



Aurora Day Camp

Where children with cancer find a new beginning every day...





February 2021

Dear Parents,

With Covid-19 still a threat, Sunrise Association Day Camps have developed protocols for the summer of 2021 that are designed to minimize the threat of infection at camp. These guidelines were developed with input from our medical directors, medical consultants, and in conjunction with guidance from the CDC, as well as experts in the field of camping. So while we will still be engaging in many of the activities that are highlighted in this brochure, we will be doing so in ways that can mitigate the spread of Covid-19. Among them:

- *Smaller groups that are self-contained and do not interact with others*
- *Socially distant bus transportation with constant air-flow*
- *Mask wearing (required of all campers and staff)*
- *Continuous cleaning and disinfecting throughout the grounds*
- *Daily screening of all children, staff and visitors*
- *Modification or elimination of activities which require direct physical interactions*



By adhering to these and other modifications, we hope to provide a safe, fun summer for your child(ren), filled with all the magic and joy that has come to define Sunrise.

More information on procedures and policies for Sunrise Association Day Camps 2021 is available on our website (www.sunriseassociation.org) and in the information packets that accompany our registration forms. And of course, we will be closely monitoring local and national Covid trends in the months leading up to camp, adjusting our procedures as needed.

And finally, an online option will be available for children and families who would prefer to attend a virtual camp this summer.

While we will be undertaking numerous enhanced health and safety measures, it is important to note that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 still exists in any place where other people are present. As such, we urge you to consult your child's physician and to carefully consider which camp program may be best for your family.

As always, we look forward to magical, fun and safe summer for your children.

Warmly,

Arnie Preminger
President & CEO

Michele Vernon
Sr. V.P. for Camping Services





where kids with cancer can just be kids...

Aurora Day Camp is Georgia's only full-summer **day camp** for children with cancer and their siblings, ages 3½–16, who are in active or follow-up treatment for cancer. Unlike most oncology sleep-away camps that are offered for 1-2 weeks each summer, Aurora Day Camp allows children to attend camp for as little as one day or the entire summer. Being a day camp allows children who are in active treatment to continue with their home doctors and enjoy the comfort of sleeping in their own beds each night.

Recognizing the extraordinary financial demands that a child's chronic illness can have on a family, Aurora Day Camp and Year-Round Programs are always offered **free of charge**.

Aurora Day Camp is a proud member of the **Sunrise Association**, whose mission is to bring back the joys of childhood to children with cancer and their siblings worldwide, through the creation of Day Camps, Year-Round Programs and In-Hospital Recreational Activities, all offered **free of charge**.

Since it began in 2006, Sunrise has enriched the lives of over 15,000 children dealing with cancer in 8 unique summer day camps and a host of year-round programs designed to bring back the joys of childhood to children struggling with cancer.



at opportunity for our patients to participate in 'normal' summer activities and fills a childhood cancer organizations." –Dr. Glen Lew, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta



a happy, safe place...

Aurora Day Camp is situated at The Alfred & Adele Davis Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. Our expansive campsite provides numerous sports fields, a tranquil nature center, shaded areas, a brand new playground, a theater, indoor play areas, and so much more!

Daily activities may include:

- Basketball, Baseball, Volleyball, Soccer
- Group Games
- Music and Drama
- Yoga
- Arts and Crafts
- Water Activities/Swimming
- and more activities added throughout the summer

Parents have peace of mind when their children attend Aurora. All activities at camp are designed with special features to best accommodate chronically ill children. Medical personnel are always available to provide expert care.

Not only are our programs designed to meet the particular needs of children with cancer, but also our grounds. Our beautiful outdoor and air-conditioned indoor spaces were carefully selected to meet the unique needs of the children with cancer so they can enjoy summer to the fullest.



“My son told me tonight that it has helped him feel less “different” because he’s

finally met other kids with cancer!” –Iris, Aurora Parent



the aurora experience...

Aurora Day Camp is offered **free of charge** on a non-sectarian basis to children ages 3½–16, who have been in active treatment within the last five years, provided their doctor clears them to participate.

Siblings are welcome at Aurora Day Camp!

When a child has cancer, it affects the entire family. Siblings, too, may face tremendous challenges socially and recreationally as the family's focus understandably turns to their brother's or sister's medical needs. But at Aurora, siblings can play and interact as other brothers and sisters do; they are free to be with friends in a very normal, fun way while escaping the constant worry often found in a home with a chronically ill child.

At Aurora, siblings learn to better understand and deal with their brother's or sister's illness and their own feelings. Siblings are welcome to attend whether or not the child with cancer is able to be a camper.

Who Staffs Aurora?

Aurora Day Camp is staffed by counselors, specialists, assistants and volunteers specially trained prior to the camp's opening. Our camp's on-site directors have extensive experience with children and camping, and our staff-to-camper ratio often exceeds 1:4, assuring that every need of our campers is accommodated. Special arrangements can be made for children requiring more extensive supervision.

What About Medical Support?

Aurora Day Camp has a private, air-conditioned Wellness Center and is supported by on-site pediatric oncology nurses and a medical director on call. Most medications can be easily administered, and ample indoor areas are provided for children to just "cool down." In the unlikely event of an emergency during the camp day, transportation by ambulance is provided. The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) Scottish Rite location is only a few miles from Aurora Day Camp.



I am honored to serve as the Medical Director for Aurora Day Camp.

Coping with a childhood cancer diagnosis is a life-altering event for the entire family. Living with cancer becomes the new normal and turns a family's life upside down. It is critical that children with cancer be allowed to experience normal childhood activities including a care-free day camp environment.

Aurora Day Camp is more than just a camp. It is a place where children with cancer and their siblings can just be kids. It is a creative, safe, healthy, supportive and fun-filled community where peers who have a similar and shared experience are supervised by a dedicated and trained staff who are keenly aware of the unique needs of Aurora campers.

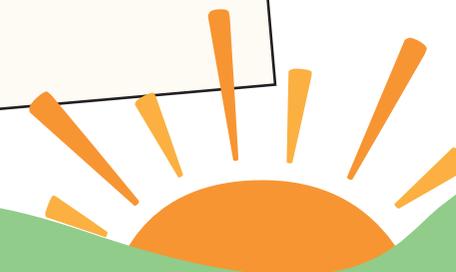
Aurora offers a host of "high-low" activities suited to those feeling energetic, and others who need to take it easy. A day camp model that allows for children to sleep in their own bed at night, Aurora fills a unique gap for the Atlanta community. Parents can feel comfortable knowing that Aurora is located at The Davis Academy in Atlanta, just a few miles away from CHOA-Scottish Rite.

Over my years as a pediatric oncology specialist, I have seen the amazing positive impact that attending camp has on children with cancer, their siblings and the entire family.

Dr. Glen Lew

Medical Director, Aurora Day Camp
Aflac Cancer & Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

"Aurora gave the kids the opportunity to make friends in the bigger cancer family community in a way that previously hadn't existed." –John, Camper Parent





Transportation Options

Aurora Day Camp is within driving distance of its local communities. We encourage parents to drive their children to and from camp in order to limit their time on buses and keep them in the most comfortable environment. If driving is not an option, free bus transportation is available from select locations. In unique circumstances, transportation arrangements can be worked out to accommodate the special needs of a family.

How Long Is The Camp Season?

Aurora Day Camp is a seven week day camp, Monday through Friday, from approximately 9:30AM–3:45PM (excluding transportation times). It is divided into three sessions ranging from 2–2½ weeks each. Campers may sign up for any or all sessions depending on their summer schedule, and attend any or all days in that session. Special accommodations can easily be made depending on when a child is able to attend. At Aurora, we recognize that children may not be able to attend camp every day, and so our program is designed to assure

that no one “misses out” because of an absence. To accommodate working parents, extended hours are available from around 7:30AM to as late as 6:30PM. For our preschoolers, Aurora offers a modified 3-day program from 10AM–3PM specially designed for them. Contact our office if you need more days or a longer program day for your preschooler.

What Type Of Food Is Served?

One of the great advantages of day camps is that children can bring their own yummy lunches from home, so they never have to wonder about what’s on the menu for that day (of course, we’ll refrigerate it). But that’s all they need to bring, since we provide several snacks during the day as well as juice and other drinks whenever needed. Need something special? No problem! Just let us know and we’ll get it. In our commitment to provide a safe environment for all children, Aurora Day Camp is a nut-aware facility, meaning that we will not knowingly serve any foods with nuts and we request that all parents do the same.

Sleepaway Camp Experiences

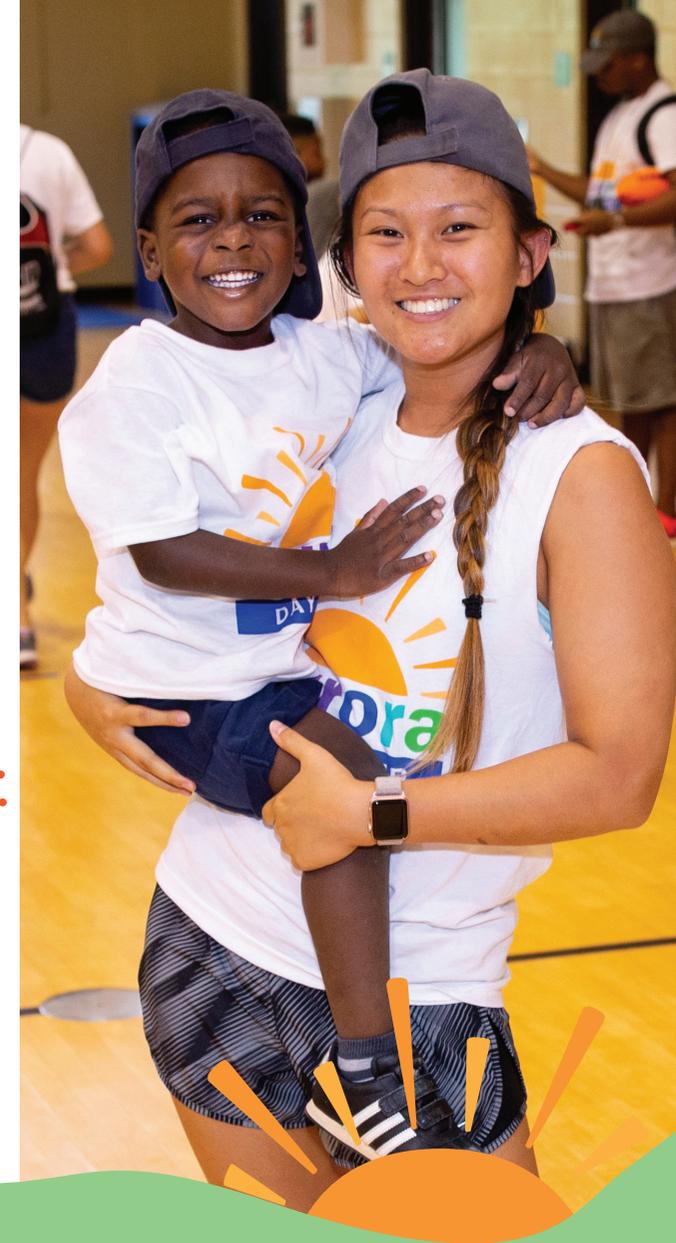
We recognize that each child is unique. For children who wish to have both a day camp and sleepaway camp experience, Aurora Day Camp maintains relationships with some of the best sleepaway camps in the nation including Camp Sunshine, which is located right here in the Atlanta area. For information on Camp Sunshine please visit their website at www.mycampsunshine.com. For information on sleep away camps outside of Georgia, please call our offices to discuss. Children who attend sleepaway camp are always welcome to attend Aurora for the balance of the summer.

Leaders in Training (LIT)

For our campers who are rising 10th and 11th graders, Aurora has created a teen LIT program for the summer. LITs will have the opportunity to do service learning, support a specific unit, help organize and lead all camp programs, enjoy camp activities and much more! Contact us for more information.

Can Parents Get Involved?

Our parents are our strongest resource, and as such, numerous avenues are available for parents to keep in touch with us. From participation on the Parent Subcommittee of our Advisory Council to focus groups and just plain old-fashioned telephone calls, communication with our parents ensures that we always remain responsive to the ever-changing needs of our children and families. Parents interested in being part of our Advisory Council should contact Sami Tanenbaum, Director of Camp & Year-Round Programs.



“This was an amazing opportunity for both of them to have fun and not

think about what a crazy year we have had as a family!” –Maria, Camper Parent

the fun continues all year 'round!

Our kids love camp so much that we just had to extend the fun beyond the summer. During the school year, our camp hosts Aurora Fun-days — special activity days for our campers — along with many of the same staff who helped to make their summers so wonderful. Our year-round programs make it possible for our campers to see their friends throughout the year while enjoying summer fun all year long. These camp-like activity days include sports, crafts, special shows & programs, delicious snacks and may even include swimming in an indoor pool! Some of our year-round programs are family events, where parents and children enjoy the fun-filled festivities together. Free transportation is available if needed. As with all Aurora programs, Fun-days are offered to our families at no charge.

Children, ages 3 ½–16, who are interested in joining our Aurora family and who were not campers during the previous summer are always welcome to attend our year-round programs. Just let us know if you are interested in starting your Aurora Day Camp experience during the school year and we will work with you to make it happen. Aurora Fun-days are held at sites that provide Aurora Day Camp with exclusive use.



“It was right when we were paying off our child’s medical bills so sending our child to camp was not an option. However, you all made this happen!” –Jason, Camp Parent

when you need us most...aurora in the hospitals

Aurora On Wheels

Ever see a child not want to leave a hospital because they’re having too much fun? At Aurora on Wheels, it happens every day! Aurora on Wheels provides a day filled with Aurora fun to children awaiting treatment in pediatric oncology units of participating hospitals. Volunteers wheel a rainbow trunk bursting with toys, games and activities right into many of our affiliated hospitals and change what could have been a difficult day into a day of camp fun!

Our *Wheels* program currently brings fun to thousands of children in hospitals up and down the east coast, as well as in Israel. While the youngest children may be enjoying Legos, coloring and other age-appropriate activities, older children can participate in a lively game of UNO, intricate crafts and so much more. Of course, we know that the day is taxing and tedious for parents and caregivers as well, so we also have special “age appropriate” activities for adults! For information about Aurora on Wheels, please give us a call.

Smiles From Aurora

Whenever we become aware that one of our campers is hospitalized, either camp counselors, staff or volunteers will visit with a few special surprises and a cheery smile. They will sit at bedside and play with the child, share stories of camp days, and even give mom or dad a drop of respite so he or she can go home for a few hours, change clothes and maybe have a hot meal. The continuity from camp to bedside helps our children feel connected to their counselors, friends and fun, lessening the sense of isolation and fear that a hospital admission can bring with it. Smiles from Aurora is just that – a burst of cheerfulness during the darkest times, bringing sighs of relief to parents and sounds of laughter from their children.



“The Wheels program is as important as the chemotherapy itself.” –Dr. Lawrence Wolfe, Cohen Children’s Medical Center



enroll for a summer of smiles!

Registration opens on January 1st and continues throughout the summer. It is never too late to register your child for a summer of fun! To register your child, visit our website and click on “Enroll Today.” By completing the initial application you will be reserving your child(ren)’s place at camp for the summer. Contact us for support or for a paper application:

Contact us: 470.632.0909 or www.auroradaycamp.org

Parent-to-Parent

For first time enrollees, it may be comforting to hear from other parents’ experiences with Aurora Day Camp. Call us, and we’ll connect you with a parent of a current camper who can provide you with that special perspective that only another parent would have. Who knows—you might even walk away with a brand new friend!



funding...

Aurora Day Camp and Year-Round Programs are offered free of charge and exist only through the generosity of others. Private donations by foundations, businesses and very special individuals, as well as special events and government grants, help offset the costs of running these incredible programs. Aurora Day Camp and all Sunrise Association Day Camps are not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organizations and all donations are tax-deductible under federal guidelines. Donations can be made on our website or by calling your local camp office.



“This is the best camp EVER!” –Amanda, Age 5

“Camp made all the difference for my son. Now he has a sense of hope and a place where he doesn’t feel strange for having a bald head. My family could not be more grateful.” –Emily, Camper Parent

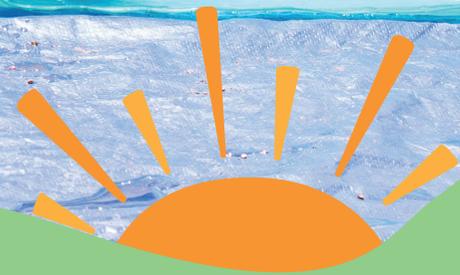


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Aurora Day Camp is affiliated with many of the most renowned hospitals and medical centers working in the field of pediatric oncology. In Atlanta we work in partnership with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Aurora Day Camp also works cooperatively with medical institutions, resident camps and other organizations with expertise in children's oncology and camping.

"The cure happens at camp." –Michael, Camper Parent



Aurora Day Camp

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Sami Tanenbaum, Director of Camp and Year-Round Programs
Dr. Glen Lew, Medical Director

Aurora Day Camp is a proud member of the Sunrise Association



Sunrise Association

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