



Helpful Tips and Information Prior To Your Camp-In

Preparing for Camp

What to bring?

- Back packs, duffle bags or small roller suitcases “carry-on” size luggage is ideal.
- Sleeping bag and sleeping pad (sleeping pad goes under your sleeping bag) Sleeping pads are highly recommended as we do not allow air mattresses and the floor is carpeted, but still hard.
- Pillows and extra blankets as the air conditioning does get cold, even in summer, so it is always a good idea to bring an extra blanket.
- Basic toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and hair brushes are ideal and wet wipes are a great way to freshen up since we do not have showers.
- Pajamas.
- Clothing should be comfortable. Casual clothes and good walking shoes are recommended. Remember to bring a jacket or sweater no matter what time of year you are coming.
- Charging banks are a great idea and allow you to charge your device without an outlet. There are some outlets available in the sleeping area as well as charging stations around the center but you are not guaranteed a sleeping location near an outlet.
- Money for gift shop.
- Food/snacks if you have food allergies or are unable to partake in the provided meals, you may bring your own. However, NO food or drinks can be consumed in sleeping areas.
- Medical forms for every participant and adult are required to be brought to the Camp-In. The lead chaperone should have them readily available if needed for an emergency.



What NOT to bring?

Please keep in mind that you will be sleeping near other groups and we ask that you show the same courtesy and respect to them that you would like them to show you. Think of it as an indoor-camping trip and the camp site, just like in the forest, has a few rules so that everyone has a safe and enjoyable time.

- Air mattresses and cots, the only exception to this rule is if you or someone in your party has a medical condition. If you did not already request to bring one in the comments section of your registration, please email Reservations or the Program Coordinator.
 - Glow sticks (flash lights and phone lights are ok)
 - Electrical hair appliances (blow dryers, straighteners, curling irons etc.)
- Only registered participants attend a Camp-In. Chaperones are not permitted to bring any children who are not registered or who do not meet the designated age level for a camp-in.

Adding Additional Students or Adults to Your Reservation?

- If you need to add more participants to your reservation, please call Reservations at +1 281-283-4755.



Medical Conditions

- If you have a medical condition that does not allow you to sleep on the floor and you need to bring an air mattress or cot, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can accommodate you.
- If you need to bring a CPAP machine, let us know so that we can place you near an outlet.
- If you have any allergies to food, you can view the current menu and list of ingredients that will be offered during the Camp-In, on our website at any time. If you need to bring your own food, you may do so.
- Our Instructors and Camp-In staff will not administer any medication to anyone. If a child is bringing prescription medicine that needs to be taken during the camp, then either their parent/guardian or lead chaperone must administer it to them.

First Aid

- We do have a first aid kit with very basic supplies for minor injuries or illnesses. The Security department also has a fully equipped first aid kit.
- The chaperone leader needs to have all of the medical forms for every student and additional adults readily available in case of an emergency.

Cancellation and Refund Policies

- Cancellations to your reservations may be made up until 6 weeks before the date of your Camp-In.
- Refunds will only be given up until 6 weeks before the date of your Camp-In.
- If your camp is less than 6 weeks away and you are not able to attend, you can reschedule individuals or your entire group and apply your ticket(s) to another Camp-In.
- If Space Center Houston cancels your camp due to bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances, we will either refund you or you can apply your tickets to another Camp-In date.
- Rescheduling your Camp-In date can be done by calling Reservations at +1 281-283-4755. Please note that all dates are subject to availability.



Arrival and Check-In

Getting to Space Center Houston

We are located at 1601 NASA Parkway, Houston, TX 77058

Traffic can be an issue, even on a Saturday so make sure you give yourself plenty of time to travel. If you are crossing through downtown Houston, it is generally better to take the 610 loop instead of I-45 through that area.

- If your troop/pack is traveling in separate vehicles, make sure all drivers have a way to contact each other. Everyone must be present from your troop or pack in order to check in.
- Always check current weather and road conditions on official state websites.
- I-45 usually has road construction south of Beltway 8.
- Beltway 8 is a toll road.
- In case of bad weather and road closures on major freeways, there are several alternate routes in the area to choose from.
- Remember to search for Space Center Houston and not NASA or Johnson Space Center on your GPS. We are located across the street from NASA.

Bad Weather

Camp-Ins are not cancelled for bad weather unless all of Space Center Houston is closed. This only occurs in extreme, severe storms. No refunds will be given as long as the Camp-In has not been canceled. However, you may reschedule your visit any time. You will be notified if the Camp-In is canceled.



Parking and Check-In

- Check-in is at 5 p.m.
- Tell the Space Center Houston Crew Member at the parking toll booth that you are here for the Camp-In. Parking is free for you and anyone else who is staying for the Camp-In or dropping off and picking up.
- The gate will be open early in the morning for anyone joining you on the second day.
- Check-in is at the front of the building, look for Camp-In staff at a counter to the left of Security.
- Once everyone from your party has arrived, the leader can go up and check-in with our staff. You will receive a welcome packet with a wrist band for everyone in your group as well as the itinerary for the evening, coupons for the gift store and badge requirements met and a few other goodies.
- The Camp-In staff member will then explain everything you need to know and check-you in. Know how many participants you have and how many chaperones you have altogether. They will also tell you when to bring in your luggage. If you are being dropped off, you can either store your luggage in another vehicle from your group or ask the Camp-In staff member for assistance.
- Your entire group must be present in order to check-in and enter the center. If you think that part of your group will not arrive before dinner starts, then please notify the Camp-In staff.

Activities

- The activity portion of the evening is meant to be a team building and educational experience for the participants. Our Instructors will relate the activities to space, STEM and current NASA missions. All activities are either science or space related.
- Your team will be assigned to a group of about 20-30 other participants. They will not be separated from their team unless a group has more than 30 participants. You will also be assigned to the same group as your team.
- Groups will rotate around the center, doing each activity at a different location. Some activities are hands-on while others may be tours or interactive demos.

Leaders

- Your role as a lead chaperone and/or parent is very important during the Camp-In. The activities are designed for you to participate with your team and enjoy this unique experience together. Please participate in the activities with your group and help them make memories that will last for a lifetime!
- Instructors are going to rely on you to participate and be a part of the activities. They will interact with you as well and will get you involved so “be prepared”.
- The Instructors also need your help with maintaining discipline and attention of the participants.
- We will have a refreshment area for you where there will be coffee, soda and hot and cold water available to you throughout the evening.

Family and Friends

- Camp-Ins are designed as a special night for participants and their parents/chaperones only. If any friends or other family members would like to join you for your second day, you can purchase a Day 2 Only ticket for \$12.95 for them the night of your Camp-In. Tell them to arrive by 8 a.m. to join you for Day 2 activities, including the private tram tour.



What to Expect

After Check-In, Before Dinner

- Free time to explore the center – limitations apply. Movies, shows, simulators and Independence Plaza are off limits. You can experience these attractions on your second day. This is so that no one misses dinner and we don't lose you. There is plenty to see in the exhibit area during this time.

Buffet Dinner / Snacks / Buffet Breakfast

- Both meals will be served, "buffet style", with one serving per person. Seconds will be offered after everyone has been served.
- Menus include vegetarian and gluten free options. See current menu on our website.

Luggage/ Camp Sites

- Luggage is brought in at different times depending on what camp type you are attending and when the center closes. You will be told when to bring in luggage at check-in.
- Camp sites are assigned at random by team and are based on capacity and group size.
- Changing and getting ready for bed happens in the bathrooms.
- Men and women will be required to sleep in separate areas.
- If a team has both men and women participants then there should be a chaperone for both genders.
- After lights-out, it is up to you to keep your group quiet and settled.

Welcome Show

- There will be a Welcome Show after dinner to go over the plan for the evening, rules and introduce the guest speakers.

2 Deep Leadership

- Our policy at Space Center Houston is that a student participant is never left alone. They are either with one of our Instructors, another team member, chaperone/leader or parent. We ask them to find a "Space Buddy" (another participant) during the Welcome Show and they are supposed to stay together during the activity portion of the night.
- Please feel free to abide by your organization's policies. We understand and respect that you may require two adults from your team to go with the groups when they are dismissed and that is completely acceptable.

Camp T Shirts, Patches and Day 2 Only Tickets

- Camp T-shirts, patches and Day 2 Only Tickets will be available for pick up and/or purchase after the Welcome Show. The Camp-In staff member leading the Welcome Show will dismiss you by group to go to the T-Shirt counter.
- If you preorder your shirts and patches you will receive them the night of the Camp-In. We no longer mail them before the Camp-In.

For any questions or to make any changes to your order, including purchases and additional notes, please contact Reservations at +1 281-283-4755 or reservations@spacecenter.org.

