

FAQs

General Registration

How do I register my child for The Avery Coonley School (ACS) Summer Program?

The ACS Summer Program uses a secure online registration portal through CampBrain. To register go to: averycoonley.campbrainregistration.com

Does my child qualify for The ACS Summer Program?

The ACS Summer Program is open to children ages 4-13. There is no testing or qualifications needed for most of the Summer Program offerings other than a desire to have fun and learn at the same time. The exception is Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development (NU CTD) courses for Grades 3-4 which require test scores or a portfolio. Additionally, children registering for the Preschool program need to be potty-trained.

From which areas does your program draw students?

Students at The ACS Summer program come from all over Chicagoland. We sometimes have students attending from out-of-state and overseas.

How do I determine the grade in which to register my child?

Please register your child for the grade they will be entering in the fall of 2026.

Does my child have to participate in all 6 weeks?

No. We offer three 2-week sessions. Some students will attend all 6 weeks while others will attend only one 2-week session.

Is the program Monday – Friday?

Yes. Please note that Session One and Session Two are 9 days each due to holidays on June 19 and July 3. Session Three is 10 days.

Does my child have to wear The ACS Summer Program T-shirt?

No, the ACS Summer Program t-shirts are optional. They are available for \$25. While not required, students enjoy collecting them year after year. T-shirts should be ordered through the registration portal by May 28.

Do I have to pay in full at the time of registration?

Yes, online registration requires payment in full. If you require a payment plan, please contact the office at 630-969-0800 and press 2.

What is the \$125 nonrefundable registration fee?

ACS charges a \$125.00 nonrefundable payment that goes towards each students' tuition. Refunds for additional payments minus the \$125.00 are available when canceling if done prior to posted deadlines of June 5, 2026, June 19, 2026, and July 2, 2026.

Are there any discounts?

We do not offer a sibling discount. Occasionally, we offer a discount code to a local non-profit organization to use as an auction item or raffle prize. If you have won one of these, you should enter it when registering.

Do you have before and after school programming?

Yes, we offer early morning and extended day care for an additional fee. Early morning care runs from 7:15-8:30am. Extended day care runs from 3-5:45pm and is only available to children enrolled in both Enrichment and Recreation. Additional charges apply if pick-up is after 5:45pm.

Staffing

Do The ACS Summer Program teachers work at ACS during the school year?

We have a very dedicated staff of teachers for The ACS Summer Program. The teachers come from various local schools as well as ACS. The majority of our teachers have been part of The ACS Summer Program for many years.

Where do your counselors come from?

Our counselors are required to be high school graduates or higher. We recruit counselors through the education programs at local colleges and universities. Most of the counselors are former campers and are known within the ACS community.

Does The Avery Coonley Summer Program do assessments, evaluations, or grades?

The Avery Coonley Summer Program is an ENRICHMENT program. Students engage in fun, hands-on activities while learning. There are no grades, evaluations, or assessments made for a 2-week course.

How do I contact my child's teacher?

Teachers can be reached by emailing the Summer Program at summerprogram@averycoonley.org

Pool

How deep is the pool?

The pool at the deepest end is 7 feet deep and 50 feet in length.

Do you have certified lifeguards?

Yes, our lifeguards are certified every year.

Do the students swim every day?

Swimming is available in our outdoor, heated pool. Instructional swim lessons take place daily during the morning. Recreational swimming takes place in the afternoon for each group a couple of times a week. The pool is closed if the air temperature is below 68 degrees or if there is severe weather or lightning in the area. If the heat index is above 105 degrees, all outdoor activities will be curtailed.

Do you offer swim lessons?

Yes, we offer instructional group swim lessons each session for an additional fee. We offer Beginner and Advanced Beginner lessons. To determine your child's ability level, please refer to the course descriptions. All children will be tested by the instructors on the first day of each session and appropriately placed based on their ability level. ***A student must be enrolled in Enrichment and Recreation to participate in the swimming program.***

What is recreational swim?

Recreational swim takes place during the afternoon portion of the program. All students enrolled in the afternoon recreation program should pack a suit, towel, and goggles in their bags as they may be scheduled to swim on day 1 of the program. Afternoon recreational activity schedules are adjusted as needed.

What if my child does not want to swim?

Students are not required to swim. However, for safety reasons they must stay with their group and go out to the pool with the group. We have a table with an umbrella as well as a picnic table at the pool where students can sit. They can bring a book out to the pool with them.

What does my child need to bring for swimming?

Each student enrolled in Instructional Swim or in the Recreation program should bring a suit, a towel, a pair of goggles, and wear sunscreen. Students must wear shoes to the pool; usually, a pair of sandals makes it easier for the student to change back into shoes at the pool. Please include the necessary undergarments and clothes to change into for the rest of the day. Please LABEL towels, suits, goggles, etc. with your child's name.

Is there a place to shower after swimming?

There is a cold-water hose at the pool for rinsing off.

Can my child use float devices in the pool?

The ACS pool restricts the use of any floatation devices in the pool. The floatations give a false sense of safety. Students are not allowed to enter the deep end of the pool without the approval of the swim instructor. Certified lifeguards are on duty throughout the day.

Lunch/Snack/Water

Do you have to order lunch?

Every student enrolled in the Enrichment and Recreation program must have a lunch. A peanut-free sack lunch requiring no refrigeration or microwaving may be brought from home. A catered lunch can be ordered during registration. Our catering company is The Country House Kitchen. No lunch is needed for the Preschool program since it is a half-day program. Please review our Food Allergy Policy — [HERE](#).

Are you peanut free?

We are a peanut-free and nut-aware school. Please do not send your child with a peanut or nut containing snack or lunch. Please review our Food Allergy Policy — [HERE](#).

Do you have to order the same type of lunch every session?

When ordering the catered lunch, it is for the entirety of the 2-week program. We offer a standard lunch or a vegetarian option. We do not have other allergy menu options. No lunch is available for the Preschool program.

Where do they eat lunch?

Students in grades K-5 will eat in The Cloister. Grades 6-8 will eat in the Commons or Student Lounge.

Will water bottles and a snack be provided?

There will be no water bottles or snacks available for the students. Please be sure to send a water bottle labeled with your child's name. There are water bottle fillers located throughout the ACS campus. Peanut/nut-free snacks may also be sent with your student. Please review our Food Allergy Policy — [HERE](#).

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Drop-off and pick-up will be done at the South Entrance of the school. Follow the road north down the hill, making the U-turn at the Main Entrance Bell Tower to head back towards the South Entrance.

Please note that there is no left turn into the property off Maple between 8-9am and 3-5pm. Those traveling on 55th St. should plan to take Carpenter to Maple and turn left to enter the campus with a right turn from Maple.

Lost and Found

Please put your child's name on any item that could be misplaced. Names on items will help the counselors get the items back to their owners quickly. There will be a Lost and Found table outside the Summer Program office. Remind your students to check the lost and found regularly. We are not responsible for lost items.