



CREATIVE ROOT'S IN-PERSON SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION & COVID SAFETY PLAN 2023

Welcome to Creative Root at DePaul's summer theater camp! We're so excited to be able to do theater together in-person this year, and we hope you are too! Creative Root is taking steps to ensure our camp experience this year will not only be incredibly fun and artistically exciting, but safe for both participants and instructors. Please read the following carefully so that your camper is prepared to get the most out of their summer camp adventure.

What To Bring to Camp?

- Healthy Snack & Lunch (No nuts, please and please pack snack in same bag as lunch)
- Labeled Water Bottle
- **EpiPens** or other **emergency allergy medications**, with instructions for your child. (Please check in with a staffer to go over details)
- Optional: Copy of book or story they'll be adapting (if they already have one it's helpful, but no need to purchase)
- No technology, but any books//coloring they'd like to have for breaks//lunch are welcome
- Optional: Sunscreen, we will be working outside during nice weather as well as snack/lunch breaks
- Optional: Beach Towel or Yoga Mat (This can be left at space, but good to sit on indoors & out, especially if camper is sensitive to grass)
- Optional: Masks (We are mask friendly//optional indoor & outdoor, so only if needed/preferred by your family or per our Covid-19 guidelines)
- Labeled Craft Shirt (Helpful if labeled and in Ziplock bag. This can be left at space)

- Change of Clothes (If helpful, especially for younger campers, you can also bring a spare change of clothes in a labeled Ziplock bag)
- Base Costume (You'll receive requests at end of first or second week, please bring in labeled ziplock bag)

Drop Off (9-915am) & Pick Up (3-315pm)

Drop off & Pick Up will take place at The Theatre School (2350 N Racine Ave). A Creative Root staffer will greet you outside by the main entrance of the building to check each camper in for the day. Campers must be signed out by a parent or guardian (or someone authorized on your google form) before they are allowed to leave camp unless they have written permission to sign themselves out and walk home.

The main entrance is in the middle of the building on Racine (not the corner on Fullerton—those doors are locked). There is free parking along Racine on the northbound side and paid along the southbound side.

Unfortunately, we currently do not offer early drop-off or after care. Therefore, it is important to respect the pick-up & drop-off windows given as it directly impacts staff and instructors. Staff will be in place at 9am to check in campers outside, please do not drop off and leave campers unattended inside or outside the building. Many of staff and instructors have work commitments after camp and are unable to work past camp hours. Please make sure to pick up your campers no later than 3:15pm.

- **If you are ever running late for pick-up/drop-off or will be absent for the day, please call Creative Root at 773-325-5000.** (Helpful Tip: Add this number into your contacts now, as it will be the main point of contact between staff and parents for all things camp related!)

Locations & Inclement Weather

Creative Root's camp location includes rehearsal rooms at The Theatre Building at DePaul (2350 N Racine Ave) and St. Vincent's Circle, a reserved outdoor space with plenty of shade located on The Quad. After lunch, we will take a short playground break at Oscar Mayer School (2250 N Clifton), Supera Park (2522 N. Racine) or Jonquil Park (1001 W. Wrightwood). Weather permitting, we will be holding camp spending at least half of our camp day outside, but in the case of inclement weather, we will work in our rehearsal rooms that are reserved exclusively for camp use. **Please prepare your camper to spend the day outdoors by packing sunscreen, refillable labeled water bottle, beach towel or yoga mat, if they prefer not to sit on the grass.**

How Do I Contact you During the Camp Day?

Mechelle Moe, Director of Creative Root or Katie Dinkel, Ass't Summer Camp Manager, are your primary points of contact for Creative Root Summer Camp. You can call 773.325.5000. Please do not call the main number for The Theatre School or the box office to communicate with the summer camp staff.

You can direct emails to mmoe1@depaul.edu for prompt response to your communications.

What to Wear to Camp?

Please make sure that your camper is wearing **clothing in which they can move freely in and comfortable for outdoors**. We move our bodies a lot in theater camp, as it's one of our most important actor's tools! So Creative Root recommends for safety, comfort, and enhanced confidence: No open-toed sandals or flip flops, extra tight jeans, skirts/dresses (unless wearing shorts underneath), or clothing that otherwise limits movement, comfort, or confidence. Also, for some craft days, you may be asked to bring an old, oversized T-shirt if we are making something messy.

Snacks & Lunch

Creative Root will take breaks to re-energize with a morning snack and afternoon lunch. Please pack your snacks in the lunchbox. Campers will be asked to wash their hands before and after eating their snack and lunch. When eating, campers will remain socially distanced as best as possible and will not be allowed to share food. Please remember that camp is a NUT-FREE ZONE, and we ask that you do not pack any snacks or foods that contain nuts. **Creative Root does NOT have snacks or lunch available for campers, so please remember to pack a healthy snack & lunch each day.**

Weather permitting, all snacks and lunches will take place outside. Should we need to take one of our breaks indoors due to inclement weather, campers will be distanced as much as physically possible within the space.

There is no refrigerator or microwave for camp use. Lunches and snacks will be kept indoors in air-conditioned spaces. But insulated lunch packs are always recommended. It is helpful if you label all your items (lunch boxes/bags, water bottles, etc)

Bathrooms & Water Fountains

All campers and instructors will be using campus bathrooms primarily located in the Theatre School Building and campus buildings located off The Quad. Restrooms are cleaned several times each day by DePaul's custodial teams. There are also multiple All Gender restrooms located throughout the Theatre School building, including on the first floor, second floor and fourth floor. There are water fountains on campus available for refilling water bottles.

COVID-19 CAMP POLICY—Vaccinations & Masks

As a reminder, Covid proof of vaccination is required to participate in summer camp. This year, we will be mask friendly//optional for both indoors and outdoors. If you would like your camper to wear a mask, please reach out to the Creative Root education team to let us know.

Covid Protocols & Covid Refund Policy — Overall, we ask that you monitor the health of your camper throughout the duration of camp. Should symptoms arise, please stay home and test immediately. While not required, we encourage frequent testing throughout the camp session.

If possible, we would appreciate it if you could please rapid test your camper before the first day of camp on Sunday or Monday morning before arriving, as well as prior to the start of the second week. This will help us monitor the health of our campers.

If you have siblings enrolled and one tests positive or develops symptoms, we ask that you keep both campers at home until they are both cleared. If any camper develops cold or flu-like symptoms during the day, we will provide a rapid COVID test and reach out to you with the results. Regardless of the test result, if a camper is symptomatic, we may ask you to pick them up early based on the severity of symptoms.

What To Do If a Camper Tests Positive for Covid-19:

- Please notify Creative Root’s Education Team immediately.
- Isolate at home for at least five days. If symptoms persist after five days, continue to isolate at home until symptoms resolve.
- Return to camp after isolation and wear a mask until ten days after symptom onset or ten days after the positive test if asymptomatic.
- All camp families and staff will be informed immediately of a positive case at camp. We encourage families to take precautions and rapid test throughout the camp session or after receiving a positive case notification.
- We will ask any camper who tests positive, or who has an active Covid Case in their household to stay home from camp. This includes siblings. If one sibling is positive but the other tests negative, we ask that both remain at home.
- As our camp session is only two weeks in length, a positive Covid-19 infection (personal or within the household) may mean a camper cannot return for that session.
- Campers that are unable to complete their session due to COVID-19 will receive a partial refund if they test positive in the first week of camp. (No refund will be provided after the first week is completed).
- In the event a staff member tests positive, they will be asked to follow the same isolation//masking guidelines listed above.

What To Do If You Are Exposed to COVID-19 In Camp

- Stay in camp, but wear a mask for 10 days.
- Get tested after exposure. Creative Root strongly recommends testing for COVID-19 on the Monday and Thursday after exposure.
- Test Negative: If a student or staff member tests negative, they can remain in camp wearing a mask for 10 days after their exposure.
- Test Positive: Isolate at home. If a student or staff member tests positive, they must isolate at home for the next 5 calendar days and self-report the positive result to Creative Root’s Education Team.

What To Do If Someone In Your Home Tests Positive For COVID-19 If a member of the camper/staff's household tests positive for COVID-19, we recommend the following:

1. If limited contact/exposure to positive individual, return to camp, but wear a mask for ten days. If the positive individual in the household remains symptomatic for longer than ten days, continue to mask until the household member is no longer symptomatic.
2. Test on the next immediate Monday and the next immediate Thursday after exposure.
3. If you have any of these symptoms of COVID-19, test immediately and stay home:
 - Fever 100.4 or higher; chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - New muscle or body aches
 - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
 - Headache
 - Runny nose or congestion
 - Fatigue

When Should I Test For COVID-19?

- If you've been exposed to COVID-19, you should get tested on the immediate following Monday and the immediate following Thursday.
- Testing Recommendations Based on Exposure Day:
 - Test 1: Days 1-4 after exposure
 - Test 2: Days 5-7 after exposure

PUTTING THE SHOW TOGETHER & BUILDING OUR ENSEMBLE

Cool Tricks is an exciting opportunity in which campers can choose to share a special talent//skill//anything that makes them confident//brings them joy with their ensemble that we can celebrate, and maybe even incorporate into our final performance. Some Cool Tricks that have been shared in the past to get you and your camper inspired include singing a favorite song (or one they think might fit in the show), martial arts, sharing a picture they drew, playing a musical instrument, dancing, acrobatics, telling a favorite joke or even magic tricks. We will be sharing our Cool Tricks on Friday afternoon of the first week of camp, so please take some time to check-in with your camper on what Cool Trick they may want to share (have their instrument/object/music ready to bring in). And no worries if your camper doesn't want to

share a Cool Trick—cheering on the ensemble is a perfect way to participate too! We ask that a cool trick be no longer than 2 minutes!

Costumes

Creative Root will provide specialty costume pieces needed for our final performance, but we usually ask campers and their families to bring in a base costume for us to work from. Information about the specifics of the base costume will be sent home with your campers about halfway through the camp session or as needed.

Performances

There will be a culminating performance on the last day of camp at 2:30pm. A more detailed email regarding the performance day and making reservations will be sent closer to the date of performance. There is no charge, but space is limited. Each family will be able to reserve 2-4 seats depending on the size of camp.

Growing a Strong Ensemble (Please read this section in advance with your camper)

The foundation of all Creative Root programming is based on the principal of ensemble—our practice to be aware, respectful, and kind to one another as we collaborate and create theatre together. On our very first day, each ensemble will create their own ensemble agreement together so that everyone can offer and share what they need to be their best, most confident creative self, and collaborator.

Our Roots— Setting up a Creative, Collaborative & Responsive Foundation

Respect for Ourselves & Others

At Creative Root, we want to make sure that every camper feels safe emotionally, physically, and creatively while working together. This includes being a respectful artistic collaborator and mindful of how we use our words and physical actions while working together. Creative Root celebrates leading with kindness by actively listening to all ideas, making space for others, taking turns during an exercise, using safety and awareness with our bodies, observing personal boundaries, being a positive, supportive ensemble member and offering feedback that is constructive. We all shine when we take care of each other!

Respect for our Creative Work and Play Spaces

How lucky we are to get to have camp at the amazing Theatre School building and DePaul campus! We ask that campers always respect the physical spaces that we work—rehearsal rooms, the lobby, The Quad, bathrooms, and the playground. Also, for your camper's safety, we want to make sure we are always using the spaces for what they were designed for and that we leave no trace! (Except for all the positive, creative energy we put into the universe!) Staff and Instructors will always let campers know what are able to, or not able to do, in our work and play spaces. Or if you don't know, just ask!

Respect for our Staff & Instructors

We will learn and grow together! Our instructors and staff are equally excited about sharing their knowledge as they are about learning from each camper. It is a top priority to provide a fun, collaborative, and safe environment for our campers to create in. We will do our best to be transparent about what we are doing and why as well as sharing our daily schedule and goals. Remember that staff and instructors are also a part of the ensemble, so being a respectful artistic collaborator with them is just as important as it is with your peers. We also encourage campers—and parents—to ask questions and share how things are working (or not) for you.

Respect for the Process & Work

We have a collective goal to explore each of our stories through a variety of lenses (movement, writing, singing, designing) and let that inspire the art we make together—all guided by our experienced instructors. Theater is a team effort, and we invite and encourage everyone to fully participate in the creative process to develop a piece of theater that is entirely unique to that ensemble. And while casting and performing is one aspect of the process, at Creative Root, we don't believe it's the most important and we don't want it to define our entire experience. Who knows, maybe you'll discover something new you love that you never knew about before! We hope so!

Technology

We're at camp—IN PERSON— let's connect with those around us! Keep those cell phones in your backpacks so you're not distracted or disengaged. We ask that phones only be used for emergencies or important check-ins with guardians. Always check in with your instructor before using technology. And remove the temptation by leaving all other devices (iPads, tablets, gaming devices, fidget spinners) at home or in the car. This is an interactive and collaborative theater arts camp, what a great opportunity to take a break from our technology! Parents, if you need to get in touch with your child for any reason, please call the Creative Root education mobile at 708-446-0728

Allergies

We said it before, and we'll say it again—**Creative Root is a peanut & tree nut free zone.** We have so many campers with serious allergies, and it can be scary when an allergic reaction is accidentally triggered. So please help us out and don't pack any nut-based snacks or foods. And if your camper has an allergy, please let Creative Root staff know in-person on the first day of camp as well as on the health form. Also, for so many reasons, we ask that campers don't share any food or snacks. They'll have to be envious from afar (or at least six feet).

Inclusivity

Creative Root works towards always holding an inclusive space. Let us know how best to support your camper to create an environment where they can be their most happy, silliest, imaginative, and brilliant selves. Campers are invited to let teaching artists, staff, and fellow campers know pronouns best fit who they are (e.g., he, she, they, etc.) in person and/or in the health form.

Concerns

Because the emotional, physical, and creative safety of our campers is important to us, Creative Root wants to make sure that there are always clear pathways for open communication in place. If a camper is struggling with our foundational/ensemble agreements or camp structure, we'll reach out to discuss strategies and tools for supporting your camper and ultimately to make sure that our camp is a good fit for them.

Did we miss anything? If so, please feel free to reach out with any questions or visit our summer camp FAQs page on our [website](#).

**DISCOVER YOUR EXTRAORDINARY SELF at CREATIVE ROOT!
(SILLINESS ENCOURAGED!)**