

Top Summer Camp Trends for 2026: STEM, Sports, and Creative Programs Lead the Way

Parents are using digital communities to plan summer. National indicators point to skills-building programs, physical activity, and arts-focused experiences

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Summer planning has become a high-stakes calendar puzzle for many families, and parents are increasingly looking online for advice and recommendations. In a Pew Research Center survey of U.S. parents of children 12 and under, 34% say they visit online parenting communities at least monthly—a signal that summer decisions are being shaped in digital spaces where parents compare options and swap local recommendations. (Source: Pew Research Center survey, May 2025.)

Those digital conversations are converging around a consistent trio of priorities for summer 2026: programs that build future-ready skills, programs that keep kids moving, and programs that cultivate creativity.

STEM and “future skills” camps: Workforce projections continue to reinforce the value parents place on tech-forward skill building—BLS projects STEM employment will grow



Chatterblock Youth Summer Programs Guide



Kids Art Summer Camp

8.1% from 2024 to 2034 and reports a 2024 median annual wage of \$103,580 for STEM occupations. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics employment projections and wage data.) At the same time, measurable youth participation signals show sustained interest: AP Computer Science Principles test takers increased from 116,751 (2020) to 175,174 (2025). (Source: College Board AP score distribution tables.)

Sports and performance-driven programs: Organized sports remain a major part of youth life, but participation targets underscore unmet demand and access gaps. NSCH estimates show 53.8% of children ages 6–17 participated on a sports team or took sports lessons (2022). (Source: NSCH Data Resource Center, nationwide estimates.) Healthy People 2030’s sports participation objective reports a most recent value of 54.6% (2022–23) and a 2030 target of 63.2%, framing summer programs as one of the community pathways that can help close the gap. (Source: HHS Healthy People 2030; NSCH.)

Creative and arts-based camps: Creative participation remains widespread, supporting demand for visual arts, performing arts, design, and music programs. In 2022, NEA’s nationally representative arts participation survey found that 74.8% of U.S. adults consumed art via media, 51.8% created or performed art, 47.9% attended arts events in person, and 29.1% learned an art form or subject. (Source: National Endowment for the Arts SPPA, administered as a CPS supplement.) Youth participation signals show stability in structured creative work as well: AP Art and Design 2-D Design reported 47,902 students (May 2024) and 48,798 students (May 2025). (Source: College Board score distribution reports.)

To help families act on these trends locally, Chatterblock has released a digital 2026 Summer Guide that curates local camps and programs across themes such as STEM, sports, and creative experiences. The guide is designed for digital sharing and includes provider details and direct links so parents can quickly compare options without starting from scratch.

View the 2026 Summer Guide here: <https://bit.ly/sypg>

Chatterblock connects parents with local things to do—programs, camps, events, and youth activities—and helps them discover options that fit their family’s schedule and interests. Businesses and organizations can post programs and reach local audiences through curated communications and seasonal guides.

Media kit: [Chatterblock 2026 Media Kit \(US\)](#)

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