

NEBRASKA

Family Magazine



**10 UNIQUE & ENRICHING
NEBRASKA
SUMMER CAMPS
FOR KIDS AGES 4-18**

1

YMCA Camp Kitaki, Louisville

YMCA Camp Kitaki is a resident summer camp for children ages 7-17. The camp features traditional activities like swimming, horseback riding, crafts and archery in addition to activities that promote positive identity and values.

Location: 14917 East Park Highway, Louisville. The camp is situated on 215+ acres above the Platte River Valley. It is located 30 minutes from both Lincoln and Omaha.

Camps are offered throughout the summer for various age groups, including

- Adventure Mini Camp half-week, ages 7-9
- Discoverers Jr. Camp one-week, ages 7-8
- Traditional Weeklong Summer Camps (Explorers, Pathfinders and Navigators), ages 9-14
- Ranch Camp, one-week camp, ages 10-17. Offers a complete horsemanship experience including instruction, saddle time and caring for horses.
- Trailblazers Camp, one week, ages 13-15. Campers participate in challenges such as the climbing tower and high ropes. Designed to build leadership, confidence and independence.
- Niobrara Canoe Camp, one week, ages 13-17
- Leadership Camp, two weeks, ages 14-17. Includes a trip to northern Minnesota to a rustic camp to encourage personal growth and leadership development.
- Ranger Camp, one week, ages 11-13. Offers a more rugged experience with opportunities to develop more in-depth outdoor living skills.

Fees: \$295-\$630. Scholarships are available.

For more information: <http://www.ymcacampkitaki.org/landing-page/summer-camp>

2

Bright Lights Day Camps, Lincoln

With camps like Amazing Race Challenges, Test Tube Science, Broadway Bound, Physics World Z, Clay Craziess, The Science and Magic of FROZEN, Reptiles Rock, Kayaking, Guitar Discovery, Genetic Engineering and Astronomical, Bright Lights will make sure children's brains continue to grow and learn during the summer months.

Bright Lights is a non-profit organization that offers engaging and educational summer learning classes for elementary and middle school students. With more than 100 classes offered during five weeks of summer, there is something of interest for every student from coding and sewing to science and robotics. Both full-day and half-day camps are offered with before and after-care also available.

Location: Holmes Elementary School, 5230 Sumner St. and Lux Middle School, 7800 High Street and a few other locations.

Fees: \$125 per week for half-day camps (9 a.m.-Noon or 1-4 p.m.) to \$250 per week for full-day camps (9 a.m.-4 p.m. with students bringing lunch).

For more information: <http://www.brightlights.org/programs/>

3

The Strategic Air & Space Museum Camps, Ashland

Camps with a focus on aviation, robotics, space, and technology will be offered at the Strategic Air & Space Museum this summer. Several camps are offered between June 5 and August 4 for kids entering grades 1-6 with a one-day camp, three-day or a five-day combination of experiences.

Aviation or Space-Themed Camps include Military Adventure Camp, Forces of Flight or Ready for Take Off, SPY Games, Out of This World and Drone Camp. Technology camps include OH SNAP! Circuitry, Kids that Code and Robotics Camps.

Fees: \$75 for a one-day camp, \$200 for a three-day camp, or \$325 for a five-day camp. Members receive further discounts. The museum offers before and after program care for \$10 per day, so parents can drop off as early as 7:30 a.m. and pick up as late as 5:30 p.m. Registration deadline is May 15 to ensure a free t-shirt.

For more information: www.SACMuseum.org or call the education department at 402.944.3100 x 204. <http://sacmuseum.org/what-to-do/education/camps/>

4

4-H Summer Camps

Amidst the beauty of the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey and Schramm State Park near Gretna and beyond, Nebraska 4-H Camps provide a life-changing summer camp experience for all youth. 4-H is education for life and focuses on helping young people explore the science in their everyday lives, grow

leadership and citizenship skills, explore future career opportunities, and make healthier decisions. Your child does not have to be a member of 4-H to attend.

Day Camps for children ages 6-12 take place across the state and include fun themes, such as A Week in the Great Outdoors at Cody Park in North Platte or Fort Kearny State Park, Aloha at Louisville Beach, Making A Splash at communities across the state, Sky High Adventures at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center near Gretna and other fun camps.

Explorer Camps are for children age 8-11 and allow them the opportunity to learn about living, working, and playing together, as well as gaining respect for nature. Camps include Tanking the Niobrara and Tubing the North Loup, Kool Kravings baking camp, Radical Reactions Science Camp, Zoventures at the Henry Doorly Zoo and much more.

Discovery Camps are for kids ages 11-15 and are loaded with more advanced adventures. Each session features camp favorites like the waterslide, Gau-Gau, campfires and creek stomping, and provides opportunities for campers to create lasting friendships. Camps include Leaders in Training, Robotic Challenge, Outback Halsey Survivor, Rockin' Beach Party, Platte River Mini Trip and much more.

Fees: \$25 for one-day camps to \$350 for advanced week-long overnight camps.

For more information: <http://4h.unl.edu/summer-camp>

5

Crane River Theater, Kearney

Kids interested in drama and theater will thrive in the popular Crane River Theater Company's Summer Explore Theater Classes. Classes are offered between June 5 and Aug. 4 for ages 4 to grade 8 through Kearney Park and Recreation, the Kearney Area Children's Museum and the Don Sjogren YMCA in Holdrege.

Little ones will enjoy Seuss Spectacular or ham it up pretending to be a Pirate, Princess, Mermaid, Ninja or Superhero for a day. Classes for Grades K-2 Include "A Week With Frog and Toad" or "Muppets on Broadway." Grades 3-5 will enjoy "Let's Make a Musical" or "The World of Harry Potter." Tweens and teens can get creative with the Magic of Makeup, Comedy Sports, Musical Theater Revolution or Clowning, Choreography and Combat.

Fees: Vary based on location.

For more information: <http://cranerivertheater.org/explore-theater-2/>

6

Platte River Audubon, Rowe Sanctuary near Gibbon

Platte River Safari is a day camp that gets children out in nature to discover the great diversity of life that exists beyond their own backyards. Using some of the best local naturalists and educators, Platte River Safari explores birds, mammals, fish, insects, reptiles, stream life, prairies, wetlands, natural history, art, music and

more.

Two camps are offered for children currently in grades 2-5: June 19-22 and June 26-29 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Nicholson Audubon Center and Rowe Sanctuary. Buses will transport kids from Minden, Kearney and Gibbon both weeks.

Fee: \$125, includes a t-shirt.

For more information, <http://rowe.audubon.org/programs/summer-camps>

7

Minecraft Camps, Lincoln and Omaha

Turn video games into learning time this summer for your techy children with the Learn, Create and Build Academy's Coding Minecraft Server Mods Camp. These four-day camps are offered for children ages 7-14. They will learn to develop, design and share their own Minecraft mods. Students will also participate in activities away from the keyboard. Attending camp will not only help children become Minecraft masters, but it will prepare them for additional learning in programming and development.

The Lincoln Camp (Coding Minecraft Server Mods) will be at Southeast Community College June 26-29. The Omaha Camp will be at Creighton University June 5-8.

Fee: \$329.

For more information, <https://learncreatebuild.com/camp/coding-minecraft-server-mods>

8

Camp Sonshine, Roca

Camp Sonshine provides full-time summer day camp programs and overnight camps for children from kindergarten to ninth grade. It is a Christian-based non-denominational camp that offers traditional camp activities emphasizing its core values of faith, family, growth service and imagination. Nine camp sessions are offered throughout the summer.

Camps include:

- Explorer Camp for children entering grades K-2: Go-karts, archery, moonbounce, arts and crafts, inflatable water games, outdoor cooking, pedal carts and nature activities.
- Adventure Camp for children entering grade 3-4: Go-karts, archery, moonbounce, arts and crafts, teambuilding activities, petting zoo, sports and water games, outdoor cooking and nature activities.
- High Adventure for campers entering grades 5-6: off-road go-karts, outdoor cooking, slingshots, sports, water games, kayaking and plus elective activities such as X-Treme Art & Pottery, Airsoft Adventures, Culinary Creations and more.
- Leader In Training for students entering grades 7-9: LITs will put their leadership skills into practice as they help monitor and maintain group control, work to create a safe environment for campers and assist with camp activities. LITs will assist trained counselors with our K-4th grade groups or be assigned to help facilitate or lead one of a variety of activities.
- Overnight Camps At Camp Solaris: Located two miles south of Firth. Overnight camps include Journey for grades 5-6, Expedition for grades 7-9, Solaris Adventures for grades 3-6 and the popular Ninth Inning Camp for grades 3 and older.

Fee: \$205 for day camps to \$355 for overnight camps.

For more information: <http://campsonshinememories.org/summer-camp/programs-by-grade/>

9

Timberlake Ranch Camps, Marquette

Timberlake offers Christian-based day camps, overnight camps and horse camps on its 428 acres of riverfront property in central Nebraska.

Primary Camps are 3-day overnight camps for children in grades K-3 and include swimming, barn time, crafts, campfire, paddle boats, canoes, hayrack rides and a

petting zoo.

Elementary Camps are for grades 4-6 and offer the same activities as primary camps with the addition of Zorb ball, soccer and an optional horse trailride.

Jr. High Camps are for teens entering grades 7-10 and include all the traditional camp activities plus the high ropes course, a campfire supper, paintball and other challenges.

Horsemanship Camps are for children entering grades 4-10. No horse experience is necessary. Wranglers help kids develop riding skills and knowledge of horses and horse care.

Timberlake also offers a Hispanic Camp for children in grades K-5, a SALT (Servant and Leadership Training) for grades 9-12, Sr. High Camp for grades 9-12 and Standard Day Camps and Horse Day Camps for grades K-5.

Fee: \$30 per day for day camps to \$380 for weeklong overnight camps.

For more information, visit <http://timberlake.org/>

10

**College of Saint Mary Latina
and African American Summer Academies, Omaha**

Summer camps aren't just for little ones. The College of Saint Mary offers two unique camps for girls entering grades 10 or 11. Serious Eats: The Art & Science of Food is unique one-week opportunity for Latina and African American girls to experience college life by staying in the college's residence hall for one week. Participants will explore the origin of food and the impact of nutrition in today's society, go on field trips, share a meal and visit with professional women and discover the power of self-defense. The Latina camp is June 11-16 and the African-American Camp is July 9-14.

Fee: \$25 per student. Limited to the first 60 registered students.

Deadline is May 12 for the Latina camp and June 12 for the African-American Camp.

For more information, <http://www.csm.edu/events/16th-annual-latina-summer-academy> or <http://www.csm.edu/events/4th-annual-african-american-summer-academy>

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