

Welcome Letter

*Benvenute/i!*

We are so excited to welcome new and returning campers to Casa Italia's Immersion Day Camp for the summer of 2023. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

We strongly encourage you to review the camp guidelines below with your child before the beginning of camp. If you have any questions, please contact Camp Director Raffaella Spilotro at 312-442-2086.

### **Mission Statement**

*Casa Italia* is a home for all Italian-American organizations in the Chicago area. Here, we meet to pursue common goals, preserve our past, celebrate our heritage and ensure passage of values to future generations.

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### **Camp Guidelines and Policies**

#### **First Day of Camp:**

In order to facilitate the transition into the summer camp experience, we ask that a parent or designated adult

accompany their child/children through the check-in process on the first morning of Camp, which is Monday, June 19th. Please arrive between 9:15 and 9:30 and park behind the Cultural Center at 1621 N. 39<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stone Park. The orientation session will take place in the adjacent field.

During check-in, children will receive their *Casa Italia* Summer Camp T-shirt and nametag, and be placed in their language-learning groups. Check-in is also when a designated Casa Italia Day Camp staff member will collect medications to be administered during camp hours and any special diet-specific foods you wish to be available to your child/children.

### **What to Wear to Camp:**

All campers will receive one complimentary Casa Italia T-shirt, which they are expected to wear every day. Campers should wear comfortable clothes that they can move in and that they won't mind getting dirty during outdoor activities.

All campers will have *targhette* (nametags) that must be worn while at camp. Campers will leave their *targhetta* (nametag) at camp each afternoon and will pick it up as they are dropped off in the morning. The *targhette* are not only helpful for remembering camp names, they are also integral to safety and security at Casa Italia. Please reinforce with your child how important it is to wear their *targhetta* while at camp.

All campers are expected to wear closed toe and heel shoes every day that are comfortable and safe to run around in. Unsuitable footwear may result in the camper being excluded from certain activities.

### **What to Bring to Camp:**

All campers are expected to bring a backpack or similar containing:

- Sunscreen (please apply a first coat before leaving for camp)
- Bathing suit
- Beach towel
- Hair brush (optional)

- A rain jacket and hat
- A sweater or sweatshirt
- Sunglasses or brimmed hat or cap
- Bug spray (optional)
- Water bottle
- Comfort toy or security blanket (if appropriate for your child)
- Change of clothes (if appropriate for your child)

**Backpacks should be labeled with the camper's name.** We ask that children leave all valuables and electronics at home. If brought to camp, they will be put in a safe place and given back at the end of the day.

**Bring a Friend to Camp:**

Campers are allowed to bring a friend to camp for one day if they wish. The camper's parents will need to notify Casa's office at least 24 hours in advance of the visit and pay a fee of \$30 upon arrival. The fee must be paid by check addressed to Casa Italia and brought to Casa's office or handed to the camp director. The \$30 fee includes lunch for the camper's guest. Guests will be required to provide a completed registration form before their arrival at Casa. Guests who do not have a completed registration form including emergency contact info will not be allowed to stay. Unless otherwise specified, the adults authorized to pick up the camper are the adults authorized to pick up their guest.

**Communication:**

Casa Italia Camp Staff will keep parents informed about camp news via email, online photos and fliers sent home with the campers. Parents, along with family and friends, will be invited to attend the campers closing presentation at the end of the season. For safety and security reasons, we do not offer open visitations during camp.

**Inclement Weather:**

Camp will be held daily, regardless of weather conditions. Our large indoor facilities and large covered pavilion allow camp to continue during inclement weather.

**Absences:**

Please call Nancy at 708-278-8004 to inform us if your child will be absent from camp. Absences are not refundable.

**MASKING/CONTAGIOUS DISEASES POLICY**

Mask wearing is optional. If you want your children to wear masks, please include that in the medical information you provide and please send your child to camp each day with a sufficient supply.

If your child exhibits symptoms of any contagious diseases like COVID, influenza or RSV while at home, please call us to let us know that he or she will be absent, and please keep them at home until they are no longer contagious, per CDC guidelines.

If your child exhibits symptoms of any contagious diseases like COVID, influenza or RSV while at camp, we will keep them in a safe and separate room and call you to pick them up as soon as possible. Please keep them at home until they are no longer contagious, per CDC guidelines.

**Drop Off and Pick Up:**

After the first day, please drop off and pick up your child at the Italian Cultural Center at Casa Italia, 1621 N. 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Instructors and staff will welcome you and your child at the turn about near the Sacred Heart.

There will be a \$10.00 fee for every half hour of late pick up. After 3:30 p.m., children will be waiting at Casa Italia's office at 3800 W. Division.

**Before and After-Camp Care:**

Before and after camp sessions will run from 8 to 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, both weeks of camp, for a total of 20 sessions. The cost is \$200 for all 20 sessions, \$100 for just the 10 morning or just the 10 afternoon sessions, and \$15 per session for occasional use. Please let Nancy know by noon the day before, if at all possible, if you need before or after camp services, or as soon after that as possible in the event of an emergency. If you need to drop campers off before 8 a.m. or pick them up

after 5 p.m., let Nancy know and an additional fee will be worked out.

### **Emergency Pick Up Procedure:**

If someone else other than the parents or guardian listed on the registration form will be picking up the child from camp please contact Casa's office with detailed information on the person who will be picking up your child. The person will be asked to provide identification.

### **Behavior Policies and Procedures:**

Casa summer camp staff will work with parents and campers to create the best experience for all. Staff will consult parents about problematic behavior. Casa Italia retains the right to suspend campers or ask they not return in severe cases when other forms of intervention have failed to work.

### **Meals, Snacks and Birthdays:**

**Snacks:** Campers will receive two snacks per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Fruit juices and milk will also be made available to them. Spring water will be available throughout the day to keep campers well hydrated as they enjoy their activities.

**Lunch:** Lunch will be provided for all campers free of charge. If a child is not happy with the food selection of a particular day, ham or cheese sandwiches will be available.

### **Special Dietary Needs and Restrictions:**

To ensure their safety, Campers that have special dietary need and restrictions should bring lunch from home. All sack lunches brought from home (brown bag please) will be refrigerated upon arrival at the camp.

A small shoe box of safe snacks from home should also be brought to camp, where it will stay. This ensures that campers with specific dietary needs will be able to enjoy a snack along with other campers.

### **Camper Birthday Celebrations:**

If your child's birthday falls during camp and you'd like to celebrate it at camp, you are able to bring a cake or treat for all children present. Please let us know in advance by contacting Casa Italia's office. We will do our best to accommodate your requests. All baked goods must be store

bought with a complete list of ingredients. No nuts please.  
**We are unable to accept home baked goods due to allergy issues, please select store bought goods only.**

**Last Day of Camp:**

Family and friends of campers are invited to our closing program at on Friday, June 30. Come and see what your campers have learned and experienced during their journey into Italian language and culture. Campers will share songs, activities and games in a brief presentation. Lunch will be served to campers and family members at 12:30 p.m. with the program commencing at 1:30. Afterwards, campers will be able to use the water slide one last time, with the parents' permission.