

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What is an environmental steward?

An environmental steward preserves, protects, and educates others about our natural surroundings.

### 2. What is a typical day like at Junior TreeKeeper Camp?

It's environmental stewardship in action! We host a very active, outdoor-oriented camp balanced with hands-on learning projects, arts and crafts, and play time. Much of our time is spent outside in all sorts of weather. Please be mindful of each day's forecast and dress your camper appropriately.

Please review carefully the bike and/or wheels requirement in this Handbook for Acer and Quercus age groups.

Campers will arrive at the Trees Atlanta TreeHouse every morning, and then we are off for the day packed with activities designed to engage your budding environmental steward. Activities may include: field research and service projects, trips to urban forests and local gardens, service learning, tree ID and measuring, orienteering, scavenger hunts, biking on the Atlanta BeltLine, exploring the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum, arts and crafts, free playtime with new friends, and much more!

It is going to be a full week of fun and learning for your child!

### 3. Is there a difference in the sessions offered?

Yes. There are two concurrent age groups at Junior TreeKeeper Camp. Each group is guided by dedicated camp staff. The age groups are: "Quercus" (Grades 1st - 3rd) and "Acer" (Grades 4th - 6th).

We offer weekly sessions that is comprised of different activities, lesson/topics, and outings. Our camp is focused on outdoor play and exploration centered around the "urban forest" as our key learning framework. Most mornings include campers riding bikes/wheels to a spot on the Atlanta BeltLine for outdoor activities. Some camp sessions will include a field trip to a local destination. Transportation via shuttle bus to field trip destinations is included with camp registration.

Please view our [website](#) for a description of each session. A changing mix of campers, agenda, and dynamics of the day give campers a unique experience in each session.

### 4. Are both age groups doing the same things?

Campers are lead on activities appropriate to their age group.

Each group will have their own agenda of activities and are typically not in the same space at the same time. A few activities allow both age groups to participate together, and when appropriate, Acer campers may help or partner with Quercus campers on specific activities. The older group (Acer) will spend more time on their bikes on rides of greater distances while the younger group (Quercus) will bring their "wheels" to use on shorter distances and times during the week. The skill level of each week's groups will help to determine the distance and time spent on bikes/wheels. Please review carefully the bike and/or wheels requirement for Acer and Quercus age groups as noted in this Handbook.

School Break Camps often conduct activities with all campers as one group during most activities of the day, with the exception of some biking or wheel activities.



## 5. What cool things will my camper get?

You mean, in addition to fun-filled days of awesomeness? We have gear for your budding environmental stewards. Please view the section “What’s Included with Registration” in the Camp Handbook (p. 3). As of Summer 2019, we’ve updated the camp gifts included with registration.

Additional camp gifts may be purchased as Add-On items during the registration process and/or during camp, depending upon availability of items.

## 6. Are there any other additional costs I need to pay for camp?

There optional services that may be added to your registration; additional fees that may be incurred (please view [Schedule of Fees](#)):

- **Bike rental fee** – Bike rentals are always for a full week regardless of actual days needed/used. Based on child’s height, we will provide a bike for the best fit available in our inventory. (Perfect fit is not guaranteed: in general, campers will be more comfortable on their own bikes.)
- **Before/After Care fee** – The daily fees for early drop off or late pick up are indicated in this handbook.
- **Additional Camp Gifts** – A list of gifts each camper receives is based on the number and type of sessions registered. During the registration process, you may opt to purchase additional items. For example, if you register for only 1 week of summer camp but want a JTK hat, you may purchase one during the registration process as an “add on”. Additionally, regardless of the number of weeks a camper is registered for camp, only 1 shirt is included; however, an additional shirt may be purchased during registration.
- Items not purchased during the online registration process may also be purchased at the TreeHouse, based on availability and may also be offered at a different rate.

## 7. Who are the Junior TreeKeeper Camp Staff?

Our program staff is a team of Trees Atlanta full-time staff with environmental training and experience working with youth, along with qualified, vetted seasonal staff (Camp Counselors) who are trained to create positive memories for each camper. In addition, all camps are further supported by Interns and Junior Interns to ensure a safe and inclusive camp experience. Counselors and staff have passed background checks. Trees Atlanta staff is First Aid and CPR certified.

## 8. What is the staff to student ratio?

We maintain a ratio of 1 camp staff to every 4-5 students for all activities outside of the education building (referred to as the “TreeHouse”), and at least 2 camp staff will be present with any camper at all times. Lessons in the TreeHouse will staff a minimum of 2 (and usually more) camp staff to lead activities and supervise, as appropriate to the activity.

## 9. How can I keep up with what my Jr. TreeKeeper is doing at camp?

Check in on our daily exploration and fun by following us on social media! Feel free to like and share our posts! Look for the hashtags #jrtreekeeper or #cityintheforest.

- [Facebook.com/treesatlanta](https://www.facebook.com/treesatlanta) and [Instagram.com/treesatlanta](https://www.instagram.com/treesatlanta)
- [Facebook.com/treesatlantatreehouse](https://www.facebook.com/treesatlantatreehouse) and [Instagram.com/cityintheforest](https://www.instagram.com/cityintheforest)



#### **10. What do I do with my camper's medication(s)?**

All medications must be given to a staff member during morning Drop Off. Please send only the amount of medication needed for that day, clearly labelled with detailed instructions along with child's first and last name. Please note any allergies and medication information where requested during online registration.

Your child must be able to take/administer their own medications. Camp staff will not administer medication unless in case of severe urgency.

#### **11. What happens if my child gets sick or injured at camp?**

Camp staff will notify parent/guardian if a camper reports feeling ill and needs to be picked up during the camp day. If the primary parent/guardian cannot be reached, the emergency contact will be notified.

Camp staff may apply basic First Aid for minor injuries, such as scrapes, bug bites, etc. Parent/guardian will be notified of any medical incidents at the end of the camp day or immediately, depending upon the nature or severity of the incident. Along with notifying parent/guardian, we will call 911 for emergency medical care using an abundance of care and prudence if an injury or circumstance merits.

#### **12. What if I need to cancel a registration or request a refund?**

Please review our cancellation policy in the Camp Handbook for details (p. 2). There are administrative fees and/or processing fees for all refunds and/or transactions.

#### **13. How do I get in touch with my camper if there is an emergency?**

- Call the Tree House 404-458-4515 x 1# to speak to someone who can handle your needs. Our physical address is: 112 Krog Street, Suite 7, Atlanta GA 30307 located in Inman Park.
- Alternatively, if you fail to receive an answer or prompt reply to any voice mail left during the day, please dial #2 or #5 for back up staff.
- Trees Atlanta headquarters office is also located nearby in Reynoldstown at: 225 Chester Ave., Atlanta 30316. The main number at the Kendeda Center is 404-522-4097.
- For non-emergencies, email us at [treehouse@treesatlanta.org](mailto:treehouse@treesatlanta.org) (allow us 1 to 2 business days to reply).

#### **14. What happens if my child is being disruptive or if any camper reports being bullied by another camper? How does one report an incident?**

Disruptive behavior that interferes in our ability to maintain a positive, fun learning environment is not acceptable at Trees Atlanta. This includes disrespectful speech or behavior targeted toward other campers, staff, or guests of Trees Atlanta.

Camp staff and/or Trees Atlanta education staff will address inappropriate behavior with campers which may include a conversation with the disruptive individual and quiet time away from others (with supervision). This means camper will not participate in the activities occurring at the time. If disruptive behavior does not cease, parent/guardian will be notified to pick up the camper immediately.



In all our programs, we practice inclusion and encourage kindness toward one another, as well as for our natural environment. Repeated disruptive behavior of any type or any level of bullying could result in dismissal from camp. Dismissal and refund policy is found in the Camp Handbook.

Campers or parents who witness something they want to report may bring the matter to the attention of the Camp Lead or to the Director of Education. If a satisfactory resolution is not found, escalations may be brought to the attention of Trees Atlanta Co-Executive Directors.

Current staff contact information is found online at: <https://treesatlanta.org/who-we-are/staff-and-board>

#### **15. How can I stay involved year round?**

Trees Atlanta leads youth programs throughout the year. All registered emails will be added to receive email newsletters of upcoming events.

Consider volunteering at a tree planting or tree maintenance project as a group or family. There are multiple projects in various location throughout the metro Atlanta area every week! Please view our [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming activities for kids and families.

Ask your student's school if they are enrolled in Trees Atlanta [Urban TreeTracker](#) in-school environmental education program. Our educators visit schools throughout the school year and lead lessons and activities aligned to Georgia curriculum standards.

#### **16. Tell us how we're doing.**

We appreciate every parent/guardian who takes the time to complete a camp survey at the end of each camp session. Your feedback helps us make our programs better. Your comments especially are very useful and insightful. We appreciate all the handwritten or drawn notes from campers, too!

Please feel free to send us comments or notes at any time. We love photos of your Jr. TreeKeeper putting their tree knowledge or biking skills to use.

Email your notes to us ([treehouse@treesatlanta.org](mailto:treehouse@treesatlanta.org)) or tag us on social media: [@treesatlanta](#) .

Thank you for your support of Trees Atlanta! We believe children who spend time playing outside and enjoy nature become adults who are more likely to become stewards of our natural environment.



## ABC's Quick Check Bike Safety

### **"A" is for air:**

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- Inflate tires to the rated pressure as indicated on the sidewall of the tire. A bicycle pump is recommended.
- Use a pressure gauge to ensure proper tire pressure. (Bicycle tires need to be re-inflated more often than car tires, and pressure should be checked frequently.)
- Check for damage to tire tread and sidewall; replace tire if worn. (This will reduce the chance of flats.)

### **"B" is for brakes:**

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- Rotate wheels to check that nothing is rubbing.
- Inspect brake pads for wear; replace if there is less than 1/4" of pad left.
- Check adjustment on brake pads; make sure they do not rub tire or dive into spokes.
- Check adjustment of brake levers. When applied, there should be least 1" between each lever and the handlebar.

### **"C" is for cranks, chain, and cassette (and Cranium):**

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- Chain should be clean, lubricated, and quiet — not chattering, squeaking, or squealing!
- Use a lubricant that's specifically designed for bicycles.
- If your chain skips while riding, you might need a new chain, a new cassette, and/or an adjustment.
- Make sure that your crank bolts are tight.
- Protect your cranium with a proper fitted helmet!

### **"Quick" is for quick releases:**

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- Wheels need to be tight in the frame, with the hub's quick-release lever fully engaged at 90° angle.
- Your hub quick release should point back to insure that nothing catches on it.
- Inspect brake quick releases to insure that they are engaged.

### **"Check" is for check it over:**

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- Inspect the bike for loose or broken parts; tighten, replace or fix them.
- Check to make sure that your helmet is snug and level on you head, with straps snugly adjusted.
- Take a quick ride to check if derailleurs and brakes are working properly.
- Pay extra attention to your bike during the first few miles of the ride.