

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. My camper requires/feels more comfortable with training wheels. Can they still attend camp?

Due to the heavily bike-centric nature of camp (extended biking time, distances covered, and large biking groups, etc.) **we require campers (rising 2nd grade and older) to be able to confidently ride a 2-wheeled bike at camp.** We have found that campers who come with training wheels or who cannot independently ride a two-wheeled bike for periods up to an hour generally do not have a pleasant camp experience.

Campers (rising 2nd grade and older) who arrive at camp with training wheels or cannot confidently ride a 2-wheeled bicycle cannot participate in the camp day and will be asked to leave. Please note that Trees Atlanta staff **cannot** remove training wheels off of your camper's bike; it can be time and labor intensive.

We want to welcome as many campers to our camp experience as possible and will accommodate your camper as much as we can, but **if your camper (rising 2nd grade and older) cannot confidently ride a two-wheeled bicycle, this may not be the camp for them this year.** If your camper is learning to ride a two-wheeled bike and still needs a little help, we strongly encourage you to sign them up for bike classes. We are big fans of the classes offered by REI, and if your camper could use a refresher or some extra help before the start of camp, we can confidently say that those courses have been a help to many of our campers in the past.

Please note that as of December 2023, the biking requirements for JTK Summer Camp apply *only* to campers who will be in the *Quercus* and *Acer* age groups. Rising 1st graders (*Sassafras* group) will not be biking during the camp day, and are not required to know how to confidently ride a 2-wheeled bicycle.

2. Is there a difference in the sessions offered?

Yes. There are three concurrent age groups at Junior TreeKeeper Camp. Each group is guided by dedicated camp staff. The age groups are: "*Sassafras*" (rising 1st grade) "*Quercus*" (rising 2nd - 3rd grade) and "*Acer*" (rising 4th - 6th grade).

Sassafras campers will be exploring the camp week's theme through group discussions, gameplay, crafts, and experiments that will take place on the Trees Atlanta property and nearby greenspaces within group walking distance.

Quercus and *Acer* campers will be exploring each camp week's theme as they discover Atlanta's urban forest via group bike rides on the Atlanta BeltLine. These campers will spend a majority of their camp days offsite, and will eat lunch away from the Trees Atlanta property.

Acer campers will be taking an offsite field trip (usually taking place on Thursday, but exact dates are subject to change due to contractor schedules and availability to accommodate the group). Each camp week will have a unique field trip location/educational experience. All costs associated with offsite field trips (transportation, entrance fees, etc.) will be covered by the normal camp registration costs.

Please view our [website](#) for a description of each session. A changing mix of campers, agenda, and dynamics of the day give campers a unique experience in each session.

3. What is a typical day like at Junior TreeKeeper Camp?

It's environmental stewardship in action! We host a very active, outdoor-oriented camp balanced with hands-on learning projects, arts and crafts, and play time. Much of our time is spent outside in all sorts of weather. Please be mindful of each day's forecast and dress your camper appropriately. **Please carefully review the bike requirements for *Quercus* and *Acer* campers in this Handbook. (Pg. 10-12). Failure to review the biking requirements may result in your camper not being able to attend camp.**

Campers will arrive at the Trees Atlanta Kendeda Treehouse every morning, and then we are off for the day packed with activities designed to engage your budding environmental steward. Activities may include: field research and service projects, trips to urban green spaces and local gardens, service learning, tree ID and measuring, orienteering, scavenger hunts, biking on the Atlanta BeltLine (for *Quercus* and *Acer* campers), exploring the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum, arts and crafts, free playtime with new friends, and much more! See below for two Sample Schedules (*Sassafras*, and *Quercus/Acer*).

Quercus & Acer Example Camp Schedule

Please note that this is an EXAMPLE schedule of an average camp day. Depending on the session of camp, as well as the particular day of programming, the times and types of activities may change

Time	What's Happening	Description
7:30-8:30	Beforecare	Campers arrive and are greeted, given a brief tour of the facilities, and are set up with materials that they need for the day. Opportunities for reading, drawing, gameplay, etc.
8:30-8:45	Drop off - AM Tasks/Games	
9:00-9:30	Camp/Day introduction & Prep for leaving (Bathroom, Water, sunscreen, etc.)	Pack up, prep to leave
9:30-9:45	Bike checks and safety talks before departure	Counselors provide biking instruction and group-specific expectations for BeltLine
9:45-10:15	BIKING TO OFFSITE LOCATIONS	Campers and Counselors bike in a group to various offsite locations, generally accessed via Beltline path
10:15-12:00	Education, Gameplay, and Activities	Campers spend the morning participating in theme-specific environmental curriculum, educational gameplay, and activities in parks and greenspaces around atlanta (generally no more than 2-3 miles away from Trees Atlanta)
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch	Campers break for lunch (generally eaten off site at parks/greenspaces)
12:30 - 12:45	Bathroom/Water/Prep To Leave	
1:00-1:30	BIKING BACK TO TREES ATLANTA	Group bikes back to Trees Atlanta
1:30-1:45	Bathroom/Water/Cooldown	
1:45-2:30	Education, gameplay, and activities	Campers participate in crafts, experiments, and educational lessons and games back at Trees Atlanta
2:30-2:45	Afternoon snack & reflection period	Campers cool off from the day and eat a snack and reflect on the day's activities in their nature journals
2:45-3:00	Cleanup	Campers pack up and get ready to leave for the day

3:00-3:15	Car Pool - Sign Out	Parent/Guardian pickup at Trees Atlanta
3:15-5:30	Aftercare	Campers staying for aftercare play games, read, draw, enjoy the afternoon, etc.
5:30	Aftercare Ends	That's a wrap!

Sassafras Example Camp Schedule

Please note that this is an EXAMPLE schedule of an average camp day. Depending on the session of camp, as well as the particular day of programming, the times and types of activities may change

Time	What's Happening	Description
7:30-8:30	Beforecare	Campers arrive and are greeted, given a brief tour of the facilities, and are set up with materials that they need for the day. Opportunities for reading, drawing, gameplay, etc.
8:30-8:45	Drop off - AM Tasks/Games	
9:00-9:30	Camp/Day introduction & Prep for leaving (Bathroom, Water, sunscreen, etc.)	Prep for day
9:30-9:45	Group Game/Lesson	Counselors provide instruction and group-specific expectations for BeltLine/Greenspace exploration
9:45-10:15	Walking to offsite locations (when applicable)	Campers and Counselors walk in a group to various nearby locations, generally accessed via Beltline path or residential sidewalks
10:15-12:00	Education, Gameplay, and Activities	Campers spend the morning participating in theme-specific environmental curriculum, educational gameplay, and activities in parks and greenspaces around the Trees Atlanta Kendeda TreeHouse (within a 10-15 minute walking distance of the TreeHouse)
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch	Campers break for lunch (either at the TreeHouse or at a nearby park/greenspace)
12:30 - 12:45	Bathroom/Water/Prep To Leave	
1:00-2:30	Education, gameplay, and activities	Campers participate in crafts, experiments, and educational lessons and games back at Trees Atlanta
2:30-2:45	Afternoon snack & reflection period	Campers cool off from the day and eat a snack and reflect on the day's activities in their nature journals
2:45-3:00	Cleanup	Campers pack up and get ready to leave for the day
3:00-3:15	Car Pool - Sign Out	Parent/Guardian pickup at Trees Atlanta
3:15-5:30	Aftercare	Campers staying for aftercare play games, read, draw, enjoy the afternoon, etc.
5:30	Aftercare Ends	That's a wrap!

4. Are the age groups doing the same things?

Campers are led on activities appropriate to their age group. Each group will have their own agenda of activities and are typically not in the same space at the same time. A few activities allow all age groups to participate together, and when appropriate, *Acer* campers may help or partner with *Quercus* and *Sassafras* campers on specific activities. The older groups (*Acer and Quercus*) will spend more time on their bikes on rides around the Atlanta urban forest environment via the BeltLine while the younger group (*Sassafras*) will be spending the day at the Trees Atlanta Kendeda TreeHouse and walkable parks and greenspaces close to the TreeHouse. The skill level of each week's groups will help to determine the distance and time spent on bikes. **Please carefully review the bike requirements as noted in this Handbook. (Pg. 10-12)**

Seasonal Camps often conduct activities with all campers as one group during most activities of the day, with the exception of some biking activities.

5. Are there any other additional costs I need to pay for camp?

There are optional services that may be added to your registration and additional fees that may be incurred (please view [Schedule of Fees](#)):

- **Before/After Care fee** – The daily/weekly fees for early drop off or late pick up are indicated in this handbook.
- **Bike Rental** - If needed
- **Additional Camp Gifts** – A list of gifts each camper receives is based on the number and type of sessions registered. During the registration process, you may opt to purchase additional items. For example, if you register for only 1 week of summer camp but want a JTK hat, you may purchase one during the registration process as an “add on”. Additionally, regardless of the number of weeks a camper is registered for camp, only 1 shirt is included; however, an additional shirt may be purchased during registration. Items not purchased during the online registration process may also be purchased during your camper’s session, based on availability, and may also be offered at a different rate.

6. Who are the Junior TreeKeeper Camp Staff?

Our program staff is a team of Trees Atlanta full-time staff with environmental training and experience working with youth, along with qualified, vetted seasonal staff (Camp Counselors that are 18+) who are trained to help campers make positive memories. In addition, all camps are further supported by Interns (paid 18+ staff) and Junior Interns (middle and high school volunteers) to ensure a safe and inclusive camp experience. Counselors and staff have passed background checks and completed Mandated Reporter Training.. Trees Atlanta staff is First Aid and CPR certified and participates in a week of training prior to the start of camp.

7. What is the staff to camper ratio?

We maintain a ratio of 1 camp staff to every 7 campers (or less) for all activities outside of Trees Atlanta facilities, and at least 2 camp staff will be present with any camper at all times.

8. How can I keep up with what my Junior TreeKeeper is doing at camp?

Check in on our daily exploration and fun by following us on social media! Feel free to like and share our posts!

[Facebook.com/treesatlanta](https://www.facebook.com/treesatlanta) and [Instagram.com/treesatlanta](https://www.instagram.com/treesatlanta)

9. What do I do with my camper's medication(s)?

All medications **must** be discussed with the Camp Lead **in advance**. Please send only the amount of medication needed for **each day**, clearly labeled with detailed instructions for administration along with your camper's first and last name. Your child must be able to take/administer their own medications. Camp staff will not administer medication unless in case of severe emergency. It is your responsibility to pick up leftover medications. Please do not drop off medications for campers prior to their week of camp.

11. What happens if my child gets sick or injured at camp?

Camp staff will notify parent/guardian if a camper reports feeling ill and needs to be picked up during the camp day. If the primary parent/guardian cannot be reached, the emergency contact will be notified. If it is determined that a camper needs to leave camp due to illness or injury, the camper must be picked up immediately.

Camp staff may apply basic First Aid for minor injuries, such as scrapes, bug bites, etc. Parent/guardian will be notified of any medical incidents at the end of the camp day or immediately, depending upon the nature or severity of the incident. If warranted by an injury or other medical situation, camp staff will call 911 for emergency medical care prior to contacting parents/guardians.

12. What if I need to cancel a registration or request a refund?

Please review our cancellation policy in the Camp Handbook for details. There are administrative fees and/or processing fees for all refunds and/or transactions.

13. How do I get in touch with my camper if there is an emergency?

Call the Trees Atlanta Kendeda Treehouse to speak to someone who can handle your needs. Our office number is 404-522-4097. Specific Education Staff contact information can be found in the camp reminder emails that are sent after registration is confirmed. Our physical address is: 825 Warner St SW Atlanta, GA 30310, located in Oakland City.

For non-emergencies, email education@treesatlanta.org (allow us 1 to 2 business days to reply).

14. What happens if my child is being disruptive or if any camper reports being bullied by another camper? How does one report an incident?

Disruptive behavior that interferes in our ability to maintain a positive, fun learning environment is not acceptable at Trees Atlanta. This includes disrespectful speech or behavior targeted toward other campers, staff, or guests of Trees Atlanta.

Camp staff and/or Trees Atlanta education staff will address inappropriate behavior with campers which may include a conversation with the disruptive individual and quiet time away from others (with supervision). Consequently, the camper will not participate in the activities occurring at the time. If disruptive behavior does not cease, a parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the camper immediately.

In all our programs, we practice inclusion and encourage kindness toward one another, as well as for our natural environment. Repeated disruptive behavior of any type or any level of bullying could result in dismissal from camp. The dismissal and refund policy is found in the Camp Handbook.

Campers or parents who witness something they want to report may bring the matter to the attention of the Camp Lead or to the Director of Education. If a satisfactory resolution is not found, escalations may be brought to the attention of Trees Atlanta's Executive Director.

Current staff contact information is found online at:

<https://www.treesatlanta.org/who-we-are/staff-board/>

15. How can I stay involved year-round?

Trees Atlanta leads youth and family programs throughout the year. All registered emails will be added to receive email newsletters of upcoming events.

Consider volunteering at a tree planting or tree maintenance project as a group or family. There are multiple projects in various locations throughout the metro-Atlanta area every week! Please view our [Calendar](#) for upcoming activities for kids and families.

Ask your camper's school if they are enrolled in Trees Atlanta [Urban TreeTracker](#) in-school environmental education program. Our educators visit schools throughout the school year and lead lessons and activities aligned to Georgia curriculum standards.

Tell us how we're doing.

We appreciate every parent/guardian who takes the time to complete a camp survey at the end of each camp session. Your feedback helps us make our programs better. Your comments especially are very useful and insightful. We appreciate all the handwritten or drawn notes from campers, too!

Please feel free to send us comments or notes at any time. We love photos of your Junior TreeKeeper putting their tree knowledge or biking skills to use.

Email your notes to us (education@treesatlanta.org) or tag us on social media: [@treesatlanta](#) .

Thank you for your support of Trees Atlanta! We believe children who spend time playing outside and enjoy nature become adults who are more likely to become stewards of our natural environment.