Cornell Kids @Work Frequently Asked Questions

Registration

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When does online registration open?

The online registration form will open on Tuesday June 28, 2022 and closes on Friday July 8, 2022. A list of sessions needing registration can be found below under “Planning Your Day”.

Can I register multiple children at once?

Yes. The online registration form can accommodate registering multiple children at once.

Please remember that children must be accompanied by their accompanying adult at all times during the event. This is to ensure safety, as we cannot take responsibility for your child/children during the visit.

I am the only adult bringing multiple children to the event. Do all children have to attend the same programs?

Yes – if you are the only adult accompanying multiple children they must all attend the same session.

If you plan to take more than one child to the event and they want to explore separate sessions, it is recommended that you plan ahead and arrange for a second, or additional adults, to accompany your other child/children.

On the registration form, you will need to include information on all accompanying adults. This must be completed so that we know permission has been granted for an adult, other than the child’s parent or legal guardian, to accompany the child during the event.

I am the parent/guardian and will be attending the event, but I have two other adults who plan to accompany my other two children (I have three total). How do I fill out the form?

Two options:

1) If the accompanying adult/s are also Cornell employees they can register the child they are accompanying. However, they must include that they are the accompanying adult and not the parent or legal guardian.

2) You can register each child separately, but must include who their accompanying adult is.
I am the accompanying adult, but I am not the parent or legal guardian. Can I register the child?

This depends. You must receive permission from the parent or legal guardian to register the child for the event.

If you are a Cornell employee and you have received permission from the parent (who is not a Cornell employee) to bring a child (who is not your child or legal responsibility) to the event, you may register the child. It is recommended that parents who are Cornell employees register their child(ren) for the event even if another individual will be the accompanying adult. You cannot access the online form unless you are a Cornell employee.

Do I need to register online?

If you have access to internet and are able to do so, please register online. This includes anyone working from home.

If you do not have access to the internet or a computer station, please consider registering from a site on campus, a computer lab, the library, etc. Some supervisors will allow you to register from their computer if you do not have one in your work location.

If none of these options are available to you, we will accept a paper registration form prior to registration opening. Our team will enter the data into the system when registration opens online, not prior. To request a paper copy of the registration form, call 607-255-5393 or email bring_a_child@cornell.edu.

Is registration required?

Yes. Sessions require registration due to capacity of the space. Registration also helps us know who participated in programming and to assist with planning.

If you plan to participate in only the scavenger hunt, we would still appreciate your registration so we know you’re coming!

If you’ve made your own plans and do not wish to participate in our programming, registration is not required.

All of the programs my child is interested in are full. What should I do?

We make a concerted effort to provide a variety of programs, but the growing popularity of this program means sessions fill up quickly. Some programs, due to space and nature of program, can only accommodate a specific number of children while other sessions can accommodate larger groups.

Alternative all day activities include:

1. New this year - Campus wide scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt can be done on your own time and at your own pace, allowing you to explore popular spots on campus and some hidden gem locations! We kindly ask you still complete the registration form even if you are only participating in the scavenger hunt so that we know you’re coming.

2. Den Visits- spend time in your office (as your department or unit will allow/approve) and tour your work space, introduce your colleagues, and showcase your projects.

3. Visit sites on campus such as the Wilder Brain Exhibit in Uris Hall, Johnson Museum or other points of interest. Other programming, specifically the activity sessions, are not open to children under eight years old.

I do not have computer or internet access during the registration period.
By request, you can print out the paper registration form for multiple children. Be sure to fill out several choices (1,2,3,4) for each session time and deliver it to 130 Day Hall. We will hold that registration and go online when the site opens to see what we can get for you. There is no guarantee that you will get your first choice but when the online registration opens we have a better chance of getting multiple children in one activity.

To request a paper copy of the registration form, call 607-255-5393 or email bring_a_child@cornell.edu.

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Age Participation

My child is not eight years old yet. Can they participate?

Given the nature of the day and the age level programming targets, children under age eight will likely not benefit from the event. If you wish to bring a child under age eight, you may want to consider participating in the following…

1. Campus wide scavenger hunt.

2. Den Visits- spend time in your office (as your department or unit will allow/approve) and tour your work space, introduce your colleagues, and showcase your projects.

3. Borehole Observatory: Learn more about Cornell’s Earth Source Heat project located at the Borehole Observatory. Meet with the project team to check out the drilling site, learn about safety protocols and about the potential implementation of new technology to sustainably meet campus heating needs. Only offered on July 12th from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

4. PowerHouse - The Campus Sustainability Office, in partnership with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County, is pleased to present the PowerHouse. A tiny home with a big message! Join us to explore hands-on exhibits and activities about household energy efficiency, renewable heating, and going solar. Only offered on July 14th from 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

5. Visit sites on campus such as the Wilder Brain Exhibit in Uris Hall, Johnson Museum or other points of interest. Other programming, specifically the activity sessions, are not open to children under eight years old.

My child is 17 years old. Can he/she participate?

There may be an occasion in which a session pertains to older teenagers. Most of the activities and programs are geared toward children who are 8-16, but if there is room in the program and you believe your 17-year-old would benefit, they may attend. Please note that activity/career sessions, entertainment, and giveaways are geared toward the 8-16 age range.

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Canceling/Changing Registration

What if I register and then change my mind about the activity session I selected?
We ask you try your best not to change activity session selections once you have registered. If you change your mind about attending an activity, keep in mind that other activities may no longer be available.

If you registered by paper form, please contact our office at (607) 255-5393 and we will edit your selection.

What if I register and then decide I cannot attend?

Please let us know of the cancellation as soon as possible. Others may be waiting to attend a particular session that is full. To cancel please email bring_a_child@cornell.edu or call (607) 255-5393 and we will remove your registration.

Due to high call volumes during the registration period - please make sure to leave a clear message and someone will get back to you.

Planning your day

I am trying to map out the day. How can I do this most effectively?

The online registration form and your email confirmation will list the building and room locations for each event. Consider these locations as you map out your day. You may not be able to see and do everything in one day, so pick and choose programs and activities as they fit your schedule and relate to interests and your child's age/maturity, etc.

Check out the planning worksheets specifically created to help plan your day.

Campus maps will be provided on the day of the event, and can also be found online by clicking here prior to the event.

You can also access the TCAT Bus schedule. Route 81 and 82 service Cornell campus specifically

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We make a concerted effort to provide a variety of programs, but the growing popularity of this program means sessions fill up quickly.

Some programs, due to space and nature of program, can only accommodate a specific number of children while other sessions can accommodate larger groups.

This year we’ve also created a campus-wide scavenger hunt for those families who were unable to register due to full sessions. The scavenger hunt can be done on your own time and at your own pace, allowing you to explore hidden gems of our campus!

Turn in your passport book at the end of the scavenger hunt, or end of the day, to be entered into a raffle!
What if I’m not interested in a particular time frame – what do I do?

You can participate in our campus wide Scavenger Hunt allowing you to explore campus at your leisure while participating in some fun activities.

You can also participate in a Den Visit (aka office visit) to tour your office space, introduce colleagues, and showcase your day-to-day work life.

Borehole Observatory: Learn more about Cornell’s Earth Source Heat project located at the Borehole Observatory. Meet with the project team to check out the drilling site, learn about safety protocols and about the potential implementation of new technology to sustainably meet campus heating needs. Only offered on July 12th from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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Does this event cost anything?

The event is free.

Bus transportation is free for youths and staff with Cornell Staff ID. Others will need to pay $1.50 per ride. Lunch is on your own at your own expense. However, children eat for free at select all you can eat dining halls - see below.

Will it cost anything to ride the bus during this event?

Employees and participating children ride for free as long as the accompanying adult has a Cornell Staff ID. Non-Cornell Staff or anyone who cannot show a Cornell Staff ID will be charged $1.50 for each person and for each ride.

Check out the TCAT Bus schedule to help plan you day. Route 81 and 82 service Cornell campus specifically.

Is food provided during the day?

Open Dining halls below are offering kids eat free with a paying adult. Please note these are the only locations offering kids eat free with paying adult.

North Campus - Morrison Dining, located in Morrison Hall

Central Campus – Okenshields, located in Willard Straight Hall

West Campus – Jansen’s Dining Room, located in Hans Bethe House

Additional eateries and cafes around campus will be open. You can find their hours of operations on the Cornell Dining Now webpage.

Do I need to take time off work or declare a vacation or personal day to participate in the event?

Employees who participate in Cornell Kids@Work are not required to use vacation or HAP time to cover hours that coincide with their regular work hours. However, units still need to operate and office coverage needs to be arranged. Some operations may need to have employees stagger their shifts in order to participate in part of the day. You should check with your supervisor about the time off policy in your unit. Supervisors and employees should discuss this issue prior to
Sessons and Alternative Activities

These sessions require registration:

**Take a Bird Walk!** Explore the world of Birds at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We’ll walk the trails at Sapsucker Woods looking and listening for birds! Rain or shine event, dress for the weather! Binoculars are available to borrow. Meet at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Visitor Center. After the bird walk, we invite you to stay and explore the Visitor Center exhibits and art.

**Navigating the Solar System:** Just how big is space, and could we really explore the galaxy with the invention of light-speed engines? To try to make sense of all those HUGE numbers you hear when talking about space, you’ll make a map of the Solar System that shows its true scale, and then use this to learn about how we communicate with spacecraft and what it would mean to travel amongst the stars.

**Taking Care of the Future You: Fun with Physical Activity** Experience the power of play by attending this outdoor activities session with an assortment of field day types of stations for you to try out. Stations may include equipment such as agility ladders, balance discs, cones, and much more. Bring your sense of curiosity and adventure.

**Finding Your Way:** Maps 101 Join our map room staff as we explore Cornell’s map room collection. Learn about different types of maps and what they can tell us about the past, present, and future.

**Explore Cornell - Scavenger Hunt Challenge by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions:** Get to know our campus and learn more about our colleges and schools while on the move!

**CUPD K9s @Work:** Come meet CUPD’s two explosive detection K9s and see them perform a live demonstration. Also, while at CUPD, take a tour of the facility and make sure to bring your camera, CUPD’s own Scruff McGruff the Crime Dog will be at Barton Hall for pictures.

**Explore Campus with a tour!** This tour will give you an introduction to Cornell's history, its undergraduate colleges and schools, student life, athletics, and some legend and tradition. The tours are wheelchair accessible and are conducted outdoors. We hold tours rain or shine. This tour will end at Ho Plaza.

**Desserts Made Your Way!** Come join us in the new facility: Morrison Dining Hall. Choose from making your own ice cream cookie sandwich, ice cream sundae or a Belgian waffle with all the toppings! Dairy free, fruit, or soft serve available.

**Virtual Embodiment Lab:** Step into Cornell’s very own virtual reality lab! Explore the world of virtual reality and learn more about the reaching being conducted right here on campus.

**Learning about Cornell’s Hip Hop Archives:** The Cornell Hip Hop Collection is 15 years old and is one of the world's largest research archives on Hip Hop. It features an estimated half-million items, all stored in the Cornell Library's division of Rare and Manuscript Collections. This special presentation will offer an opportunity to view archival items from the Cornell Hip Hop Collection and learn about the 50-year history of Hip Hop music and culture from Collection Specialist, Ben Ortiz.

**Exploring the Animal Hospital:** Come explore various stations and activities at Cornell University's Hospital for Animals. Meet Veterinary Medical Staff and Veterinarians, test your knowledge of all thing's animal, meet Minnie the mini horse and more!

**Ancient Egypt and Before - CANCELLED:** This session will focus on two main topics: Ancient Egypt, including a bird mummy study, and earlier prehistory from about 2 million years ago to about 5000 years ago. Visitors will get to see real artifacts that help us learn about the past. We will also explore a bit about Cornell’s early history and the preservation of the original University Museum

**Kids, Crafts, & Cones:** Join the Campus Activities office for crafting, sno-cones, and chalking on Ho Plaza! These are all activities we do with our college students during the year – we are all kids at heart!

**Fun with Snap Circuits:** Enjoy learning about electricity with 2 Cornell electricians! In this class you will learn how electricity works and will have the opportunity to create your own electric circuit.
Central Energy Plant Tour: Tour Cornell Central Energy plant. This will be a walking tour and information session of Cornell central energy plant. We will also watch a tour of our Hydroplant and Lake source Cooling facility- with a question and answer period after.

The following alternative activities do not require registration and are offered throughout the day:

Scavenger Hunt: Explore our popular spots on campus and some hidden gem locations! Follow the scavenger hunt provided in your passport booklet, complete the activities and make a final stop at Day Hall for a gift and a chance to win a raffle prize! If you plan on participating in the scavenger hunt we still encourage you to register through the online form so we're aware of your participation.

Den visits - take an opportunity to highlight your office building or work space. Introduce your colleagues and showcase your current work projects with your youth!

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General Program Information

What is Cornell Kids@Work (formally: Bring a Child to Work Day)?

Cornell Kids@Work is our annual Bring A Child to Work day redesigned. It is an opportunity for children, ages 8-16, to visit the Cornell University campus, explore interests and careers through participation in activities, consider and discuss work-life balance issues, and see what parents, relatives and/or friends do in their careers at Cornell.

Why has the program moved to July?

Safety during the pandemic continues to be an important concern. During the planning process we wanted to ensure that COVID Event guidelines wouldn't prohibit program offerings. By moving the event to July it gave us more time to allow COVID Event guidelines to stabilize. Warmer weather also allows us to better enjoy Cornell's beautiful campus and outdoor spaces. Late April is a very busy time for students as well as the Cornell campus - we believe that moving to July will be more relaxing and enjoyable for everyone!

Why is the program being offered on two days?

We heard you! Having a choice of dates gives our employees more flexibility to attend.

Will there be different activities on different days?
No. Each day has identical offerings, so you only need to register for one day.

Due to the popularity of this program and to ensure everyone gets a chance to participate, we are asking families to register for only one day.

What is this year’s theme "Explore the Future" about?

Sessions will focus on understanding how to take care of and think about our future. This could include our physical and mental health, the future of technology, our impacts on the earth and exploring careers that excite youth about the future.

Updated 6/15/2022