



OKLAHOMA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Outstanding Students. Amazing Music.

2026 Student and Family Handbook

June 15-19, 2026

John Rex Elementary School - 500 W. Sheridan, OKC

*We are so excited to welcome your student to camp! Included in this handbook is **IMPORTANT** information about your experience including safety procedures. If you have additional questions not answered prior to camp, please email us at info@okyomusic.org.*

Location

- SSSC will take place at John Rex Elementary School - 500 W Sheridan, in downtown OKC.
- Street parking is available near the school.
- The FREE finale concert takes place on Friday, June 19 at 2:30pm at John Rex Elementary in the school gymnasium.

General Rules and Code of Conduct

- Campers are expected to participate in **ALL** camp activities. We have designed this camp as a comprehensive experience. Families should reschedule any student appointments that occur during camp hours. Students who miss camp activities may be subject to reseating or the inability to perform on the final concert. No refunds are given after **June 9, 2026**.
- All campers are expected to wear their name badges at all times and attend all rehearsals, activities, and concerts during the week of camp.
- If an unavoidable conflict occurs, campers are not permitted to leave campus unless they are officially signed out of camp by a parent or legal guardian with the camp office staff. This must be pre-scheduled with the camp office to ensure a staff member pulls your student out of rehearsal at the appropriate time and is available to meet with you in the camp office.
- Campers are not permitted to possess or use tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, or unauthorized drugs. This will result in an immediate dismissal from camp without a refund.
- Campers are reminded to use good judgment in choosing their camp attire. Students will be walking downtown for Arts Experiences under staff supervision and we recommend students dress accordingly, but appropriately. If attire is deemed inappropriate (e.g., too revealing of body, offensive/vulgar message, unsafe, hinders ability to learn, etc.), parents or legal guardians will be contacted to bring a change of clothes. This also applies to the final concert outfit, which is the camp t-shirt (delivered in advance) and appropriate shorts, jeans, pants, or long skirt.
- Campers choosing to violate camp rules will be dismissed from camp without a refund and parents or legal guardians will be responsible for transportation home regardless of the time of day.
- Any damage to property, resulting from vandalism, will be charged to the parents or legal guardians of the students involved and the student will be immediately dismissed from camp without a refund.

Initial Camp Check-In - Monday

- Initial camp check-in takes place on **Monday, June 15 from 8:00-8:30 a.m.** Parents will accompany students to check-in on Monday to ensure all payments and paperwork are on file. Families are to use the main entrance of the Elementary School located on the northeast side of the building. A staff member will greet you at drop-off for the initial check-in.
- All forms and payment are due by **June 9, 2026**. Students will not be able to participate in camp without the required forms and tuition.
- Students will receive a camp name tag (that must be worn at all times) and a tag for their instrument case. The camp name tag is used on a daily basis for drop-off and pick-up and must be left at camp.
- After morning check in, parents may then return at the pick-up time.

Drop-Off - Tuesday through Friday

- West (Gym) entrance of John Rex Elementary School. Parents do not accompany their students for drop off (with the exception of the first day of camp check-in).
- Students will then meet with a staff member to receive their name tag and check in.

- Students should be dropped off each weekday morning between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. (staff will not be available prior to 8:00 a.m. for drop off).

Pick-Up

- Parents must pick up their student each day between 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. If a student is not picked up by 3:30 p.m., staff will begin calling emergency contacts. Staff leave camp at 4:00pm.
- A parent or guardian is required to enter the building to pick up their student. Please use the West Gym Elementary School entrance as described above.
- Since all staff are involved in drop off and pick up, the office phone will not be answered prior to 8:30 a.m. or after 3:00 p.m.
- Extended before and after camp care is not available.
- **A parent or guardian is required to enter the building to pick up their student. Please use the West Gym Elementary School entrance as described above. Students are required to visually confirm a parent or guardian with a staff member before handing in their name tag and departing camp.**

Seating

- Seating within the camp ensemble will be determined throughout the week by the camp faculty. No playing audition is required.

Contacting the Office During Camp

- The camp office will be open from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. daily. The camp phone number is **(405) 232- 1199**.
- Due to our busy camp schedule, it is likely that you will need to leave a message when contacting the camp office. Please be sure to provide an appropriate number and time for a return call. You may also contact OKYO at info@okyomusic.org with any questions or concerns.

Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices

- Cell phones **MUST** be silenced and stored during class, rehearsals, activities, etc.
- We reserve the right to confiscate cell phones that are being used improperly and will return them upon pick-up at the end of the day.
- Oklahoma Youth Orchestras is not responsible for the loss or theft of any personal electronic devices. We highly recommend that these items be left at home.

Instrument Packing List

- Instrument
- Pencil
- Necessary accessories for your instrument and **REPLACEMENT STRINGS!!!** This includes rockstops for basses and cellos, replacement strings, rosin, etc.
- Check to make sure that your instrument is in excellent playing condition. It is less expensive to have the repairs done before than in an emergency situation at camp. Parents/guardians are responsible for any repairs incurred during camp.
- Students will receive an instrument tag at check-in to properly label their instrument case.
- We recommend that you check to make sure that your instrument is insured. Oklahoma Youth Orchestras does not provide any instrument insurance.
- Instruments will be stored in a secure room during non-rehearsal activities.
- Oklahoma Youth Orchestras is not responsible for any instrument damage that occurs throughout the week.

Double Bass Storage

- Bass players are welcome to keep their instruments overnight at our camp location. While this is a secure location, Oklahoma Youth Orchestras cannot be held responsible for any damaged or stolen instruments. This convenience is offered at your own risk.

Food and Beverage

- Campers **MUST** bring a sack lunch every day for camp.
- We ask that each camper bring a refillable water bottle during camp.
- No snacks will be provided throughout the day. Students are responsible for using good judgment regarding any food allergies. Those allergies should also be clearly stated on the emergency medical form.

Other Items to Bring

- Refillable water bottle labeled with student's name.
- A snack to consume during activity transitions .
- Any other personal items, including sunscreen for walks to arts experiences .
- We recommend students bring a **SMALL** bag for their personal items that is clearly labeled. Note that some Arts Experience field trip locations do not allow personal bags or food/beverage, and students will be notified in advance to plan accordingly.

Medications

- Summer Symphony Strings Camp does not administer medications. Parents with concerns should contact the office of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras at 405-232-1199 or info@okyomusic.org prior to June 9.
- All campers **MUST** complete the emergency medical information on the registration form in the rare case that a medical emergency occurs during camp.

Weather Policy

- Camp takes place regardless of weather conditions or forecast.
- Some activities may take place outdoors at the discretion of camp staff unless there is rain or high temperatures in the shade.
- Families should be certain students wear plenty of sunscreen and bring a refillable water bottle to camp each day.

Daily schedule at a Glance (daily activities subject to change)

Oklahoma Youth Orchestras 2025 Summer Symphony Strings Camp *Subject to change*					
	Monday June 23	Tuesday June 24	Wednesday June 25	Thursday June 26	Friday June 27
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Camp Check-in: Parents enter building on 1st day only	Student Drop-Off (stretching exercises start @ 8:25!!)	Student Drop-Off (stretching exercises start @ 8:25!!)	Student Drop-Off (stretching exercises start @ 8:25!!)	Student Drop-Off
8:30-9:00	Welcome & First Rehearsal with Coaches	Rehearsal (end at approx. 9:40 for field trip travel)	Rehearsal (end at approx. 9:40 for field trip travel)	Rehearsal (end at approx. 9:40 for field trip travel)	Rehearsal Play through all the tunes and Final Q&A
9:00-9:30					
9:30-10:00					
10:00-10:30	Sectionals	Arts Experience	Arts Experience	Arts Experience	CAMP MASH-UP!!! Arts Experience Recital Hour: Surprise Artists
10:30-11:00					
11:00-11:30	Q&A and Discussion of the Week				
11:30-12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:00-12:30	Arts Experience	Rehearsal with Coaches	Rehearsal with Coaches	Rehearsal with Coaches	Camp Wrap-up, Group Pic, and Preparation for our Performance
12:30-1:00					
1:00-1:30			Sectionals	Sectionals	Sectionals
1:30-2:00	Rehearsal and Team Building				Dress Rehearsal with Coaches in the Gym
2:00-2:30		Recital Hour	Recital Hour	Recital Hour	Doors Open at 2:10 for Guests
2:30-3:00					Concert Begins at 2:30! John Rex Elementary Gym
3:00-3:30	PICK-UP: Parent/Guardian MUST enter the building EACH DAY . Students MUST visually identify guardian before turning in nametag and departing.				Camp is over 🥳 Parent/Guardian Pick-up
The concert is free and open to the public! Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs as there may be limited seating available.					

Teachers and Staff

- All of our camp staff are professional music educators.
- Additional high school camp volunteers who are current members of our school-year programs may also assist staff in rehearsals and activities.
- Your student will always be under the supervision of an adult employee with the assistance of these volunteers.
- Students will always travel from one activity to another with the assistance of camp staff and volunteers.

Final Performance

- On the final day of camp, students **MUST** wear their camp t-shirt along with appropriate length shorts, jeans/pants or long skirt.
- Our final camp performance takes place on **Friday, June 19 at 2:30 p.m.** at the John Rex Elementary gymnasium.
 - Guests will enter on the West side of the school, off of Dewey between Sheridan and California.
 - Doors open at 2:00 p.m.
- Seating is limited. Please be sure to bring your own lawn chairs to ensure a seat.
- This is a **FREE** performance and no tickets are required - so please invite your family and friends!
- The concert will be recorded and available to families in the weeks following camp.
- Families are welcome to take photos (no flash, please) - we ask that you share these memories with us on our Facebook (Oklahoma Youth Orchestras) and Instagram (@okyouthorchestras).

Drop Ins and Observations

- To help our students fully immerse themselves in the experience and build independence, camp activities and rehearsals are reserved for students only and are not open to parents or guardians. There may be opportunities to join us as a volunteer chaperone for Arts Experience field trips; we will contact you directly if help is needed. Outside of those specific volunteer roles, we kindly ask that parents do not join the camp group.
- If a parent/guardian would like to talk about what their child is learning, please contact the camp office between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. to leave a message for the camp artistic leadership.
- Be sure to follow us on social media for daily updates! We look forward to sharing the culmination of all our hard work at the final camp performance.

What if my child doesn't enjoy camp?

- OKYO works hard to ensure each camper has a great experience, regardless of their experience level, age, ability, or interest. Our camp focuses on both the fun team building and challenging musicianship aspects of music making. The first day can often be overwhelming because of the vast quantity of music that campers experience, but our caring teachers provide a sequence of instruction throughout the week that helps everyone feel successful.
- We do not offer refunds after camp has begun. You can receive a full refund if you withdraw from camp **PRIOR** to June 9, 2026. Refunds may take up to three weeks to process.

Summer Symphony Strings Camp Contact Information

Phone: (405) 232-1199

Email: info@okyomusic.org