



This is **NOT** Your Parent's **SUMMER CAMP!**



Summer camp has come of age. No longer will you find one size fits all camp experiences. Instead, the possibilities are nearly endless.

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) has reimagined summer camp and offers a place for children and teenagers to thrive and explore new lifetime learning experiences. Just as we stretch our bodies to promote wellness, camps can help children exercise their imagination, feed their curiosity and take a deep dive into favorite activities.

Donna-Rose Dingee chose Park Authority camps for her kids because the locations were convenient and the camps were a good fit for her children's interests. Eight-year-old Elijah attended ROCS (Rec Centers Offer Cool Stuff), and six-year-old Lydia attended Jr. ROCS.

"I liked the hours, variety of activities (indoor swimming at Cub Run was a huge hit), engagement of the camp counselors, the nature walks they would take, and most of all that my kids were excited to go to ROCs every day," says Dingee. Elijah remembers, "I liked when we would take nature walks down to play in the creek and look for animals." And Lydia says, "Oh, it was sooo fun!"

FCPA is the largest summer camp provider in Northern Virginia, offering more than 1,800 weeks of camp at over 40 locations. Diversity and choice make all the difference. Think chess or perhaps fishing camp. Discover magic or get better at your favorite sport. When it comes to athletics, there are options such as swim camp, gymnastics, soccer, basketball and pickleball. From dancing to pottery, nature camps to virtual 3D game design, mountain biking to adventure camp – there are wonderful choices waiting for your family.

"Camp comes in all shapes and sizes, just like children," says Camp Director Deidre "Miss DeDe" Schrader. Even though the types of camps have changed over the years, she notes, "Our mission hasn't changed -- friendship, fun and memories." Camps help children make lifelong connections and build both skills and character. Quite simply, Miss DeDe says, "A summer without camp is like, well, a boring summer."

Week-long day camps generally run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Why choose just one camp, when programs run all summer long! Camps can be focused on specialized skills or interests, provide specific skill-building opportunities, make lesson-based curricula such as robotics or Lego engineering fun, and allow parents to help their children discover new areas of interest – one week at a time.

Get all the details on Park Authority camps at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/camps/. Keep in mind, many camps fill quickly, so for the best selection, sign up early!