The hands-on programs at Camp Invention are designed to help students think like scientists. Children develop questions, observe details, collect information, form explanations and apply their understanding to the world around them. Grades 3-12. June 4-10. $618 (one week).

Christ Church United Methodist
6363 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands
800-968-4332
www.campinvention.org

DAY CAMPS

GLASSELL SCHOOL SUMMER ART CAMP
The Glassell Junior School, a school affiliated with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, is hosting weeklong art classes this summer. The classes are in a variety of different disciplines, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, fashion design, digital art and animation. Ages 3-18. June 5-Aug. 11. $130-$220.

DISCOVERY COLLEGE
Discovery College at Lone Star College-Montgomery provides a fun college experience, giving students and their families an introduction to their local Lone Star College System campus. Camps run weekly Monday through Thursday. Discovery College programs are STEM-focused and are specifically designed to engage children in key areas, such as science, technology, engineering and math. Ages 6-17. June 12-29, July 10-13. $97 (weekly sessions).

LSC-Montgomery
3200 College Park Drive, Conroe
936-273-7446
www.lonestar.edu/discovery-college.htm

LAZY ACRES
Lazy Acres is a Christian-based weekly day camp with 20 acres of indoor and outdoor activities available. There are 11 unique theme weeks.

POINTS FOR PARENTS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A CHILD’S SUMMER CAMP
1. Consider whether a child would enjoy a specialty camp.

“It’s important to know a child’s personality and identify what camp programs will benefit him or her most,” the American Camp Association said on its website.

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The Woodlands and surrounding area offers a variety of camps for children of all ages this summer. Parents can choose from the following camp options: overnight, sport, academic and special interest.

ACADEMIC

CAMP INVENTION
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LSC-Montgomery
3200 College Park Drive, Conroe
936-273-7446
www.lonestar.edu/discovery-college.htm

iKIDS
iKids Camp is a technology adventure of theme-based curriculum for campers ages 3-12 that provides interactive fun and hands-on learning. Every camp theme has a technology focus plus creative activities, academic enrichment and recreation time. Ages 3-12. June 19-21, July 17-20. $205 (per week).

The Woodlands Recreation Center
5310 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands
713-665-5200
www.ikidsinc.com

The Glassell Junior School
5100 Montrose Blvd., Houston
713-639-7700
www.MFAH.org

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OVERNIGHT CAMPS

CAMP ALLEN
Located in Navasota, Camp Allen’s summer camp is one of the largest summer camp programs in the Episcopal Church. Each summer, over 1,900 campers from across Texas come to refocus and relax. Scholarships for the camp are also available. Camp activities include archery, horseback riding, canoeing, swimming, and arts and crafts. Grades 3-12. June 4-Aug. 10. $618 (one week).

CAMP BLESSING TEXAS
Camp Blessing Texas is for children who have a primary diagnosis of a physical or intellectual disability. Camp Blessing Texas also invites all siblings, ages 7-13, of their campers to be a camper as well. Older siblings (age 14+) have the opportunity to volunteer at the camp. Ages 7 and older. June 6-Aug. 12. $895.

SEA CAMP
Sea Camp was founded in 1986 and provides residential, hands-on marine adventures during the summer months. This year, interested students will have the option to travel to Costa Rica. Ages 10-18. June 4-Aug. 5 (weeklong) (one extra week for day camp). $890-$965, $2,500 (for Costa Rica trip).

THE WOODLANDS CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
The Woodlands Children’s Museum offers summer workshops where the curriculum is age appropriate, developmentally sound and fosters creative thinking. Workshops offered for younger children include art, cultural discovery, construction and science concepts. Older children can select from pre-engineering concepts, strategy and mechanical principles with team-building collaboration. Ages 4-8. June 6-Aug. 12. Cost TBA.

LAZY ACRES
Children learn to properly ride and care for horses at Pinebrook Farms. Whether they are beginners or advanced students, campers will find the instruction and activities at the camp will challenge, improve and enhance riding ability. Ages 7-15. June 7-10, June 11-17, June 18-24, July 9-15, July 16-22. $525-$850.

PINEBROOK FARMS
Children learn to properly ride and care for horses at Pinebrook Farms. Whether they are beginners or advanced students, campers will find the instruction and activities at the camp will challenge, improve and enhance riding ability. Ages 7-15. June 7-10, June 11-17, June 18-24, July 9-15, July 16-22. $525-$850.

CAROLINA CREEK
Carolina Creek Christian Camps provides a variety of sports and activities in an exciting environment for kids in sixth through 12th grades. Campers experience high-energy activities, meaningful worship, small group discipleship and opportunities to hang out with college-age camp staff. For children who have completed K-fifth grades, they can also participate in Wild Camp, which is a camp with animal-themed cabins, a water park and a climbing jungle. Grades K-12. Jun. 4-Aug. 12. $780 (weekly camp

GUIDE A noncomprehensive guide to summer camps in the Greater Houston area

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including Ultimate Capture the Flag week—a camper favorite. Some regularly scheduled camp activities include swimming, inflatable games, fishing in a pond, visiting farm animals and using sport fields. Grades K-8. June 5-Aug. 18. $125-$145.

3. Find out if a child would prefer a structured or unstructured camp.

Some children, especially when away from home, can benefit from a more structured program with a set schedule. “Consistent routines and rules help create order,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s guide, “Essentials for Parenting Toddlers and Preschoolers.” “Things go more smoothly when you and your child know what to expect.”

LAZY ACRES

LAZY ACRES

LAZY ACRES
sessions), $390 (Wild Camp sessions).
84 Wimberly Lane, Huntsville
936-594-4446
www.carolinacreek.org

CAMP OLYMPIA
Days are filled with camp activities at Camp Olympia where campers get to choose from more than 40 different daily activities ranging from wakeboarding to golf to horseback riding. When campers arrive at camp, they receive their camp activity schedule, which contains 10 activity periods—40 minutes in length—each day.

723 Olympia Drive, Trinity
936-594-2541
www.campolympia.com

FRONTIER CAMP
Frontier Camp is a Christian nondenominational coed summer camp offering weeklong camp sessions for children and teens. Located about two hours north of Houston, the camp offers eight camp weeks beginning the first week of June. The camp features recreational fun, such as wakeboarding, archery, a ropes course and horseback riding. Ages 7-17. May 28-July 29. $745-$795.
131 Frontier Camp Road, Grapeland
936-544-3206 • www.frontiercamp.org

LEADERSHIP CAMP TEXAS
Leadership Camp Texas is a one-week summer camp to help boys develop into leaders among their peers through cabin competitions, night games and Xtreme Olympics. The camp's schedule is designed to motivate campers and serve others while developing friendships. Grades 5-8. July 1-7. $625-$725.
Stoney Creek Ranch
1912 Zimmerscheidt Road, New Ulm
718-800-7523
www.leadershipcampstexas.net

5. All camps are not created equal: What kind of certifications or training do staff members receive?

Domjan said parents should look for transparency from camps. “How is the staff hired or screened? With students who may need (medication); how is that handled? What is that daily schedule? Are the administrators upfront?”

6. Remember: It’s about fun—let a child grow in a new interest.

“Just make sure that you have to have it to be fun,” Domjan said.