



Cheekwood Summer Camp Descriptions 2025

Age 5

HALF DAY

These camps run from 9 AM – 12 PM or 1 – 4 PM.

Bugs & Blooms (5)

In this all-time favorite class, campers will explore Cheekwood's gardens to find artistic inspiration before heading back into the studio to make their own crafts and creatures. Campers will learn about insects and plants in the gardens in addition to creating beautiful artwork. This class combines time outdoors, weather permitting, with time in the studio.

3D Inspirations (5)

Calling all budding sculptors! It's time to explore kinetic and dimensional art! Through daily walks, weather permitting, Campers will be inspired not only by the natural scenery but by the sculptures displayed throughout Cheekwood and in the outdoor summer exhibition. Campers will have the opportunity to explore a variety of mediums including air-dry clay, Model Magic, and paper creating 3D artwork that pops off the page!

Garden Sprouts (5)

Cultivate a love of gardens through exploration and art. Campers will plant seeds, learn about the life cycle of plants, and search for garden critters on nature walks. As campers explore Cheekwood's gardens, they will observe the colors and shapes found in nature and create art projects inspired by them. Campers will spend time outdoors, weather permitting, in addition to time in the classroom.

Inspirational Artists (5)

Be inspired by the unique art forms of important artists, both traditional and contemporary, from around the world. Campers will have the opportunity to explore the work of the summer temporary exhibition on view throughout the grounds. Campers will enjoy creating their own masterpieces using paint, collage, and sculpture.

Storybook Adventure (5)

Imaginations will soar as we explore the world of storybooks! Campers will read different books each day, some classics and some new favorites. They will create projects inspired by the characters they read about and go on daily adventures through the gardens like the ones in the stories.

Studio Sampler (5)

Calling all budding artists! Working with a variety of materials, campers will sample a wide array of art processes including painting, collage, and sculpture. This camp is the perfect chance to try out several different mediums and discover new creative outlets.

Ages 6-7

HALF DAY

These camps run from 9 AM – 12 PM or 1 – 4 PM.

3D Creativity (6-7)

Get creative with sculpture and dimensional art with this 3D focused art camp! Campers will explore the sculptures on the Ann & Monroe Carell Jr. Family Sculpture Trail and view the sculptures that are part of the outdoor summer exhibition, to spark their imaginations. Campers will be introduced to basic 3D forms and use a variety of mediums including paper, plastics, wood, and recycled materials to create artwork that pops off the page.

Clay Creations (6-7)

Explore the exciting world of clay! Campers will expand their imagination and practice a variety of hand building and sculpting techniques, as well as learn to glaze and prep their work for the firing process. Please note that students will not work on the pottery wheel during this class.

Growing Gardens (6-7)

Cultivate a love of gardening through exploration, experimentation, and hands-on fun throughout Cheekwood's 13 distinct gardens. Campers will learn by planting seeds in pots and watching them grow in the classroom and in the greenhouse. The week will be filled with art and science activities in which campers will explore topics like pollination, plant life cycles, and more. Campers will spend time outdoors, weather permitting, in addition to time in the classroom.

Let's Paint! (6-7)

Explore the fundamentals of painting and learn about different styles using tempera, watercolor and acrylic paints. Campers will practice new techniques, mix colors, experiment, and have a blast expressing themselves!

Pond Life (6-7)

Emerging aquatic ecologists will learn about the turtles in the Bracken Foundation Children's Garden and begin to identify the plants, insects, and other creatures in the water ecosystems around Cheekwood. These discoveries will inspire a variety of mixed-media art activities, pond observations, water exploration, and more. Campers will spend time outdoors, weather permitting, in addition to time in the classroom.

Reuse and Reimagine (6-7)

There's more to art than paint and canvas! Discover new and creative ways to reuse and recycle in this engaging art camp focused on ecological art. Campers will gain inspiration by exploring the gardens and outdoor summer exhibition. Campers will learn how artists can make a positive impact on the environment while creating their own masterpieces made from found and recycled materials.

Textile Exploration (6-7)

Explore the exciting world of fiber-based art through textiles! Campers will work with a wide range of materials including fabrics, dyes, and yarn. They will learn the basics of assembling textile artworks through various processes such as weaving, hand sewing, felting, and more! Campers will make a mix of utilitarian and artistic display pieces.

Things with Wings (6-7)

Head out into the gardens and discover the things that fly through Cheekwood. From birds and bugs to even seeds, campers will explore it all! Campers will take daily walks through the garden, go on scavenger hunts, and create art and garden projects inspired by the things with wings they find.

Ages 6-7

FULL DAY

These camps run from 9 AM – 4 PM and include lunch care from 12 – 1 PM.

Please note that lunch is not provided.

Inspirational Artists (6-7)

Explore the unique art forms of important artists, both traditional and contemporary, from around the world. Campers will have the opportunity to explore the sculptural work of the summer exhibition on view throughout the grounds and the permanent collection in the museum to gain inspiration. Campers will create their own masterpieces inspired by the artists they learn about using paint, collage, and sculpture.

Nature Explorers (6-7)

Learn, play and discover the natural world found in Cheekwood's gardens while cultivating respect and appreciation for the environment. While on daily nature walks, campers will learn about plants, search for birds and insects, investigate ponds and streams, forage for found art materials, and use them in activities. Campers will explore their relationship with nature and develop a deeper appreciation for the natural world around them. Campers will spend most of their time outdoors, weather permitting, in addition to time in the classroom.

Storybook Adventure (6-7)

Imaginations will soar as we explore the world of storybooks! Campers will read different storybooks each day, some classics and some new favorites, then create projects based on them. Campers will learn about plot, characters, and the importance of imagery in a storybook. They will create their own stories inspired by the books they have read.

Studio Sampler (6-7)

Calling all budding artists! Working with a variety of materials, campers will sample a wide array of art processes including painting, collage, and sculpture. This camp is the perfect chance to try out several different mediums and discover new creative outlets.

Ages 8-10

HALF DAY

These camps run from 9 AM – 12 PM or 1 – 4 PM.

3D Creativity (8-10)

Explore the world of sculpture and 3D art! Using a variety of mediums and 3-dimensional artforms, campers will learn about the elements of art and principles of design by building models, figures, and free-standing forms. With an emphasis on proper construction techniques, the budding sculptors will discover the magic of transforming 2D drawings into 3D forms. Campers will explore the sculptures on the Ann & Monroe Carell Jr. Family Sculpture Trail and view the sculptures that are part of the outdoor summer exhibition, to spark their imaginations.

Artist Exploration (8-10)

Andy Warhol, Vincent Van Gogh, Alma Thomas, and so many more! Explore the work of important artists who have made an impact on the world. Campers will learn about traditional and contemporary artists before making their own pieces, both recreating artists' work and using them as inspiration. Campers will get the opportunity to explore the sculptural work of the outdoor summer exhibition on view throughout the garden as well as viewing pieces in the museum.

Beginner Ceramics (8-10)

In this beginner ceramics class, campers will practice hand building and throwing on the wheel. From learning the fundamentals and throwing their own cylinders, bowls, and plates to exploring underglazes and textures, campers will do it all. No prior experience is necessary.

Eco-Discovery (8-10)

Learn about the delicate balance in the great web of life with daily exploration of the various ecosystems around Cheekwood. Campers will learn about the flora and fauna that make up and keep these ecosystems in balance. They will play games and create art inspired by their discoveries on the Ann & Monroe Carell Jr. Family Sculpture Trail, in the Bracken Foundation Children's Garden, and everywhere in between. Campers will spend time outdoors, weather permitting, in addition to time in the classroom.

Illustration Fundamentals (8-10)

Campers will learn about the various types and techniques of illustration along with its history and then put them to practice. Throughout the week campers will be given prompts and exercises to help them explore the world of illustration using mediums including pencil, pen-and-ink, watercolor, collage, and more.

Reuse and Reimagine (8-10)

There's more to art than paint and canvas! Discover new and creative ways to reuse and recycle in this engaging art camp focused on ecological art. Campers will gain inspiration by exploring the outdoor summer exhibition and reading about local and global recycled art artists. Campers will learn how artists can make a positive impact on the environment while creating their own masterpieces made from found and recycled materials.

STEAM: Architecture & Landscape (8-10)

The built world and the natural world come together in this camp for students interested in architecture, gardens, and the spaces that bridge the indoor and outdoor domains. Campers will gain inspiration from Cheekwood's historic grounds and use their imaginations to create their own structure to fit into the landscape. Focusing on scale, materials, and using creative thinking, campers will take their designs and sketches and transform them into a miniature model.

Pond Life (8-10)

Become an aquatic ecologist! Campers will observe turtles in the Bracken Foundation Children's Garden, learn about the plants and animals that are a part of pond ecosystems, and talk about the health of our ponds. These discoveries will inspire a variety of projects including mixed-media art, water organism identification, water quality exploration, and more. Campers will spend time outdoors, weather permitting, in addition to time in the classroom.

NEW! Textile Creativity (8-10)

Interested in textiles but not sure where to start? Explore the exciting world of fiber-based art in this introductory sampler class! Campers will work with a wide range of materials including fabrics, dyes, and yarn. They will learn the basics of assembling textile artworks, both utilitarian and for display, through various processes such as weaving, hand sewing, felting, and more!

Ages 8-10

FULL DAY

These camps run from 9 AM – 4 PM and include lunch care from 12 – 1 PM.

Please note that lunch is not provided.

Cartoon Creations (8-10)

Explore the ever-growing, creative world of visual storytelling! Illustrated storybooks, comics, and animation inspire many imaginations. Campers will learn how to bring stories to life by experimenting with different cartoon styles, thumbnail sketching, storyboarding, and writing. At the end of the week campers will have their own mini portfolio to take home.

Painting Techniques (8-10)

Whether you are a practiced artist or picking up a paintbrush for the first time, this class is the perfect opportunity to develop new skills. Experiment with tempera, watercolor, and acrylic paints while practicing brushwork, mixing colors, and working with different surfaces. Campers will spend time outdoors using the garden as inspiration, weather permitting, in addition to time in the classroom.

Studio Sampler (8-10)

Can't decide on just one medium? In this diverse art camp, campers will explore working with a variety of media. From painting and drawing to sculpting and collage, campers will create one-of-a-kind artwork in both 2D and 3D forms.

Textile Fundamentals (8-10)

Explore and take a deeper dive into the long tradition of textiles, one of the world's oldest handicrafts and artforms. From creating woven wall hangings to naturally dyeing fabrics, campers will work with a wide range of fiber-based art materials and build the foundational skills for creating art with textiles. Come knit, stamp, weave, embroider, and felt while also learning about the historical and cultural significance of textiles!

Please note: This is not a wearable art or sewing camp. Campers will primarily be making fiber-based works meant for artistic display.

Ages 11-14

FULL DAY CAMPS

These camps run from 9 AM – 4 PM and include lunch care from 12 – 1 PM.

Please note that lunch is not provided.

Drawing & Illustration (11-14)

Campers will receive a new sketchbook and fill it with drawings, botanicals, and even poetry. They will experiment with different methods of drawing and illustration and learn a little about the history behind them. Using Cheekwood's art and gardens for inspiration, campers will express themselves with techniques like pen and ink drawing, watercolor painting, collage, and more.

Intermediate Ceramics (11-14)

Campers will be introduced to the different techniques of working with clay. They will hand build, throw on the wheel, and create more advanced pieces. Campers will learn how to add detail to their work in the form of attaching handles, creating lids, and carving designs. They will sculpt and design their own pieces based on the skills they learn.

Painting Techniques (11-14)

Whether you are a practiced artist or are picking up a paintbrush for the first time, this class is the perfect opportunity to develop new skills. Campers will be introduced to the foundations of painting and experiment with various paints and surfaces. They will paint outside in the gardens and work on their techniques inside the studios, gaining practical knowledge that will help guide their art making for years to come.

Studio Sampler (11-14)

Campers will explore various artists and the stories behind their pieces before creating their own works of art based on, inspired by, and in response to the artists they learn about. From painting and drawing to sculpting and printmaking, campers will complete both 2D and 3D projects. Campers will then have the opportunity to work on a self-guided project using their choice of medium.

NEW! Textile Techniques (11-14)

Textiles are one of the oldest human traditions that still surround our daily life all across the world! Campers will explore a wide range of fiber-based materials and art making techniques. They will learn about the history behind these techniques and crafts and the modern artists who continue to practice them. Campers will develop new skills through projects such as basket weaving, macramé wall hangings, weaving small tapestries, needle felting, dyeing fabrics and fibers, embroidery, stamps, and much more!

Please note: This is not a wearable art or sewing camp. Campers will primarily be making fiber-based works meant for artistic display.