



**national summer
learning association**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHAT WILL KIDS DO IN AN ALMOST 'NORMAL' SUMMER?

NEW DISCOVERSUMMER.ORG SITE OFFERS FUN IDEAS, PARENT RESOURCES AND CONNECTIONS TO SUMMER PROGRAMS, SUMMER MEALS, MENTORS AND MORE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 10, 2021) - Summer learning matters in America, and with historic federal funding for summer programs, many communities are seeking ways to expand access to quality summer enrichment opportunities at a time when millions of students need this support the most. That's why the [National Summer Learning Association](#) (NSLA) has launched [DiscoverSummer.org](#)— a new online destination, developed in response to COVID-19, to help families discover affordable summer programs, summer meals, parent tips and a sea of resources to keep kids learning, earning, safe and healthy this season.

"This summer will be more important than ever in helping our nation's young people recharge, reconnect with peers, and rediscover the joy of learning," said Aaron Dworkin, NSLA CEO. "As the nation slowly emerges from this pandemic, we know from [recent research](#) that parents just want their kids to be kids this summer, while also finding ways to give them a strong start to the school year ahead."

As the nation enters the second summer of the COVID-19 pandemic, low income families and students continue to suffer a greater burden in our community in the form of loss of income, loss of loved ones, loss of social interactions, and [learning losses](#) that will weigh heaviest on the country's most vulnerable students this summer season.

According to the new [America After 3PM Report](#), while 3 in 4 parents (75 percent) say that a summer experience should help keep their child from losing academic ground, a greater number, roughly 9 in 10 parents report that opportunities to build life skills (94 percent), physical activity (92 percent), the variety of activities in a program (90 percent), and opportunities to experience the outdoors (86 percent) were important when choosing their child's summer activities.

Powered by [InPlay](#), DiscoverSummer.org aims to make it easier for families to:

- Discover summer programs in their communities, including accredited summer camps, by the **American Camp Association** and summer enrichment opportunities at local libraries, **National Recreation and Parks, YMCA's, Boys & Girls Clubs** across America and unique options like **Camp Invention offered by the National Inventors Hall of Fame**
- Discover Free Summer Meal Sites
- Discover resources related to youth mentoring, college and career preparation, the arts, academics, wellness, and more

Recent research from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) on [Summertime Experiences](#) offers strong evidence that summer is an opportunity to close academic gaps while promoting healthy development and well-being for all students to thrive. In fact, a growing body of research also shows us that the most effective summer programs seamlessly blend academics, enrichment, nutrition, student choice and identity, and of course, fun!

DiscoverSummer.org is supported in part by the New York Life Foundation and features both an English and Spanish version of more than 18,000 summer program listings across the country.

About the National Summer Learning Association

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is the only national nonprofit exclusively focused on closing the achievement and opportunity gaps by increasing access to high-quality summer learning opportunities. NSLA recognizes and disseminates what works in summer learning, develops and delivers community capacity-building offerings and convenes and empowers key actors to embrace summer learning as a solution for equity and excellence in education.

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