpr@newkent-va.us](mailto:nkpr@newkent-va.us) to request a sliding fee scale.

## CITY OF RICHMOND

Richmond's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities offers various summer camps for children ages 6 to 17. "These camps are designed to keep children and teens active, engaged and learning through the summer months, often with options in arts, outdoor adventures and general day-camp fun," says Tamara Jenkins, the department's public information manager. Registration opened in mid-February at [go.rva.gov/rvaparksreg](http://go.rva.gov/rvaparksreg). 

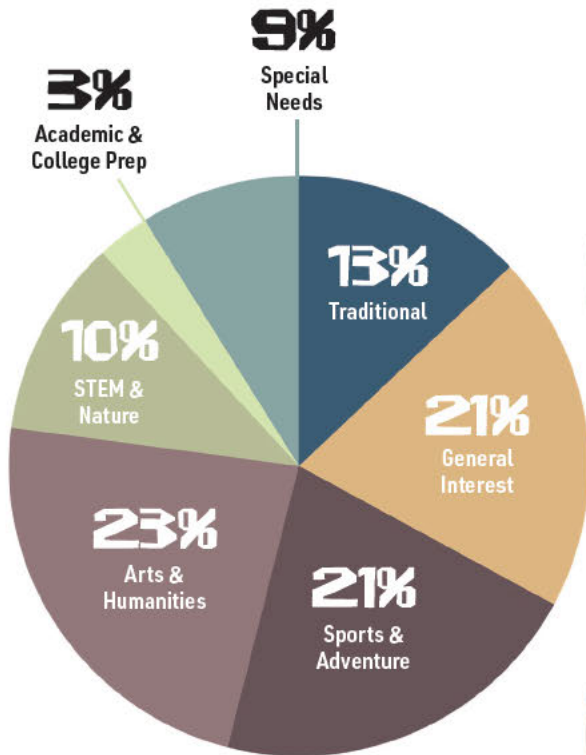
# BY THE NUMBERS

## Key stats for summer planning

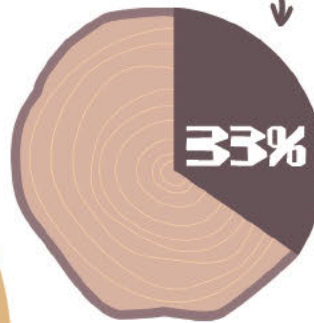
Compiled by Kelsey Robinson

### CAMPS BY SUBJECT

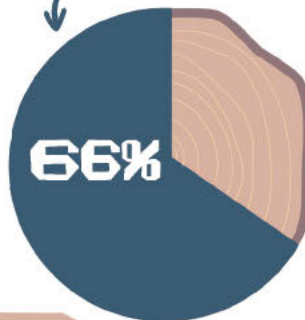
In the Richmond region



Percentage of parents who enroll their kids in a day camp as a summer care solution  
source: LendingTree



Percentage of parents who struggle to afford summer child care  
source: LendingTree



**\$3,000** Average weekly cost of an American Camp Association-accredited overnight camp

Average weekly cost for an ACA-accredited day camp **\$435**

**\$125** Highest cost per week of a parks and recreation department camp in the Richmond region (at press time)

### PACKING LIST

Tips for taking just enough – but not too much – to summer camp

- **TIP 1**  
Review the camp's packing policies! Some items, such as electronics or snacks, might not be allowed, while certain types of equipment might be encouraged, depending on the location or activities.
- **TIP 2**  
Label all of your child's items, including clothes, gear and toiletries, with their name, and give them a small bag or container to help them keep track of their stuff.
- **TIP 3**  
Break in new shoes and boots before camp starts, especially if they'll be outdoors. And don't let them get caught outside without a raincoat!
- **TIP 4**  
Leave your child's favorite items and valuables at home to ensure they don't get lost or damaged.
- **TIP 5**  
Remember the small comforts, like a stuffed animal or a cozy pillow. For overnight camps, consider packing pre-labeled stationery so your child can write letters home. –KR

**29** Camps in the Richmond region that offer a residential or overnight option

KYLE TALLEY / ADOBE STOCK

# SUMMER CAMPS

A sampling of day and overnight camps within driving distance of Richmond

\* = Residential camp or overnight option offered

## TRADITIONAL

### \*4-H Junior Summer Camp

Weeklong residential camp at the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center offering archery, swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, and more. Ages 9-13. [jamestown4hcenter.org](http://jamestown4hcenter.org)

### \*Camp Carysbrook

Virginia's oldest overnight camp for girls features horseback riding, archery, rock climbing and caving. One- to seven-week sessions. Ages 6-16. 3500 Camp Carysbrook Road, Riner; 540-382-1670; [campcarysbrook.com](http://campcarysbrook.com)

### \*Camp Friendship

Coed residential camp featuring sports clinics, equestrian program and field trips. Ages 7-16. 573 Friendship Way, Palmyra; 434-589-8950; [campfriendship.com](http://campfriendship.com)

### \*Camp Hanover

Day and overnight sessions with a Christian focus. Grades rising 2-12. 3163 Parsleys Mill Road, Mechanicsville; 804-779-2811; [camphanover.org](http://camphanover.org)

### \*Camp Hilbert

From the morning flagpole assembly to canoeing on beautiful Lake Rosalie, campers enjoy a range of activities led by trained specialists. Grades K-8. 2240 Maidens Road, Goochland; 804-545-8612; [weinsteijncc.org](http://weinsteijncc.org)

### \*Camp Horizons

Coed residential camp featuring traditional outdoor activities, equestrian and adventure specialty camps. Ages 6-17. 3586 Horizons Way, Harrisonburg; 540-896-7600; [camphorizonsva.com](http://camphorizonsva.com)

### \*Camp Maxwellton (boys) and Camp Lachlan (girls)

Residential Christian summer camps featuring swimming, horseback riding, riflery, arts and crafts, sports, and more. Boys ages 9-15 and girls ages 8-15. 1629 Walkers Creek Road, Rockbridge Baths; 540-460-0522; [maxwelton-lachlan.com](http://maxwelton-lachlan.com)

### \*Camp Mont Shenandoah

Traditional residential summer camp experience for girls. One six-week session and two three-week sessions for older campers, and a one-week introductory session for younger campers. Ages 7-16. 218 Mont Shenandoah Lane, Millboro Springs; 540-997-5994; [campmontshenandoah.com](http://campmontshenandoah.com)

### Cub Scout Day Camp

Traditional day camp for Cub Scouts and their siblings. Activities include archery, fishing and more. Grades 1-5. Multiple locations in the Richmond-Petersburg area; 804-355-4306; [hovc.org](http://hovc.org)

### \*Oak Hill Christian Service Camp

A fun, safe residential camp experience with a Christian focus. Grades K-12. 8451 Oak Hill Camp Road, Mechanicsville; 804-779-3050; [oakhillchristiancamp.org](http://oakhillchristiancamp.org)



YMCA's Camp Thunderbird

### \*Shrine Mont Summer Camps

Individual camp programs include sports, music, art, drama and outdoor/overnight skills training. Ages 8-18. 217 Shrine Mont Circle, Orkney Springs; 804-643-8451, ext. 1052; [shrinemontcamps.org](http://shrinemontcamps.org)

### \*Westview on the James

Methodist overnight summer camps, including an Adventure Trek program for teens. Ages 7-16. 1231 Westview Road, Goochland; 804-457-4210; [westviewonthejames.org](http://westviewonthejames.org)

### YMCA Camp Thunderbird

Music, zip lining, boating and more. The Every Buddy program is available for children with diverse abilities. Ages 8-16. 9300 Shawonodasee Road, Chesterfield; 804-748-6714; [ymcarichmond.org](http://ymcarichmond.org)

## GENERAL INTEREST

### Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond

Seven locations across the region. Check local clubs for summer program details. [bgcmr.org](http://bgcmr.org)

### Brilliant Summer at St. Catherine's

Coed summer programs in the arts, athletics, academics, STEM and more. Half-day and full-day sessions, plus extended day and lunch. Ages 4 to rising 12th grade. 6001 Grove Ave.; 804-888-7401; [st.catherines.org](http://st.catherines.org)

### Camp Blue Sky

Day camp programs with STEM activities, outdoor exploration, field trips and more. Grades K-5. Five area locations; 804-747-5900; [leafspringschool.com](http://leafspringschool.com)

### Camp Ganim

Day camp with opportunities to interact with nature, plus swimming, music and art. Ages 2-5. 5403 Monument Ave.; 804-285-6500; [weinsteijncc.org](http://weinsteijncc.org)

### Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation

Camps focused on nature, history, therapeutic recreation and traditional outdoor activities. Ages 5-15. 804-748-1623; [chesterfield.gov/parks](http://chesterfield.gov/parks)

### Collegiate Summer Quest

More than 200 camps encompassing art, dance, coding, foreign languages, cooking, STEM and more. Grades JK-12. 103 N. Mooreland Road; 804-665-1750; [collegiate-va.org](http://collegiate-va.org)

### Hanover County Parks and Recreation

Staff-led camps including crafts, sports and games. Elementary and middle-school students. 804-365-7150; [hanovercounty.gov](http://hanovercounty.gov)

### Henrico County Recreation and Parks

Programs in performing arts, visual arts and nature, as well as sports camps. 6800 Staples Mill Road, Henrico; 804-501-7275; [henrico.gov/rec](http://henrico.gov/rec)

### Henrico PAL Summer Camp

Day camp by the Henrico Police Athletic League provides educational, athletic and recreational activities, field trips, and museum tours. Ages 6-13. 401 Hartman St.; 804-262-4725; [henricopal.org](http://henricopal.org)

### New Kent County Parks and Recreation

Experiences include the Summer Recreation Camp, one- or two-day mini camps, and various sports camps. Rising grades 1-5; rising sixth graders will also be considered. 11809 New Kent Highway, Ste. 4, New Kent; 804-966-8502; [newkent-va.us/307/Parks-Recreation](http://newkent-va.us/307/Parks-Recreation)

### \*Randolph-Macon Academy Summer Camps

Residential camps offering academic remediation or prep, military training, flight school, or cybersecurity training. Grades rising 8-12. 200 Academy Drive, Front Royal; 540-636-5200; [rma.edu](http://rma.edu)

### Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities

Programs include sports, performance and visual arts, nature, and general camp fun. 804-646-5733; [rva.gov/parks-recreation](http://rva.gov/parks-recreation)

### Specialty Camps

Programs in sports, art, science and leadership. Grades K-8. 5403 Monument Ave.; 804-285-6500; [weinsteijncc.org](http://weinsteijncc.org)

### St. Christopher's School Summer Saints

A variety of half-day and full-day specialty, athletic and academic camps. Ages 4-18. 711 St. Christopher's Road; 804-282-3185, ext. 2389; [stchristophers.com](http://stchristophers.com)

### St. James Children's Center

Educational programming and field trips. Grades K-5. 1205 W. Franklin St.; 804-358-9788; [stjchildrenscenter.org](http://stjchildrenscenter.org)

### **The Steward Summer Experience**

More than 100 camps, including academics, arts, innovation and sports. Full-day or half-day options. Grades JK-12. 11600 Gayton Road; 804-740-3394; [stewardschool.org](http://stewardschool.org)

### **Summer Camp at Lourdes**

Full- and half-day camps hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School featuring sports, arts, humanities, science and more. Grades K-5. 8250 Woodman Road; 804-262-1270; [lourdesrva.org](http://lourdesrva.org)

### **\*Summer School at Fork Union Military Academy**

A nonmilitary program of leadership and athletic activities for boys, including a father-son weekend. Boarding and day options. Grades 7-12. 4744 James Madison Highway, Fork Union; 434-842-4205; [forkunion.com](http://forkunion.com)

### **Summer Spectacular Camps**

Programs at St. Michael's Episcopal School teach STEAM concepts including coding and engineering; sports; baking; and outdoor activities. Half-day and full-day options. Ages 4-14. 10510 Hobby Hill Road; 804-272-3514; [stmschool.net](http://stmschool.net)

### **Trinity Summer Discovery Program**

Weekly day camps in sports, music, art and academic enrichment. Grades 1-12. 3850 Pittaway Drive; 804-272-5864; [trinityes.org](http://trinityes.org)

### **YMCA of Greater Richmond**

Branch locations offer full-day camps, specialty and sports camps. Ages 2-13. 804-649-9622; [ymcarichmond.org](http://ymcarichmond.org)

## **SPORTS & ADVENTURE**

### **Benedictine College Preparatory**

#### **Summer Athletic Camps**

Programs in basketball, wrestling, football and soccer for boys. Grades rising 5-9. 12829 River Road; 804-708-9610; [benedictinecollegeprep.org](http://benedictinecollegeprep.org)

### **Golf Camp at Magnolia Green Golf Club**

Full- and half-day camps with coach Leighann Albaugh; spring break camp and several one-week summer camp sessions offered. Ages 4-15. 7001 Awesome Drive, Moseley; 804-639-5701; [magnoliagreengolfclub.com](http://magnoliagreengolfclub.com)

### **James River Association Summer Camps and Expeditions**

Half- and full-day camps immerse kids in paddling, fishing, river science and nature play to build water skills, confidence and conservation awareness on the James River with expert instructors. Ages 5-18. James A Buzzard River Education Center, 2825 Dock St.; [camps@thejamesriver.org](http://camps@thejamesriver.org); [thejamesriver.org/camps](http://thejamesriver.org/camps)

### **Level Green Riding School**

Spring and weeklong summer day camp riding program open to all skill levels. Ages 7-16. 3350 John Tree Hill Road, Powhatan; 804-794-8463; [levelgreenriding.com](http://levelgreenriding.com)

### **Martial Arts of West End Summer Camp**

Martial arts lessons from expert instructors with an emphasis on fitness, positive praise and encouragement, and leadership skills. All ages. 10454 Ridgefield Parkway; 804-673-5200; [mawestend.com](http://mawestend.com)

### **Own Touch Summer Camps**

A different soccer and futsal camp each week for beginner, intermediate and advanced soccer players. Ages 7-14. 2101 Maywill St.; 804-774-1390; [owntouchcentral.com](http://owntouchcentral.com)

### **Passages Adventure Camp**

Day camps include climbing, kayaking, zip lining, river swims, mountain biking and more. All gear provided. Ages 5-17. Locations in Richmond and Midlothian; 804-897-8283, ext. 310; [passagesrva.com](http://passagesrva.com)

### **Richmond Ice Zone**

Basic skating skills camp. Ages 5-12. 636 Johnston-Willis Drive, North Chesterfield; 804-

378-7465; [richmondskating.com](http://richmondskating.com)

### **Richmond United Summer Camps**

Day camps for all skill levels teaching soccer skills. Ages 6-19. Locations vary. [richmondunited.com/camps](http://richmondunited.com/camps)

### **Richmond Volleyball Club**

Volleyball camps for all skill levels. Grades 5-12. 2921 Byrdhill Road, Henrico, and 200 Karl Linn Drive, North Chesterfield; 804-358-3000; [rvc.net/camps](http://rvc.net/camps)

### **Riverside Outfitters**

Day camps focusing on outdoor adventure at various locations. Ages 6-16. 325 S. 14th St.; 804-560-0068; [riversideoutfitters.net](http://riversideoutfitters.net)

### **Robins Junior Golf**

Summer golf camp held at Independence Golf Club. Full- and half-day options. Ages 5-14. 600 Founders Bridge Blvd.; 804-601-8612; [independencegolfclub.com](http://independencegolfclub.com)

### **RVA Paddlesports Pipeline Adventure Camp**

Weeklong summer adventure camp on the James River includes kayaking, rafting, rock climbing, stand-up paddleboarding and swimming. Ages 9-14. 1511 Brook Road; 804-898-0697; [rvapaddlesports.com](http://rvapaddlesports.com)

### **Saint Gertrude High School Summer Athletic Camps**

Sports camps in strength and conditioning, volleyball, basketball, field hockey, and softball. Girls grades rising 1-9. 12829 River Road; 804-708-9610; [saintgertrude.org](http://saintgertrude.org)

### **SkateNation Plus**

Basic skating lessons, hockey and figure skating. Eight-week sessions. All ages. 4350 Pouncey Tract Road; 804-364-1477; [richmondskating.com/skp](http://richmondskating.com/skp)

### **Sports Center of Richmond (SCOR)**

Full- and half-day sports and soccer camps. Ages 3-13. 1385 Overbrook Road; 804-257-7267; [scor-richmond.com](http://scor-richmond.com)

### **SwimRVA Camps**

General and specific skills-based camps feature water safety, team-building, fitness programming, water sports and more at locations in Richmond and North Chesterfield. Ages 6-15. 5050 Ridgedale Parkway; 804-271-8271; [swimrichmond.org](http://swimrichmond.org)

### **University of Richmond Spiders Sports Camps**

A wide range of sports camps, including baseball, football, basketball and field hockey. Ages 5-17. [richmondspiderscamps@richmond.edu](mailto:richmondspiderscamps@richmond.edu); [richmondspiderscamps.com](http://richmondspiderscamps.com)

### **VCU Sports Camps**

Basketball, soccer, field hockey, baseball and volleyball camps. Ages 8 and up. 1200 W. Broad St.; 804-828-4000; [vcuathletics.com](http://vcuathletics.com)

### **\*Virginia Outside**

Mountain biking, fishing, fly fishing, water activities and outside adventure. Ages 7-14. Multiple locations; 804-272-6362; [virginiaoutside.com](http://virginiaoutside.com)

### **XL Sports World**

Multi-sport camps with full- and half-day sessions. Ages 5-12. 2300 Oak Lake Blvd., Midlothian; 804-744-4600; [xlrichmond.com](http://xlrichmond.com)

## **ARTS & HUMANITIES**

### **ArtVenture Summer Camp**

Classes at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond. Ages 5-14. 1812 W. Main St.; 804-353-0094; [visarts.org](http://visarts.org)

### **Bella Ballerina**

Storybook and fairytale-themed dance classes. Ages 3-8. Locations in Chesterfield and Short Pump; 804-601-6993; [bellaballerinava.com](http://bellaballerinava.com)

### **Cadence Camps Jammin' 2026**

Weeklong full-day camps in contemporary

theater, culminating in a musical performance. Ages 6 to rising ninth grade. Half-day mini programs for ages 4-5. Held at Midlothian Middle School and Maggie L. Walker Governor's School; 804-233-4894; [cadencetheatre.org/jammin2026](http://cadencetheatre.org/jammin2026)

### **Camp ComedySportz**

Day camps on improvisation and collaboration, basic acting, and sketches. Grades rising 2-12. 8906-H W. Broad St.; 804-266-9377; [cszrichmond.com](http://cszrichmond.com)

### **Camp Half-Blood**

Campers explore the myths of different cultures around the globe, from the story of Zeus to tales of Eastern deities. Grades 2-8. Forest Hill Park, 4021 Forest Hill Ave.; 929-397-9393; [mythikcamps.com](http://mythikcamps.com)

### **CharacterWorks**

Day camps in musical theater production, performance and more. Ages 6-18. 2216 Pert Road; 833-296-7571; [cworkstheater.org](http://cworkstheater.org)

### **The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen**

Camps and programs that allow children to flourish in the performing and visual arts. Summer and private classes are also available. Ages 7-15. 2880 Mountain Road; 804-261-2787; [artsglenallen.com](http://artsglenallen.com)

### **Greater Richmond School of Music**

Summer music camps for beginner to advanced levels, including piano, guitar fundamentals, chorus, musical theater and more. Grades JK-12. Camps held at 9109 Dickey Dr., Atlee, and St. Christopher's School, 711 St. Christopher's Road; 804-442-6158; [grsm.net](http://grsm.net)

### **\*GreenSpring Summer Music Institutes**

Intensive instruction in a variety of instruments at all skill levels. Ages 8-18. 4101 Grove Ave.; 804-353-7001; [greenspringmusic.org](http://greenspringmusic.org)

### **Latin Ballet of Virginia Arts in Education**

#### **Summer Day Camp**

Full- and half-day camps help students connect dance forms to language and culture. Ages 4-13. The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen, 2880 Mountain Road; 804-356-3876; [latinballet.com/camp](http://latinballet.com/camp)

### **Marianne Kelley's School of Dance**

Dance instruction in ballet, mixed dance (jazz, hip hop, modern, etc.) and "Nutcracker" choreography. Ages 3 and up. 1807 Huguenot Road, Suite 115; 804-292-5917; [mksdance.com](http://mksdance.com)

### **The Music Tree**

Three one-week summer camps include various musical activities and conclude with a performance. Ages 6-13. 3046 Stony Point Road; 804-571-1973; [themusicreeschool.com](http://themusicreeschool.com)

### **Patrick Henry's Scotchtown Kids Day Camp**

Three-day history camp with archaeology, 18th-century food and traditional camp activities. Ages 11-14. Scotchtown, 16120 Chiswell Lane, Beaverdam; [preservationvirginia.org](http://preservationvirginia.org)

### **Puppets Off Broad Street RVA Circus Arts Camp**

A four-day camp teaching puppetry, juggling, aerial silks, masks and more. Ages 9-15. P.O. Box 26366; 804-358-3377; [puppetsoffbroadstreet.org](http://puppetsoffbroadstreet.org)

### **Richmond Young Writers**

Creative writing camps on various genres and topics, plus author appearances, one-day experiences, activities such as virtual D&D, and more. Ages 9-18. 2707 W. Cary St.; 804-250-5022; [richmondyoungwriters.com](http://richmondyoungwriters.com)

### **School of Rock**

Jam out on guitar, bass, keys or drums; work on vocal skills; or explore songwriting. Seven unique camps; no experience needed. Ages 5-18. 4300 Pouncey Tract Road, Suite G, Glen Allen; 804-212-3900; [schoolofrock.com](http://schoolofrock.com) >

< SUMMER CAMPS | CONT'D FROM P. 93

**SPARC (School of the Performing Arts in the Richmond Community) Summer Camps**

Performing arts programs for all ages. Various locations and dates. 804-353-3393; [sparcrichmond.org/summer](http://sparcrichmond.org/summer)

**Summer Strings on the James**

Four-day music camp featuring introductory, intermediate and advanced classes in violin, viola, cello, bass, harp and guitar. Grades rising 4-12. 3700 James River Road; 804-378-2420; [instagram.com/summerstringsonthejames](https://www.instagram.com/summerstringsonthejames)

**Summer Theatre Camp**

Performance camps and workshop camps held at Swift Creek Mill Theatre. Grades K-12. 17401 U.S. Route 1, South Chesterfield; 804-748-5203; [swiftcreekmill.com](http://swiftcreekmill.com)

**VCU Creative Arts Day Camp**

Arts-focused classes in digital media, painting, fibers, and more, taught by VCUarts graduate and undergraduate students at Virginia Commonwealth University. Grades rising K-9. [arts.vcu.edu/art-education/creative-arts-day-camp](http://arts.vcu.edu/art-education/creative-arts-day-camp)

**Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Summer Programs**

Cross-cultural learning and creative projects in painting, sculpting, drawing, fashion design, film and more. Five-day camps offered weekly. Ages 5-17. 200 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd.; 804-340-1405; [vmfa.museum](http://vmfa.museum)

**Virginia Repertory Theatre**

Theater and performance camps with instruction from top artists and educators. Multiple one- and two-week camps. Grades 1-12. 114 W. Broad St.; 804-783-1688; [va-rep.org](http://va-rep.org)

**Young Chefs Academy Culinary Camp**

Immersive weeklong day camps that teach basic and new cooking and baking techniques for all skill levels. Ages 6 and up. 2230 John Rolfe Parkway; 804-360-9797; [richmondva.youngchefsacademy.com](http://richmondva.youngchefsacademy.com)

**STEM & NATURE**

**Camp Invention**

One-week enrichment program inspired by the inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Grades K-6; camp leadership opportunities for grades 7-9. Locations in Midlothian and Moseley. 800-968-4332; [invent.org/camp](http://invent.org/camp)

**Club SciKidz**

Camps in science, technology and the arts, including Mini Medical School, Coding With Roblox, Kerbal Rocketry and more. Grades PK-8. Locations in Chesterfield and Henrico; 804-548-4787; [richmond.clubscikidz.com](http://richmond.clubscikidz.com)

**Compassion Unleashed Critter Camp**

Programs from the Richmond SPCA for youth who love animals. Grades 1-10. 2519 Hermitage Road; 804-521-1330; [richmondspca.org/camp](http://richmondspca.org/camp)

**\*Game Camp Nation**

Day and overnight camps in video game creation and eSports. Ages 9-19. Homewood Suites by Hilton, 13460 Sunrise Valley Drive, Herndon; 888-663-9633; [gamecamp.com](http://gamecamp.com)

**Green Adventures Summer Camps**

Campers learn about the plant kingdom through crafts, field studies and more. Ages 5-12. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden; 804-262-9887, ext. 239; [lewisginter.org](http://lewisginter.org)

**\*ID Tech Summer Computer Camps**

Coed residential and day camps at the College of William & Mary, University of Virginia, American University and Marymount University. Ages 7-17. 888-709-8324; [idtech.com](http://idtech.com)

**Maymont Summer Camps**

Outdoor adventures, animal encounters, crafts,



games and more at Maymont and the Robins Nature Center. Grades PK-8. 2201 Shields Lake Drive; 804-358-7166, ext. 304; [maymont.org/camps](http://maymont.org/camps)

**\*Nature Camp**

Residential programs in natural history and environmental science education. Grades 5-12. 316 Nature Camp Trail, Vesuvius; 540-460-7897; [naturecamp.net](http://naturecamp.net)

**Science Museum of Virginia**

Six one-week STEM-related summer programs. Grades 1-6. 2500 W. Broad St.; 804-864-1400; [smv.org](http://smv.org)

**Summer Safari**

Single-day camps at the Metro Richmond Zoo offer behind-the-scenes looks at zoo animals, an in-depth tour and more. Ages 6-13. 8300 Beaver Bridge Road, Moseley; 804-739-5666; [metrorichmondzoo.com](http://metrorichmondzoo.com)

**ACADEMIC & COLLEGE PREP**

**\*Hampton University Pre-College/Summer Bridge**

Five-week academic and enrichment residential camp for college prep, offering math tutoring, leadership, time management, field trips and more. Graduating high school seniors. Hampton University, Hampton; 757-727-5511; [home.hamptonu.edu/academics/summer/precollege](http://home.hamptonu.edu/academics/summer/precollege)

**\*Richmond Debate Institute**

Overnight and day camp experiences where participants explore history, government and social issues, culminating in a debate tournament and awards ceremony. Ages 10-16. VCU School of Business, 301 W. Main St.; 917-691-2956; [richmonddebate.com](http://richmonddebate.com)

**\*VCU Arts' Summer Pre-College Program**

Three-week, application-based residency program featuring instruction from VCUarts professors in performing arts, fine arts and design. Rising 10th graders through immediate high school graduates. Virginia Commonwealth University; 804-828-2787; [arts.vcu.edu/academics/pre-college](http://arts.vcu.edu/academics/pre-college)

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

**\*Camp Baker**

Camp sessions for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ages 6 and up. 7600 Beach Road, Chesterfield; 804-358-1874; [soar365.org](http://soar365.org)

**\*Camp Bruce McCoy**

Summer camp at Triple R Ranch for those living with brain injuries; sponsored by the Brain Injury Association of Virginia. Ages 18 and up. 3531 Bunch Walnuts Road, Chesapeake; 804-355-5748; [biav.net/camp](http://biav.net/camp)

**\*Camp Easterseals**

Residential camps for those with disabilities, featuring adaptive sports, arts and crafts, talent shows and more. Ages 8 and up. 900 Camp Easterseals Road, New Castle; 540-777-7325; [eastersealsport.com/camp-easterseals](http://eastersealsport.com/camp-easterseals)

**\*Camp Fantastic**

Residential camp for children who have received cancer-specific treatment within the past three years. BRASS camp for siblings of children undergoing cancer treatments. Ages 7-17. 158 Front Royal Pike, Suite 301, Winchester; 888-930-2707; [speciallove.org/patients/campfantastic](http://speciallove.org/patients/campfantastic)

**\*Camp Holiday Trails**

Residential summer camp sessions for children with special health needs. Ages 6-17. 400 Holiday Trails Lane, Charlottesville; 434-977-3781; [campholidaytrails.org](http://campholidaytrails.org)

**\*Comfort Zone Camp**

Free year-round residential bereavement camps. Ages 7-17. 6606 W. Broad St., Suite 401; 804-377-3430; [comfortzonecamp.org](http://comfortzonecamp.org)

**\*Gallaudet University Summer Programs**

Residential camps for hearing-impaired high school students, including college and career preparation, information technology, finance and more. Ages 14-18. Edward Miner Gallaudet Memorial Building #112 & #111, Washington, D.C.; 202-448-7272, 202-641-5750; [gallaudet.edu/youth-programs/#summer](http://gallaudet.edu/youth-programs/#summer)

**\*MSB Camp Abilities**

Overnight sports education and outdoor education camps for children with visual impairments. Ages 9-17. The Maryland School for the Blind, 3501 Taylor Ave., Baltimore, Maryland; 410-444-5000, ext. 1312; [marylandschoolfortheblind.org](http://marylandschoolfortheblind.org)

**The New Community School**

Small classes for academic growth, college prep instruction, health and wellness, driver education, and more for students with dyslexia and related learning differences. Grades rising 5-12. 4211 Hermitage Road; 804-266-2494; [tncs.org/academics/summer](http://tncs.org/academics/summer) 

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# Camps and Schools

## BENEDICTINE SCHOOLS OF RICHMOND

Attending one of the many summer youth athletic camps at Benedictine Schools of Richmond is a great way to learn from our experienced high school coaches, take advantage of new state-of-the-art athletic facilities and have fun on our sprawling 75-acre campus in Goochland! This summer, we are offering boys basketball, football and wrestling. For girls, we are offering basketball, volleyball and softball, as well as a new strength and conditioning camp for boys and girls. Participating in our camps helps youth athletes learn and grow in their sport, gain confidence and build relationships with athletes from different schools. [benedictineschools.org](http://benedictineschools.org)

## SOAR365

SOAR365's Summer Camp at Camp Baker provides an inclusive, best-in-class camp experience for children and adults with disabilities. Since 1956, Camp Baker has welcomed campers to its 22 wooded acres in Chesterfield County, offering 10 week-long sessions each summer filled with traditional camp fun like swimming, horseback riding, fishing, arts and crafts, talent shows, and more. Families trust SOAR365 for its safe, welcoming environment, low staff-to-camper ratios, and personalized support, including assistance with daily living needs and on-site nursing services. Campers benefit from therapeutic, recreational, and social activities that encourage skill-building, confidence, and independence. Accredited by the American Camp Association, Camp Baker continues to expand accessibility through adaptive equipment, sensory spaces and inclusive

outdoor amenities, ensuring every camper enjoys a meaningful, memory-filled summer experience. [soar365.org](http://soar365.org)

## TRINITY SUMMER DISCOVERY PROGRAM

Learn, play and create at the Trinity Summer Discovery Program. From basketball to field hockey and from writing to pottery, there is something for everyone this summer at Trinity. Learn new skills on the courts and fields from championship-level coaches, or explore the arts in the school's 4,000-square-foot visual arts center. For complete details, dates and rates, please visit [trinityes.org/summer](http://trinityes.org/summer).

## WEINSTEIN JCC

Discover award-winning camps at the Weinstein JCC, voted #1 by Richmond magazine readers for over 10 years running! Our camps offer fun and safety for kids from preschool through 10th grade. With a variety of activities — including outdoor

adventures, enriching field trips, and specialty camps — there's something for every interest. We welcome camp families of all backgrounds and foster a supportive, inclusive environment where children explore, learn and grow. Spaces are limited, so don't wait — secure your spot today for a summer filled with fun, discovery and lasting memories. Join us in shaping brighter futures, one adventure at a time! [weinsteinjcc.org](http://weinsteinjcc.org)

## YMCA OF GREATER RICHMOND

Award-winning camps offer swim lessons, sports, art, music, dance, STEM, nature exploration and more for kids grades K-8 at 10 locations across RVA. Complete with chats and cheers, circle games, and camp council, the Y is where kids make new friends and explore new things to help them learn, grow and thrive. The EveryBuddy camp for children with disabilities and Pre-K camp are also available. [ymcarichmond.org](http://ymcarichmond.org)

