



EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

THE HIVE EXPERIENCE

The hive at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum provides an ideal atmosphere for young people to make connections to contemporary art, artists, nature, and ideas as well as to each other. Passionate instructors enable campers to take on challenges, solve problems, and explore visual culture and the environment. Using *the hive* as a base, campers will venture through the Museum, Sculpture Park, and natural landscape to discover how artists are using artistic, scientific, and social tools to explore ideas about self, the environment, and community. Due to the outdoor and exploratory nature of the program, campers should be prepared to spend much of their time outdoors in our expansive 30 acres.

A week at *the hive* is more than art making. It's about communicating, experimenting, celebrating individuals, seeing from new perspectives, and coming together as a group to accomplish challenging goals. It's a week when friendships are forged and confidence is built. Each camper's personal interests and unique abilities are welcomed and complement those of new friends while everyone learns from each other. The campers' joyful pride in their accomplishments is shared with family and friends each week at the Friday Celebration.

Hive staff are committed to providing each camper and their families with an excellent experience. Partnership among staff, campers, and parent/guardians is important to the success of each camper and each hive. We expect parents/guardians to make a commitment to the well-being of the entire camp by supporting *the hive's* policies as well as their own child(ren)'s participation.

If, at any time, you have a question or concern about your child or the program, please speak with camp director, Sarah Brockway. No question or concern is too small to bring to our attention.

THE FIRST DAY

Parents/Guardians will attend check-in with their children on Monday at 9:30 am (or 8:30, if you have pre-arranged for early drop-off). This ensures that your child is comfortable coming to the program and gives you an opportunity to meet the staff. Please plan on 10-15 extra minutes for the first day after drop-off to get your child settled in.

On the first day, please park your vehicle in the main parking lot and walk to the Central Hive in the Carriage House. Staff will check you in, make sure we have all your paperwork, and direct you to your child's hive.

Next, you will proceed to your child's hive to check in with his/her instructor and meet fellow campers. The instructors will then give you information about your child's group, program schedule, and necessary logistics.

Parents/guardians are invited and encouraged to attend a special tour immediately following drop-off. See the art that inspired each week's camp theme and discuss *the hive's* objectives and activities with Deputy Director for Learning and Engagement, Julie Bernson.

IMPORTANT: After Monday morning, campers will be picked up and dropped off at their own hive each day.

DROP OFF & PICK UP

All campers are signed in and out each day by an authorized parent or guardian with an ID; hence parents **MUST** park their car and accompany their child to their hive at 9:30 am, and pick them up there at 4:30 pm. Your child will be released only to those persons listed on the pickup form, unless there is prior written consent.

We ask that you pay special attention to the 10 MPH speed limit on deCordova's roadways and in the parking lot, and drive carefully for the safety of all hive campers and public visitors to deCordova.

EARLY DROP OFF

Parents may drop their children off at 8:30 am at the Central Hive for an additional fee of \$55 per child per week. This hour will include quiet games and projects. Pre-registration is required.

LATE PICK UP

If you will be late to pick-up, please call Donna in the office at 781.259.3603 as early as possible to let us know.

Parents arriving 10 minutes or more after the 4:30 pm closing time will be charged a fee of \$10. This rule is strictly enforced for the safety of all children.

4 PM FRIDAY CELEBRATION & PICK UP

Parents, family, and friends are invited to a special celebration at 4 pm on Friday when campers unveil what they have been collaborating on all week. Join us to celebrate! Pickup on Friday starts at 4 pm at the installation site. You will be emailed a specific location on Thursday and there will be way-finding signs onsite.

POLICIES

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Health & Information completed on the FamilyID registration site are required for each camper attending *the hive* and are due **no later than June 1**. Under Massachusetts law, participants without completed forms will not be able to attend the program until the forms are delivered to the office.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Parents/guardians have informed the deCordova staff of any limitations to the camper's participation and agree to abide by deCordova's sole judgment as to whether the camper can be accommodated in the program. I understand that failing to disclose any physical, emotional, or behavioral needs or conditions may result in the camper's dismissal from the program. I understand that the camper must follow the stated behavior expectations and safety rules and that deCordova reserves the right in its sole judgment to dismiss without refund any camper whose behavior interferes with the rights and safety of others or consistently disrupts group dynamics or activities.

At deCordova we strive to create a safe community where individual differences are valued, where campers and staff can accept new challenges, and where everyone can have fun. DeCordova reserves the right to dismiss a camper for problematic behavior that results in the disruption of group or offense to others and has a zero tolerance for drug use, physical or verbal harassment, smoking, or weapons on its premises.

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR

Campers should bring their lunch, snack, and refillable water bottle each day. We are not able to refrigerate lunches—lunches that need to stay cold should be packed in an appropriate lunchbox.

For the safety of all participants, *the hive* is PEANUT and TREE NUT FREE. Please do not pack ANY peanut or tree nut products.

Sunscreen and insect repellent are necessary items at deCordova.

Students should wear clothes that can get messy (with dirt or possible paint/ink stains) and comfortable, sturdy shoes for walking—no flip flops or Crocs™.

Do not bring toys, lovies, electronics, or other precious belongings to *the hive*. These types of objects can be broken or mislaid at camp, and they can be a disruption to the collaborative community created at *the hive*.

WEATHER

Campers will spend time outdoors, rain or shine. Please send your camper prepared for hot sunny days or cool rainy days. If there is thunder and lightning, all campers are moved indoors.

SUN AND BUGS

We request that you apply sunscreen to your child prior to arriving at camp. Please be sure to send your child to camp with additional sunscreen. If your camper needs help reapplying, please provide a note stating that Hive Staff has permission to help.

Insects are a part of summer. To make your child's experience more comfortable, we request that you apply insect repellent to your child prior to arriving at camp and pack insect repellent in his/her backpack.

We are in New England and ticks are difficult to avoid. Every night, please take a few moments to check your child for ticks. An excellent time is at bath time or just before bed – especially check warm areas, such as behind the knees, underwear lines, underarms, and on the back of the neck (near hairline).

For more information about ticks and mosquitos, please visit the Department of Public Health website at:

www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/epidemiology/providers/mosquitoes-and-ticks.html

ABSENCE

If your child is unable to attend for any reason, call Donna in the office at 781.259.3603 by 9 am. Please leave a message with your child's name and reason for absence.

PAYMENTS, REFUNDS & CANCELLATION

Full payment is due at time of registration to secure your space. Tuition refunds, less a \$100 deposit, will be granted through June 1. No refunds can be issued after June 1. A \$25 transfer fee will apply for those participants who transfer sessions after registration, as space is available. No refunds will be given for dismissal or incomplete attendance (including sick days).

SAFETY TEAM

The hive staff is CORI and SORI background checked and trained by deCordova to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for children. DeCordova has a Health Care Supervisor on staff, a doctor on call, and will contact emergency responders if a situation requires it.

This camp must comply with regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and be licensed by the local Board of Health.

Parents may request copies of background check, health care, and discipline policies as well as file grievances by contacting thehive@decordova.org.