Avon Lake Recreation Theater Camp

2026 Camper Handbook

This handbook should be used as a guideline to answer any questions you have about the theater camp program. If you have any additional questions, please call Susan Vance-Koch at 440-520-6199.

Our goal is to provide an all-encompassing arts experience where campers will be encouraged to explore their creative talents in music, dance, theater and visual arts. At the end of the three-week session, campers will perform on stage at the Avon Lake High School Performing Arts Center.

2026 Theater Camp Dates:

Session One: "Let's Go On A Safari!"
Grab your explorer hat and get ready for an adventure! Imagine what will unfold when a group of students set out to explore the wild on a Safari. What exciting moments will await them on their journey? As they observe unforgettable creatures and meet friendly people, a serious problem arises. Can they work together to find an answer?

6/8 – 6/27 Monday through Friday (3 weeks)
Ages 7-12 (as of 6/15/26)
NEW Camp Location: Avon Lake Community Center (formerly Erieview Elementary)
32630 Electric Blvd, Avon Lake, OH

Monday – Friday (3 weeks)
Morning Session: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Afternoon Session: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Full Day 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (with 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm stay and play w/ you-pack lunch)

*** Meet & Greet with Teachers & Staff on the first day right before your session:** 8:45am - 9:15am or 12:45pm - 1:15pm.

Rehearsal/Performance Days: all sessions meet FULL DAYS 9:00 am – 4:00pm (6/24, 6/25 & 6/26 Only)
Avon Lake Performing Arts Center - 175 Avon Belden Road, Avon Lake, OH
Final Performance: Friday, June 26 at 3:00 pm

Session Two: "The Town that Lost Its Color"
It's a MYSTERY!! People wake up one morning to find that their entire town has lost its color! Houses, trees, flowers, animals and everything is all black and white. Will they be able to discover how this happened and who or what is responsible? And will they be able to work together to bring back color in their world?

6/29 – 7/17 Monday through Friday (3 weeks)
Ages 7-12 (as of 6/15/26)
NEW Camp Location: Avon Lake Community Center (formerly Erieview Elementary) 32630 Electric Blvd, Avon Lake, OH

Monday – Friday (3 weeks)
Morning Session: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Afternoon Session: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Full Day 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (with 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm stay and play w/ you-pack lunch)

*** Meet & Greet with Teachers & Staff on the first day right before your session:** 8:45am - 9:15am or 12:45pm - 1:15pm.

Rehearsal/Performance Days: all sessions meet FULL DAYS 9:00 am – 4:00pm (7/15, 7/16 & 7/17 Only)

Avon Lake Performing Arts Center - 175 Avon Belden Road, Avon Lake, OH
Final Performance: Friday, July 17 at 3:00 pm

Meet & Greet:
Meet Teachers & Staff on the first day right before your session: 8:45am - 9:15am or 12:45pm - 1:15pm. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend with their children. Meet the theater camp teachers and staff, learn about camp and get your camp t-shirts. If you cannot attend, your child will receive their shirts on the first day of camp.

Attendance:
We strongly encourage all students to be present for the entire session each day and to attend the final performance. Our program is designed as a collaborative rehearsal process leading up to a culminating show. Each child plays an important role, and consistent attendance is essential for group rehearsals, blocking, choreography, and costume planning. Your child will be assigned a part and fitted for a costume, so full participation helps ensure the best possible experience for everyone.

If your child will be missing camp or arriving late, we ask that a parent/guardian notify the Camp Director, Susan Vance-Koch, at 440-520-6199 or through the Remind app. Please do not send your child to camp if they are ill and/or have a fever. If a child becomes ill during the day, staff may contact the parent/guardian and request that the child be picked up from camp.

Drop Off and Pick Up:
NEW: South side (that faces the library) of the Avon Lake Community Center (formerly Erieview Elementary) 32630 Electric Blvd, Avon Lake, OH) except for the last 3 days of camp. The last 3 days of camp will be held at Avon Lake Performing Arts

Center - 175 Avon Belden Road, Avon Lake, OH and drop off and pick up will be there. Parents/Guardians must sign their child in and out with our camp staff each day.

8:45 AM All camp staff will be available to receive campers registered for all day or morning session.

9:00 AM Camp Begins, the staff will begin a Team Meeting for all campers so we ask that you ensure your child is at camp by this time. If you require special arrangements, please speak with a staff member in advance.

12:00 PM Morning session ends and morning only campers should be signed out by a parent/guardian with a staff member. All Day campers can stay and eat their packed lunch.

12:45 PM Afternoon only campers may be dropped off and signed in by a parent/guardian with a staff member.

1:00 PM Afternoon session begins.

4:00 PM All campers must be picked up at this time.

Late Policy:
Late drop off, after 9:15 am, is strongly discouraged due to our schedule. Tardiness impacts the flow of camp and any can upset other campers. Campers that are perpetually late may not be allowed back to camp.

The Avon Lake Recreation Department's late pick-up fees are as follows: A $5 late pick-up charge, plus $1 for each minute late will apply after 4:15 pm. For example: if a parent arrives at 4:16 pm, a $6 late fee will be applied. *Fees must be paid prior to the start of the next camp day for your child to return to camp.* A no-exceptions policy allows us to apply the late policy to everyone consistently and fairly.

Campers will only be permitted to be picked up by parents/guardians and those individuals listed at the time of registration. For safety purposes, photo identification will be requested for verification purposes.

Camp T-shirts:
Campers are only required to wear their camp T-shirt at rehearsal and the final performance unless otherwise instructed by the camp staff.

What to bring to camp:
Theater Camp is held primarily indoors. Children are to wear appropriate clothes to camp, including socks and tennis shoes as there is lots of movement and activities each day. For the safety of all children – sandals, Crocs, and flip flops are not permitted.
Each camper should bring a backpack with: (Please label everything)

- a non-perishable healthy lunch
- drink and/or reusable water bottle
- afternoon snack

- NO toys, dolls, stuffed animals, electronics, etc. are permitted

Lunch & Snacks:
Each day please send your child with a non-perishable healthy **lunch** and **water bottle** (no soda/candy permitted). Refrigeration is not available for lunches. Campers are encouraged to bring a **snack** for the afternoon as well. If your child has any food sensitivities, they must be noted during registration. Camp is not a nut-free environment; however, staff members do their best to ensure there is a "nut-free" table/eating-area for any children with nut-allergies.

Administration of Medicine:
If a child needs medication administered during the hours of camp, a physician's signature is required. Parents will need to fill out the Physician & Parent Authorization for the Administration of Medicine form.

Illness or Injury:
Children not feeling well or who have a fever should stay home. Illness or injury that occurs during camp will immediately be reported to the parent/guardian. In the event of a serious illness or injury, emergency services will be contacted.

Personal Items:
The City of Avon Lake is not responsible for lost or stolen property, including money. Please make sure all necessary items are labeled with your child's name. The following items are **prohibited** during camp: Cell phones, smart watches, ipads/MP3 players, video games, money, knives or weapons or any kind (including toy guns) toys or stuffed animals or any other distracting items that the teachers request that the child leave at home. The Camp Director will have a cell phone and the number will be provided to parents. The camper can have a teacher make a call to parents if needed. If a child brings any prohibited items to camp, the item will be confiscated and returned to his/her parent/guardian at the end of the day. These items are banned in order to eliminate any disruptions and safety concerns that may arise from their use.

Lost & Found:
Lost & Found items will be kept at the camp. If items are not claimed by the end of the camp, they will be donated or discarded.

Behavior Management:
At the City of Avon Lake, we expect all of our staff, volunteers, campers and visitors to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. In order to help facilitate a safe and positive environment for all individuals, Avon Lake Recreation Department has adopted a discipline policy. Any summer camper caught physically fighting, bullying, sexually harassing another individual, disrespecting authority figures; or with alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, pornography, or anything that can be construed as a weapon. There will be no refunds for missing camp due to a discipline issue.

1st offense - Parents will be contacted and may be asked to pick up their child immediately and keep them home for the day.

2nd offense - The child will be sent home and will be excluded from camp for the rest of the week. If this occurs on a Friday, the camper will miss their next scheduled day of camp (i.e. Monday).

3rd offense - The child may be excluded from future camps.

Avon Lake Recreation reserves the right after reviewed by Camp Director and the Recreation Director, a child can be excluded from all current and future camps held by the Avon Lake Recreation Department at any time. Parents/guardians will not be refunded their child's registration fees for their child being removed from camp. If it is discovered after theater camp ends someone violated the discipline policy, they will be prohibited from attending theater camp the remaining sessions and/or years.

We ask parents and guardians to help the theater camp staff remain faithful to this commitment, by reporting to the Recreation Director, any violations of the discipline policy they are aware of.