**Summer Camp FAQs**

**What do “sensory inclusive” and “Neurodiverse” mean?**

Sensory inclusive refers to built-in accommodations made for children with sensory processing disorders. This may include flexible activities, specially trained staff, and a relaxed environment. Summer Camp at the B&O is designed with each of these components to make it as accessible as possible to all children. Neurodiverse refers to diversity of neurotypes in a group. A child that identifies as Neurodivergent may have Sensory Processing Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, etc. Neurodivergent children often struggle with the fast pace, strict structure, and large class sizes of traditional summer camps. Summer Camp at the B&O is designed to help Neurodivergent children feel at home in our museum.

**What training do camp staff members have to work with Neurodiverse and disabled children?**

All camp counselors and aides have special education experience and training. Most work in schools during the academic year in either special education or inclusive classrooms. B&O staff planning summer camp have special education training and teaching experience, training in therapeutic settings, as well as a background in accessible museum programming. All permanent B&O staff have completed trainings on supporting Neurodivergent visitors throughout their museum experience.

**What accommodations are available?**

Each camper will be provided with a sensory kit and a visual schedule. Camp aides will have a more detailed schedule, a social narrative, emotion charts, cool down exercises, and first, then charts. The Education Station where campers will spend most of their time will have a cool down corner for breaks and quiet time. Staff and campers will have sensory maps for exploring the museum to give advanced warning of sudden sensory input changes. Additional time has been created in the schedule to allow for more relaxed transitions. All activities are planned with sensory sensitivities in mind, children will also have alternatives available if they are uncomfortable doing an activity. Camp staff with have access to communication boards (both printed and digital), please let staff know if your child will need to borrow an AAC device from camp. If your camper needs additional accommodations, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**My child takes medication. Will camp staff be able to administer their medication?**

Due to the state and federal regulations on the storing and administering of medication, staff at the B&O will not be able to hold on to or administer medication for campers. If your child can store the medication in their personal bag and take it on their own they will be able to do so. If they are unable to take the medication on their own, we recommend administering before camp or scheduling time for an adult to visit them at camp to assist them.

**My child has their own 1:1 aide. Will their aide be able to attend camp with them?**

Yes! If your child has a 1:1 aide they are invited to attend camp as well. Please make a note on your camper’s registration form or contact camp staff to let us know an aide will accompany your child so we can provide them with an emergency contact form to fill out.

**My child has allergies. How will they be kept safe?**

Camp staff will be made aware of all allergies and sensitivities and will monitor mealtimes and snacks to ensure your child does not come into contact with allergens.

**My child has previously displayed aggressive or elopement behaviors. What is your behavior policy?**

Your child will not be disqualified from attending camp based on any prior behaviors. We ask that you give camp staff as many details as possible about the behavior in advance so we have the best chance at giving your child a safe and successful camp week. Please see the Camp Behavior Policy for more details regarding aggressive behaviors.

**When is drop-off and pick-up? Is late pick-up available?**

Drop-off is between 8:45-9:00 each morning. Camp activities will begin at 9am, if your child is dropped off late they will miss activities. Pick-up is between 2:30-3:00pm. If you need to arrange early pick-up please contact camp staff, keep in mind early pick-up will mean you child will miss camp activities. If you need late pick-up you can register for aftercare on your camper’s registration for. Aftercare pick-up is between 3:00-4:00pm. The museum will close at 4:00pm, all campers must be picked up prior to closing.

**Will lunch or snack be provided or should I send a packed lunch each day?**

Each camper will need to pack their own snacks and lunch each day. Each camper will be provided with a water bottle to decorate for the week and have access to refill their bottle.

**Will my child be taking a train ride during the week of camp?**

Yes! On Friday, your camper will be taking a train ride on our Mile One Express. Counselors and aides will have sensory kits for campers who need them on the train ride. If you have any concerns about noise or this being a new experience, please let us know. Families are invited to join us on the train ride! More information will be sent to campers’ primary contacts closer to their camp week.

**Is there anything I *should* send with my child to camp?**

Campers will go outside for tours and free time. We recommend campers have sunscreen and/or a hat to wear. Campers will be provided with a water bottle to use but may bring their own if they wish. If your child has an AAC device or a tablet/cell phone they are permitted to bring them to summer camp. Please keep in mind the B&O Railroad Museum is not responsible for any lost or damaged items brought from home (including toys, electronic devices, etc).

**Is there anything I *should not* send with my child to camp?**

Any items you do not wish to lose or have damaged should stay home. Any items your child would be upset by other campers touching or attempting to use should stay home. Camp staff will do their best to help campers keep up with personal items, but the B&O Railroad Museum is not responsible for any lost or damaged personal items.