



STEM Matters NYC Frequently Asked Questions

- Where is camp?
 - Camps are located at different sites around the city. [Learn more about where programs are located.](#)
- What is the camp about?
 - STEM Matters NYC runs several sessions of enrichment camps at cultural institutions and experiential learning centers all around the city during spring and summer break. Programs for elementary and middle school grades are open to students through a lottery process but seats are very limited and families must submit completed applications to be considered. Programs for high school students require an application that contains several essay questions, an interview, and a letter of reference from a teacher. A panel reviews these applications and determines which students are the best fit.
- Is transportation provided?
 - No, transportation is not provided. It is the family's responsibility to drop off and pick up their student. If your student needs to use public transportation, we will provide a daily MetroCard. On the first day of camp, there is a family orientation and you might connect with other families to ask about carpooling.
- What time does camp start and end?
 - Camp begins promptly at 9:00am, Monday through Friday. Student pick-up is promptly at 3:00pm each day. Note that some high school programs have a different schedule.
- Can I drop my student off after 9:00am?
 - No. Because our teachers plan lessons and activities that begin right at 9:00am and do not end until 3:00pm, all students must attend camp each day from 9:00am to 3:00pm. If you are unable to drop-off by 9:00am, unfortunately your student will not be able to participate. Note that some high school programs have a different schedule.
- Can I pick up my student after 3:00pm?
 - No. Our teachers leave the site at 3:00pm, and there is no childcare after that time. Kindly arrive on time to pick up your student at 3:00pm. If you are not able to pick up at 3:00pm, unfortunately your student will not be able to participate. Note that some high school programs have a different schedule.
- Do you provide lunch or snacks?
 - We do not provide lunch or snacks. Please send your student with healthy lunch and snack each day. Note that certain camp sites are entirely nut-free and will communicate that information before camp starts.



- My student has to miss a day of camp. Will that be a problem?
 - Yes. We have thousands of families who apply for a limited number of seats so we only accept students who can attend every single day of camp for the entire session each day (Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm). Our teachers plan detailed lessons that connect activities and learning from one day to the next. Missing one day means your student will be missing out on exciting activities and fall behind. Additionally, we have found that when students miss a day, they miss the opportunity to bond with the group and do not have as much of a positive social experience as the others in the group.
- Can my student's siblings attend with him/her?
 - No. Each site has planned a hands-on, intensive session for only the students on their rosters. Only your student and others who are officially enrolled may attend. Camp sites cannot accommodate any additional participants.
- My student's best friend applied. Can he/she be accepted as well?
 - Maybe, but only if your student's best friend applied and is also accepted. We receive thousands of applications for a small number of seats. Only students who have been offered an official acceptance may attend camp.
- What does my student need to wear?
 - Students will go outside no matter what the weather is! They should wear weather-appropriate clothes they can move around in that can get dirty. Shoes should be comfortable and close-toed (sneakers are best). Kindly apply sunscreen and bug spray before your student is dropped off each morning.
- What does my student need to bring?
 - Students should bring a reusable water bottle with their name written on it, healthy lunch and snack, and a hat to protect them from the sun.
- May my student travel to and from camp alone?
 - All students must be picked up and dropped off by a guardian or by someone specified in the application unless the guardian has arranged an alternate plan in writing with their specific camp site. Once your student has been accepted, contact the camp site directly to make alternate arrangements if your student is permitted to travel on their own to and/or from camp.
- Does my student need to bring money to camp?
 - Students should not bring money to camp. Students only need a packed lunch, reusable water bottle, and a hat. Everything else is taken care of for them!



- Are charter school and homeschooled students eligible to apply for your camps?
 - Yes, as public school students, charter and homeschooled students have the same chance to attend STEM Matters NYC Camps as students in a traditional public school setting. All applications are thoroughly reviewed and considered. However, we have thousands of applications for very limited spots, so we cannot offer a seat to all students who apply for our programs.

- Are private school students eligible to apply for your camps?
 - STEM Matters NYC programs are only open to students attending NYC DOE public schools (including traditional public as well as charter and homeschool students), so unfortunately private school students are not eligible.

- Can my student bring their cell phone to camp?
 - Students are not permitted to use personal hand-held devices during the program. If a student brings a cell phone or other technology, it must remain powered off and stored in their bag during the program.

- What is your behavioral policy?
 - STEM Matters NYC has a zero-tolerance policy for physical or verbal bullying or any behaviors that endanger your student, other students, or program staff. Because the NYC Department of Education must ensure the safety and wellbeing of the entire group of students enrolled in the program, it is at the discretion of program staff to remove your student from the program if your student is observed behaving in any manner that is inappropriate, disrespectful, dangerous, or hurtful to others.

- My student learns and interacts with other students differently than some students. Does knowing that help you to provide a better experience for them?
 - Yes! Students with many different backgrounds and learning styles join us at camp. Email us at STEMMattersNYC@schools.nyc.gov to tell us everything we should know about your student that will help them have a more complete and engaging experience at camp.