



# Summer Camp FAQs



## **What do “sensory-friendly” and “Neurodiverse” mean?**

Sensory-friendly refers to accommodations made for children with sensory processing related differences. This may include specific kinds of activities, specially trained staff, or changes to the environment. Neurodiverse refers to diversity of neurotypes in a group. A child that identifies as Neurodivergent may have Sensory Processing Disorder, Autism, ADHD, mental health challenges, etc. Summer camp at the B&O is designed to be fully inclusive for Neurodivergent children so they feel at home in our museum.

## **What training do staff members have?**

Counselors and aides have special education experience and training. Most work in schools during the academic year in either special education or inclusive classrooms. B&O staff planning summer camp have special education training and classroom experience as well as a background in accessibility focused museum programming.

## **What accommodations are available?**

Each camper will be provided with a sensory kit and a visual schedule. Camp aides will have a more detailed schedule, a social narrative, emotion charts, cool down exercises, and first, then charts. The Education Station where campers will spend most of their time will have a cool down corner for breaks and quiet time. Staff and campers will have sensory maps for exploring the museum to give advanced warning of sudden sensory input changes. Additional time has been created in the schedule to allow for more relaxed transitions. All activities are planned with sensory sensitivities in mind, children will also have alternatives available if they are uncomfortable doing an activity. If your camper needs additional accommodations, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## **My child has their own aide, can their aide attend camp with them?**

Yes! Campers who have personal aides can attend with that aide. Please make note on registration or in an email that an aide will be attending with your child.

## **My child takes medication, can camp staff administer that medication?**

Based on the laws surrounding the storing and administering of medication, staff at the B&O will not be able to administer medication. If your child can take it themselves, they will be allowed to do so. Otherwise, we recommend taking it before camp or having someone come to the museum at the time the child usually takes their medication.

### **Will lunch be provided, or will children have to bring their own lunch?**

Campers will need to pack their own lunch each day. We will have water bottles for campers to decorate but they may also bring their own.

### **My child has allergies and food sensitivities, how will they be kept safe?**

Camp staff will be made aware of all allergies and sensitivities and will monitor mealtimes and snacks to ensure your child does not come into contact with allergens.

### **What is your policy on aggressive behaviors?**

While we understand campers may have occasional physical altercations with other campers or camp staff as a result of disability related challenges, we do have to ensure the safety of all campers and staff throughout the week. If a camper shows any aggressive behaviors towards another camper or staff member (including hitting, biting, pushing, etc.) their parent/guardian will be contacted. We will then separate that camper from the group to allow them a chance to cool down and if possible, relay any concerns they have with camp staff. That camper will be permitted to return to camp but if aggressive behavior occurs again on that day or another day, the camper will be required to be picked up and unable to return to camp the rest of the week. If your child has shown these behaviors at school or at home, we ask that you provide us information on triggers/antecedents, what specific behavior has occurred, and any strategies that have proven effective, so our staff is prepared to best support your camper.

### **Will my child be taking a train ride during the week of camp?**

Yes! On Friday, your camper will be taking a train ride on our Mile One Express. Counselors and aides will have sensory kits for campers who need them on the train ride. If you have any concerns about noise or this being a new experience, please let us know. Parents are all invited to join us on the train ride!

## **When is drop-off and pick-up?**

Drop-off is between 8:45-9am. If you **registered** for late pick-up, you should pick-up your child no later than 4pm. If you **did not register** for late pick-up, you should pick-up your child by 3pm.

## **Is there anything I should send with my child?**

It may be helpful to have sunscreen and bug spray. Campers will be spending time outside in our backyard. The B&O Railroad Museum is not responsible for any lost damaged items brought from home, including toys, tablets, and cell phones.

*\*While the B&O Railroad Museum is no longer under Covid-19 protocols, we recognize that some children still find comfort in wearing a mask and they should feel comfortable doing so at camp.*