Saturday Morning Discovery | Frequently Asked Questions

What is SMD? SMD is not a class, but a FREE four-Saturday session introductory art experience for children 5-14 and their caretakers.

Are all sessions of SMD four weeks long? November and December sessions of SMD are 3 weeks long due to holidays. SMD is never held on the 5th Saturday of any month, and there are no sessions of SMD in April.

When is SMD? Saturday mornings from 9:30am – 11:30AM during the calendar school-year (Sept – May).

Where is SMD? Check-in for SMD takes place on the Ursuline Campus at the UTSA Southwest, at the intersection of Augusta & Navarro, across from the Central Library. Check-in takes place in front of the Urschel Dormitory Building, just off the parking lot.

Can I show up on any Saturday? Advanced registration is required to attend a SMD session. All adults and children 5-14 are required to register to attend. Unfortunately, space for drop-ins is not available. Registration information available here.

When can I register? Registration dates will be posted at https://www.utsa.edu/pace/community-art/youth/saturday-morning-discovery.html

How late can I register? Registration for an SMD session is based on first-come, first-served. You can register your family if there is space available and up until the third week of the previous month.

Is my child required to attend every Saturday in a session? No, but to fully experience the art activities offered, a four-Saturday commitment is highly recommended. Please note that November and December are 3-week sessions.

What age may attend SMD? SMD is open to children and teens between the ages of 5 – 14 years of age.

May I bring a child younger than 5? Yes! SMD art activities are designed with skill sets appropriate to children 5 and older. Parents may bring a younger sibling of a child registered but must understand that they may need assistance or be too young for some activities.

Can I drop my child off during SMD? No — parents and guardians are required to stay during the session and are encouraged to work alongside their child.

Can my child register for more than one SMD session? Each family is limited to enrolling in one, four-Saturday session of SMD per school year.

If a session is full, can I be called if there is a cancellation? There is no waiting-list for SMD. If a session is full, you are encouraged to sign up for the next available session.

If my child misses the first session are they allowed to continue the following sessions? Yes, but be aware that when you register for SMD you have registered your child for four consecutive Saturdays and can attend only on those days. Please note that November and December are 3-week sessions.

If my child misses a Saturday during a session, can they make it up during the next session? No. Unfortunately there are no make-ups, due to limited space and the required pre-registration for the following session.

What art activities can my child participate in? There are 9 art activities and each Saturday children can select from: Painting & Drawing; Origami; Japanese paper folding; Inkle Loom Weaving; Silk-screen Printing; Stained Glass; Clay Handbuilding; Pinhole Photography (8 & up only); and a different Seasonal Art Activity each month.

Are there any activities specific by age? All art activities are open to children 5 – 14 with the exception of Pinhole Photography (8 and older) and Stained Glass (10 and older)

Can my child take home the work they make? Yes, every Saturday. However, final clay pieces are ready and must be picked up on the second and last Saturday of each monthly session at 11:00am. The artist educators will communicate the clay pick-up if you participate.

Can a group of children register together? Yes, groups from Boy or Girl Scouts, church or community groups and school or home-school groups may enroll together for the same session. Space is limited for groups and priority will go to community partners and under served communities. Please contact rose.barcus@utsa.edu for more information.

Can my child celebrate their birthday party at SMD? No SMD is an art experience and is not an appropriate venue for a participants’ birthday party.