

Virtual Camps Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is different about Camp at Stepping Stones?

Stepping Stones provides children with an engaging, interactive virtual camp experience that expands their knowledge and allows them to continue the adventure at home. Our program educators are experts at connecting with children to ensure they fully participate and immerse themselves in the learning journey. Each camper will receive a home extension kit that adds dimension to the learning experience at home.

I'm deciding between the two camps, can you tell me a little more about each?

Yes, the descriptions are below, however if you sign up for both camps you receive a discount.

What is included in the Music Makers Camp?

Music Makers Camp will be an exciting exploration into the many different aspects of the amazing world of music, including singing and moving to songs written just for campers! We'll learn about all the different musical instrument families, build our own instruments, and enjoy an introduction to playing the recorder! Musical concepts like rhythm, tempo, pitch and dynamics will be playfully incorporated. Campers will also explore the science of sound, learning about sound waves and mediums and how our ears process what we hear. We'll even learn about some incredible animal music makers, from whales to elephants and cockatoos. One full day will focus on making music with found objects like bottles, buckets, pots and pans! Plus, there will be daily visits from professional guest musicians who will demonstrate their skills and passion for the instruments they play.

What is included in the Paleontology Camp?

Paleontology camp will be a fully virtual and interactive experience that will change daily to explore the paleontological history of life both here in Connecticut and across the expanse of the globe! We'll discover who lived alongside the dinosaurs, how they survived and which lucky species avoided extinction and are still living in today's environment. We'll take the journey from "zero" life to single-celled organisms to aquatic life and the transition to land that led to life today, plus everything in between! We'll also explore fun experiments and educate with the future diggers of the world. Evolution does not stop! We'll find proof by looking at the fossil records.

What age ranges would you recommend for camp?

We recommend children in grades kindergarten through 6th grade. However, you know your child best and we can accommodate children from pre-K up. Please contact us with any specific questions.

Who are the facilitators teaching the classes?

Music Makers Camp: Dan, Dan the Music Man (lead), Jen, Shelly, Milen

Paleontology Camp: James (lead), Pablo, Carolyn, Dod

However, schedules are tentative and can change due to extenuating circumstances.

How do I sign up for virtual camp?

Option #1: [Click here](#) to register online

Option #2: Email us at membership@steppingstonesmuseum.org

What forms do we have to complete to sign up for camp?

When you register for camp, you will receive a link to a quick survey to complete. This will help us to capture contact information and learn a little more about your child's interests.

What platform do we use for the virtual days of camp?

Zoom.

When will I receive log in information?

We will send out the log in information when the survey has been completed.



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Are children given breaks during the camp?

Yes, during the camp sessions the children are given a 15 – 20 minute break where they can enjoy a snack. During that time, our educators will be engaging the children through storytelling.

How do you keep it interactive for children while it is virtual?

We have an exceptionally talented and knowledgeable staff who are passionate about teaching children of all ages about their favorite topics. In addition to that, all campers receive a camp kit and field guide which are filled with materials to keep children engaged and participating. The facilitators have these kits and field guides as well so that the whole group can engage in activities and explorations in real time during the camp session.

What is a field guide?

The field guide is a booklet of activities and information that children and families can use with the facilitators during the camp session or to expand on their learning after the camp session is over.

What is in the kits?

The Music Makers Camp kit will include several small instruments, including a recorder and kazoo, for campers to play during the week, as well as materials for building our own instruments and for conducting our sound science explorations. There will also be a field guide, created just for Music Makers Camp, with additional games and explorations and filled with wonderful graphics and images.

Paleontology Camp Kit will include Paleontology tools, multiple fossil digs, dinosaurs, as well as supplies for each day to go along with the designated lessons, and general supplies for everyday use. A field guide is also included inside the field kits to help navigate each lesson and to extend it for post camp activities.

Is there an option to ship the kit to me? How much would it cost?

Yes, we can ship the kit to you for a \$25.00 shipping fee. The request to ship must be made by 8:00 am the Wednesday prior to the camp beginning.

Does an adult have to stay with the child throughout the whole class?

An adult will have to sign the child into camp. The adult does not need to stay throughout camp but there is plenty of fun for all ages.

Will my child be able to ask questions during camp?

During the camp session, facilitators are engaging the children in inquiry-based learning where children are asking questions, making predictions and making observations. We encourage children to ask any questions that come to mind.

Is it ok to join if we are running late?

Absolutely!

Do you offer refunds?

No. At this time, we do not offer refunds.

What if my child is sick and has to miss a day or two?

We understand situations like this may unexpectedly come up. Please reach out to us at membership@steppingstonesmuseum.org.

