

Merritt Academy
Summer Camp 2012

My Choice
Electives

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Introduction to My Choice Electives

New for Summer 2012, Merritt Academy Summer Camp has decided to premiere the My Choice Elective program. Electives will take the place of traditional specialty classes (Gym, Art, Computers). Campers will attend the electives of their choice 3 times a week for 45 minutes each session. Electives are available to campers in 2nd-8th grade.

Merritt Academy Summer Camp is implementing this program because we recognize the need of campers this age for more autonomy. Campers are more engaged in activities when they have more say in those activities. Additionally, we want campers' minds and bodies to be engaged while they are at camp. The smaller focus of these electives lets campers really dig into the subject and get the most out of it.

When families register for camp, we ask that they select their camper's electives. Campers should select two electives for each week of camp they attend. The same electives are offered on back to back weeks, so campers can have two opportunities to try out the different electives. The activities in each elective will vary week to week, so campers can enjoy choosing the same elective twice.

Although we ask families to choose their camper's electives upfront, campers are not tied to these decisions. We ask so that we can have supplies and teachers available for the electives. If, however, as the start of camp approaches, a camper want to change his elective, we can certainly make accommodations as needed. Space availability in each activity is on a first-come, first-served basis, so it benefits families to register early.

Electives Offered during Weeks 1 and 2

Gooney Science

Join us as we explore our world and get messy! We will learn about states of matter by making Goop. We will see explosive chemical reactions by adding candy to soda. Each camper will get to make his own bouncy ball using secret ingredients. All this and much more mess await campers in Gooney Science!

American Girl Doll

Would you love some new accessories for your American Girl Doll or other doll figurine? Each day in this elective, campers will create and take home a new accessory for their American Girl Dolls. Pillows, presents, decorations, and more will enhance your doll's world. With parent permission, campers may also bring their dolls to camp to share with their friends.

Lego Time

Do you like to build and create new things with Legos? Join us in this elective to build cooperatively and individually. Each camper will get to bring home one construction at the end of the week and display the construction that was built in groups.

Masterpiece Workshop

If you are a budding artist who likes to use all sorts of mediums, join us for Masterpiece Workshop. In this elective, campers will design a new piece of art each day. Watercolors, mosaics, and collages are just a few examples of the masterpieces that will be created during this elective.

Electives Offered during Weeks 3 and 4

Breakfast Baking Bonanza*

Pancakes! Muffins! Eggs! Yum! Young chefs will love this activity in which they will learn to make some of their favorite breakfast treats. * *Although Breakfast Baking Bonanza will adhere to Merritt Academy's peanut-free policy, we cannot guarantee that all ingredients used will be safe for children with peanut allergies or other food sensitivities. Therefore, we kindly request that children with food allergies/sensitivities not be registered for this activity.*

Jewelry Making

Do you have an eye for design? Do you like to create things for yourself or your friends to wear? Come to the Jewelry Making elective and make rings, necklaces, bracelets, and more. We will use beads, wire, and thread to assemble a wide variety of jewelry styles. You can keep the things you create for yourself or share them with friends and family.

Fitness/Sports Drills

Budding athletes will love this elective. Campers will get to test their skills using the same drills professional athletes use to train. But don't worry, it won't all be hard work. Campers will get to play games such as HORSE and Knock Out and Steal the Bacon.

Construction Zone

In this elective, campers will get to use a variety of building and construction materials, Legos, blocks, gears, and connectors to create different projects. Campers will work individually and cooperatively to build the ultimate construction.

Electives Offered during Weeks 5 and 6

GT Math

Fairfax County recommends that students entering the GT or Honors program review one whole year of Math subject matter during the summer. This elective will do just that. Merritt Academy's Math Specialist, Claudia Lupu, will assess each student individually and design the curriculum around their needs. Curriculum and study guide will be provided to each participant. It is recommended that students participate during weeks 5-8 to get the full benefits of the program.—\$55 per week.

Exploring Nature

This elective is great for the camper who loves the great outdoors. Campers will make use of Merritt's 7-acre campus, brand new outdoor classroom, and nearby nature trail. Campers will learn about local wildlife and learn to identify animal tracks. We will discuss plant life we see around camp and learn to identify plants by their leaves. This will come in very handy next time a camper might stumble upon some poison ivy. Nature inspired arts and crafts will also be a part of this elective.

Cut a Rug

Do you love to boogie, shimmy, spin or just dance? Campers who participate in this elective, with the help of their counselor, will choreograph a group dance production to perform for their fellow campers at the end of the week. Campers will get to choose the music, the moves, and the costumes.

Wonderful Wood Crafts

Merritt has purchased a child-safe drill press, jigsaw, sander, and lathe just for this elective. Campers will get to make cool projects with these new tools as well as other woodworking tools. Campers will bring home small projects daily as well as one larger project that they will work on throughout the week.

Fun with Technology

In this elective, students will get to take advantage of the cool technology Merritt has available. We will use the computer lab, our Smart Boards, and our programmable robot Roamer. With parent permission, campers may bring in technology from home to share with their friends.

Electives Offered during Weeks 7 and 8

GT Math

Fairfax County recommends that students entering the GT or Honors program review one whole year of Math subject matter during the summer. This elective will do just that. Merritt Academy's Math Specialist, Claudia Lupu, will assess each student individually and design the curriculum around their needs. Curriculum and study guide will be provided to each participant. It is recommended that students participate during weeks 5-8 to get the full benefits of the program.—\$55 per week.

Flag Football

Are you an avid football fan, or do you just enjoy running off extra energy? If so, you should join us for flag football. Campers will learn the rules of this fun game and will enjoy improving their skills during the course of the week.

Accessory Creation

Campers will come home with bags, headbands, hats, key chains, belts, and more that they have designed and created themselves. Campers can keep these accessories or share them with family or friends.

Frisbee Sports

Learn the basics of Frisbee Golf and Ultimate Frisbee then challenge your friends to a game. Each camper in Frisbee Sports will take home a personal Frisbee at the end of the week.

Cheerleading

2, 4, 6, 8.:What do we appreciate? Cheerleading, that's what! Participants in this elective will get to create their own cheers and choreograph parts of their own performances. This activity promotes team spirit, self-esteem, and encourages participants to be leaders.

Electives Offered during Week 9 and 10

Kickball

Do you want to get outside, run around, stretch your legs? If so you should join us for the kickball elective. We'll have a great time playing this classic game. All campers will have the opportunity to try out all the fielding positions, including pitcher.

Clay Creations

Young *artistes* can explore the possibilities of a variety of sculpting materials including Model Magic, Clay, Floam, and Gak. Each class session will be filled with fun as the children create sculptures using their imaginations!

Snack Attack*

I'm hungry! When that afternoon craving hits, campers will be able to assemble their own snacks. Campers will be taught how to make many snacks from ingredients that can almost always be found in mom's pantry. Plus there's no cooking involved so no worries about safety when these chefs go home and practice what they've learned. **Although Snack Attack will adhere to Merritt Academy's peanut-free policy, we cannot guarantee that all ingredients used will be safe for children with peanut allergies or other food sensitivities. Therefore, we kindly request that children with food allergies/sensitivities not be registered for this activity.*

Go Green!

We all know how important it is to take care of our planet, so let's put that knowledge into action. In the Go Green elective, campers will learn ways that they can benefit the planet on their own. We will also focus on reusing items that might have been thrown away and finding new uses for those things.