

Join us this summer for an
unforgettable camp experience!

Please send all mail
and corresponding
payments to:

Red Caboose

2346 Winnebago Street
Madison, WI 53704
608-256-1566
sopenroll@
redcaboosechildcare.org

CAMP CABOOSE

1501 Jenifer St.
Madison, WI 53703
608-731-2128

June 15-August 13

red caboose

EST. 1972

CAMP CABOOSE

**DAY CAMP FOR
SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN
ENTERING 1ST-6TH GRADE**

Red Caboose fosters a sense of community among children, their families, and staff, with a commitment to diversity and inclusion. We provide excellent education, nutrition, and play-based learning for children in a nurturing, safe environment emphasizing healthy social-emotional development.

Camp Leadership Team



Robby Schiller
School Age Program Director
Robby@redcaboosechildcare.org



Sydney Warwood
Camp Director
Sydney@redcaboosechildcare.org



Beth Feeney
Camp Director
Beth@redcaboosechildcare.org



KC Gilbertson
Float Supervisor / Camp Director
kc@redcaboosechildcare.org



Jen Mathias
Billing Coordinator
608-256-1566
Jennifer@redcaboosechildcare.org



Sponsor a Child! **Give the Gift of Camp!**

During the school year, we are able to sponsor low-income families through community scholarships and with the support of MMSD. However, during the summer, we need your help to ensure Camp Caboose can be a place for everyone. We are asking our Camp Caboose families to consider contributing financially, in any amount, in order to help all children attend Camp. If you'd like to sponsor a Camper, please indicate the amount on your Camp registration and include it in your enrollment fees. This is a tax-deductible donation. Thank you!



Enrollment

Weekly Rates

Rates include breakfast, lunch, snack, and all activities, including swimming trips and all other field trips for Camp Caboose. Remember: Travel week is billed separately.

Attending 6-8 weeks in total:

5 days/wk: \$335.65

4 days/wk: \$311.52

3 days/wk: \$233.20

2 days/wk: \$155.76

Attending 1-5 weeks in total:

5 days/wk: \$352.45

4 days/wk: \$338.36

3 days/wk: \$253.77

2 days/wk: \$169.18

Scholarship funds may be available for families who qualify. Please contact Jen Mathias, our Billing Coordinator (see page 1), for more information.

Travel Week/Drop-In Days: \$86.28 per day. To register for Travel Week, you must register for one additional week of camp. Email enrollment questions to SAPenroll@redcaboosechildcare.org



Enrollment Checklist:

Our 2026 Camp Caboose enrollment forms are available in paper form by request, or on our website at: www.redcaboosechildcare.org/programs/camp-caboose/

To enroll for Camp Caboose please submit the following forms and payments:

- Camp Caboose Enrollment Form 2026
- Emergency Contact Card
- Shooting Stars and/or Comets Enrollment
- Parent Permissions
- Payment Agreement
- Health Form
- Immunization Records
- Camp Deposit:
 - Deposit: 1st Week's Payment
 - \$40 Registration Fee (new families only)
 - \$25 Annual Parent Fee (summer-only families)
 - \$10 Field Trip Fee (one-time per child)
- CACFP income form (for Camp Only families. If you filled one out for Red Caboose during the school year you don't need to fill it out again.)
- (Optional) ACH form - if you would like your Camp tuition payments auto deducted from a checking account. Not required for enrollment.

Camp Basics & Traditions

Camp Caboose is a summer day camp program for children entering 1st through 6th grades. Summer camp offers an unmatched opportunity to foster community and social-emotional development.

Location, Dates, & Hours

Camp Caboose will be based at Marquette Elementary School, 1501 Jenifer St. Weeks 1-8 will run from Monday, June 15th through Friday, August 7th (excluding Friday, June 19th and Friday, July 3rd). Travel Week (week 9) will run from Monday, August 10th to Thursday, August 13th. Camp Caboose hours are 7:30am to 5:45pm. Campers can be dropped off and picked up at any time within these hours. Just be sure to check their schedule for the week so they don't miss any field trips. Camp Caboose's phone number is **(608) 721-3128**.

Star Values

Captains will emphasize our core values with their group. Throughout the week Captains will recognize Campers and groups for demonstrating five-star excellence in these areas. We will recognize and celebrate Campers and groups at our Friday Fiesta.



Monday Morning Blastoff

Each Monday morning, we will gather together and BLAST OFF for the week with fun games, songs, and activities! We will talk about what to expect and review everything that we will need to know in order to have a great week. Please make sure your Camper is with us by 10am on Mondays to join in the fun!



Friday Fiesta



FRIDAY FIESTA, which will begin at 1:30pm, is our favorite opportunity to share everything awesome from the past week, plus participate in fun skits, games, and songs. Oh, and there might be snacks!



Shooting Stars



The Shooting Stars program is designed for Campers who are **entering 1st and 2nd grade**. Campers will have opportunities to explore and use their imagination all summer long!

Week One | June 15-18 (No Camp on Juneteenth) | All Aboard!

Chug-A-Chug-A-Choo-CHOOO! Camp Caboose is leaving the station. Get ready to have a great summer with a week jam packed with the camp activities that you've been looking forward to all school year! There will be classic Camp Caboose stuff like water balloons, tie-dye, and walking field trips to the ice cream shop mixed in with plenty of surprises too! Don't let the camp train leave without YOU!

Week Two | June 22-26 | Water's Happening?

This week will be a full on celebration of all things wet and wild! Swimming, Canoeing, Drip-Drip-Drop, Sponge Tag and so much more will keep us busy between trips to the pool, splash pad or beach. We always bring our towel and swimsuit to camp, but maybe bring a spare this week!

Week Three | June 29-July 2 (No Camp Friday July 3) | Madtown Getdown

There's no other town quite like ours. We even have an Isthmus! We can bike, canoe, kayak and unicycle all over the place. We have big bendy buses. We have a football team AND a football team 😊. Our restaurants can't be beat. Botanical Gardens. TWO amazing art museums. A glorious capitol building. Farmer's Markets all over the place. Are you excited yet?

Week Four | July 6-10 | Cafe Caboose

Last year's restaurant week at Camp Caboose is going to be hard to top. But we refuse to live in fear! This year's Cafe Caboose will have bigger, bolder flavors, kid created recipes and a theatrically sassy and loveable waitstaff. More ambiance! More bread! Refills for all! It's going to be an unbridled celebration of everything delicious. Save some room for dessert!

Camp FAQs

Who are the Camp Caboose staff members?

Our professional leadership team recruits caring and mature staff members based on their character and proven ability to work with youth. All staff members pass rigorous application screening, interviews, reference checks, criminal background checks and staff training before the start of every summer.

What if my child has special needs?

Please communicate the needs of your child, including any necessary medications, on the enrollment forms. Red Caboose will work with parents to create a plan to meet the needs of your child.

Do you offer financial assistance?

Yes. We work hard to ensure that no child is turned away from Camp for financial reasons. Please contact Jen Mathias, our Billing Coordinator, for more information. (Please see page 1 for Jen's contact information.)

What if we have more questions?

Answering your questions and meeting the needs of our campers is why we're here! An expanded FAQ is available on our website. Contact information for our Camp Caboose Leadership Team is on page 1.



Camp FAQ

How do I pay my child's camp deposit or tuition payments?

With a check mailed to or dropped off at the Red Caboose Child Care Center, 2346 Winnebago St. Madison WI, 53704

Does my child need to bring a lunch?

No! Camp Caboose serves breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack! Each meal focuses on fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Vegetarian options are always available. Camp Caboose is a NUT FREE environment!

What does my child need to bring on a daily basis?

Camp Caboose spends a lot of time outside so children should bring a hat, water bottle, swimsuit (even if it's not a planned swimming day, because you never know!), towel, and comfortable, closed-toe shoes. Please label all items with your child's first name and last initial.

Will my child get to go swimming?

YES!! Both Shooting Stars and Comets groups will be going on swim trips every week, including Travel Week! It is always good to remember to bring a swimsuit and towel every day. Campers are supervised by lifeguards and staff. (Adjustments may be made due to weather or extenuating circumstances.) All campers are expected to follow swim rules.

Will my child get to go on any field trips?

YES!! Campers are able to explore their community through frequent field trips! Shooting Stars and Comets groups will take at least one field trip a week to a swimming pool or splashpad, and sometimes more depending on the specific theme that they are signed up for. (Adjustments may be made due to weather and/or other circumstances.)

How can I find out about weekly Camp Caboose events?

The plans for each group will be posted weekly at camp on the parent communication board and in our weekly email newsletter.

Can my child bring toys/stuffed animals/cards from home?

To prevent beloved personal items from getting lost, broken or stolen, children are not allowed to bring toys or stuffed animals to camp. If campers bring Pokémon or Magic cards, they are only allowed to play with them before 9:00am and after 4:30pm, unless these games correspond with their theme. **No trading of cards is allowed at camp.**

Week Five | July 13-17 | I DO Believe in Magic!

Do you know any card tricks? Slight of hand? Close up magic? Are you an escape artist? Or perhaps you are a scientist who wants to confound onlookers with your own brand of alchemy. This week at camp we will have plenty to do for anyone who believes. Get ready for your boredom to disappear!

Week Six | July 20-24 | Will It Explode?

Do you want to test a theory, find out what happens and then try it again but slightly differently? That's the scientific process! At camp this week, you could do an experiment that goes FIZZzzzz or changes colors. You might set up a dino dig for another camp group to discover in the playground. Design and prototype the flying car of the future out of recyclables! Anything is possible, from Archeology to Zoology!

Week Seven | July 27-31 | It's a Circus in Here!

Step right up to the greatest show at camp! Smell the popcorn, become an acrobat, tame the lions! We might make some circus food, paint each others' faces like elephants and tigers, and we will build a cardboard carousel. How about a parade down the middle of the hallway with trumpet music and ribbon twirling? Let's all clown around together in the big top this week!

Week Eight | Aug 3-7 | Camp Olympics

This week at Camp, each group will choose a unique country to represent and to share about with our camp "world". Our countries will go head-to-head in Olympic style competitions and maybe some not-so-Olympic-style competitions that are just a whole lot of fun, as well. On Friday, we will hold our Camp Closing Ceremonies to celebrate another great summer at Camp Caboose!



Comets



The Comets program is designed for campers **entering 3rd through 6th grade**. What fun it is to be a Comet! You get to choose from three lovingly curated camp experiences! We always do our best to get campers into their first choice of groups but no matter what group you are in, you will have fun at Camp Caboose!
For specific dates, see Shooting Star schedule beginning on pg. 3

ADVENTURERS

WK 1: All Aboard!

WK 2: Super Fun Week of Camp

WK 3: Madtown Getdown

WK 4: Camp on Wheels

(Advanced)

WK 5: Betwixt The Pages

WK 6: Water's Happening?

WK 7: Mess Fest

WK 8: Camp Olympics!

EXPLORERS

WK 1: All Aboard!

WK 2: Will It Explode?

WK 3: Slumber Party!

WK 4: Camp on Wheels

(intermediate)

WK

5: Fantastical ifr ajalistic!

WK 6: The Great Boose Bake Off

WK 7: Water's Happening?

WK 8: Camp Olympics!

DISCOVERERS

WK 1: All Aboard!

WK 2: Water's Happening?

WK 3: Game The System

WK 4: Cafe Caboose

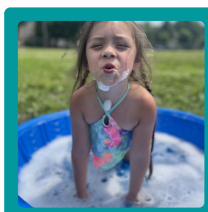
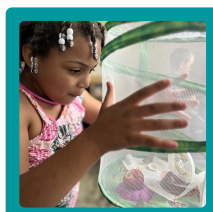
WK 5:

BUSHCRAFT

WK 6: TAKE THE STAGE

WK 7: ROAR! BAWK!

WK 8: Camp Olympics!



Schedule Policy

All schedule change requests need to be made with the Enrollment Coordinator and will be accommodated whenever possible if space is available. All decisions are final.

Weeks 1-8

Drop-In Days: If space is available, drop-in days (any additional day that is not part of the set schedule) may be requested no more than one week in advance of the requested day.

Adding Days: Days may be added to a set schedule, if space is available. For example, a schedule of Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays may be changed to Mondays through Fridays for the remainder of summer.

Changing Weekly Schedule: If space is available, a set schedule may be permanently changed as long as there is no net reduction in days. For example, a Tuesdays and Wednesdays schedule may be changed to a Mondays and Thursdays schedule.

Switching Weeks: If space is available, a contracted week may be switched for a previously un-contracted week.

Dropping Days/Weeks: Individual days and/or weeks may not be dropped once they have been contracted for/once you receive confirmation of schedule.

Withdrawing: A four week written notice to the Enrollment Coordinator is required to withdraw from the program.

Travel Week (Week 9): Your child's schedule for Travel Week can differ from their schedule for weeks 1-8. In order to enroll for Travel Week, you must register for one additional week and check the requested dates on the Shooting Star and/or Comet Enrollment form. Contracted schedules for week 9 (Travel Week) cannot be changed, except by adding one or more drop-in days as explained above.

For more information: contact Robby at robby@redcaboosechildcare.org





Travel Week

Campers will go on day-long field trips each day from August 10-13. Please ensure that your Camper arrives no later than 8:30 am. All field trips leave at 9 am, and we will do our best to return by 4:30 pm. These trips are weather dependent, and indoor alternatives will be planned in case of inclement weather.

Monday, August 10

Tuesday, August 11

Wednesday, August 12

Thursday, August 13

Discovery World

Dolphins Cove/Bowling

Milwaukee Co. Zoo

URBAN AIR

All Aboard!

Chug-A-Chug-A-Choo-CHOOO! Camp Caboose is leaving the station. Get ready to have a great summer with a week of the camp activities that you've been looking forward to all school year! There will be classic Camp Caboose stuff like water balloons, tie-dye and walking field trips to the ice cream shop, mixed in with plenty of surprises too! Don't let the camp train leave without YOU!

I'll take "Super Fun Week of Camp" for 1,000, Alex

COME ON DOWN! Test your skills and trivia knowledge in classic game show concepts with your friends, as your counselor "hosts" games like Jeopardy, Family Feud, Minute to Win It, and more. Work with your teammates to create game shows for each other, the other camp groups and maybe even the whole camp at Friday Fiesta! You probably won't win a brand-new car, but you'll definitely feel like a winner this week!

Will It Explode?

Do you want to test a theory, find out what happens and then try it again but slightly differently? That's the scientific process! At camp this week, you could do an experiment that goes FIZZZZZzzzz or changes colors. You might set up a dino dig for another camp group to discover in the playground. Design and prototype the flying car of the future out of recyclables! Anything is possible, from Archeology to Zoology!

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Madtown Getdown

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Slumber Party!

What makes a good slumber party? You gotta make snacks! Lip-synch concerts with a hairbrush microphone! Tell scary stories lit by only a flashlight. Pillow/blanket forts are a must. Epic Pillow Fights! Fun games, Dance/Rap battles, kind pranks and mischief. Not convinced??? You can wear your pajamas Every. Single. Day.

Game The System

This week at Camp Caboose EVERYTHING is a game! In addition to playing classic board games, card games and active games, we will design our own games in every style and do our best to turn every moment into a game. Cleaning up at lunch time? It's the slam dunk contest! Waiting in line for the drinking fountain? Now you're playing Texas Paddycake. Disclaimer: We will play video games but you will have to design them yourself!

Camp on Wheels

Once again, we will have two bike groups at Camp Caboose. Both groups will still require campers to be able to ride confidently, but the intermediate group will go for shorter rides around the neighborhood, while the advanced group will participate in longer, more challenging rides, including our traditional 13 mile ride around Lake Monona!

Betwixt The Pages

Books are basically magical portals to a great time! At camp this week we will curl up with our favorite books, but we could also dress up and roleplay as the characters, make and eat strange food like green eggs and ham, or adapt a book into a play and perform it for the rest of camp. We will write and draw our own book, comic book, manga, or graphic novel. How about creating a trivia game based on your favorite series to quiz your friends on their fan-knowledge? Betwixt the pages of a book, anything is possible!

Bushcraft

It's the first ever Camp Caboose Bushcraft Week and we are focusing on REAL survival skills. We're talking fishing, foraging and plant ID, shelter building, knot tying, animal tracking and-yes-we will even build a fire. Let's get our faces out of our phones and learn the skills that have sustained humanity for thousands of years, since long before the advent of six se-ven.

Take The Stage

At Camp Caboose we always save the drama for the stage and during *Take The Stage* week we are going to bring down the house! We will design and build our own sets, write our own scripts, do improv activities and more. All of it leading up to an end of the week performance where all will be welcome to attend.

ROARRRRR BAWK!

Wild. Domestic. Mythical. Flying. Crawling. Hopping. 4 legs. 2 legs. Too many legs. No legs. Yup. All the animals. All week long.

Cafe Caboose

Last year's restaurant week at Camp Caboose is going to be hard to top. But we refuse to live in fear! This year's Cafe Caboose will have bigger, bolder flavors, kid created recipes and a theatrically sassy and loveable waitstaff. More ambiance! More bread! Refills for all! It's going to be an unbridled celebration of everything delicious. Save some room for dessert!

Fantasticalifrajalistic!

What will we find in The Enchanted Forest? Talking Frogs? Cursed Trees? Friendly Trolls? Weird Sandwiches?! There's no limit to what we can imagine and create this week at camp! We will play Dungeons and Dragons and role play as characters that we create on an epic adventure that will climax in a final, camp-wide quest to save our beloved Captains from an evil spell!

The Great Boose Bake Off!

On your marks! Get set! BAKE! It's The Great Boose Bake Off! This week at Camp we will dive head first into the wonderful world of baking. From giant cakes to teeny tiny patisserie we will make both amazing and (more than likely) terrible things all building up to a bake sale funded field trip of the campers' choice. No soggy bottoms!

Mess Fest

Mess Fest is a Camp Caboose tradition where disgusting equals delightful! We will play classic messy games like cheeto head or maybe even take a tumble down a whipped cream slip and slide. We could mix up some truly foul smoothies for only the bravest campers to try, choosing the worlds worst flavor combos by rolling dice. Pickle Juice and Chocolate Sauce, anyone?! Wear your grubbiest clothes and be ready for fun, messy, chaos!

Camp Olympics

This week at Camp, each group will choose a unique country to represent and to share about with our camp "world". Our countries will go head-to-head in Olympic style competitions and maybe some not-so-Olympic-style competitions that are just a whole lot of fun, as well. On Friday, we will hold our Camp Closing Ceremonies to celebrate another great summer at Camp Caboose!