

FAQ for Monster Camp

Why did you move Monster Camp to Dark Hour Haunted House?

We recently purchased Dark Hour and this facility has much more space than our home in the country. It is closer to all airports and the host hotel is only 5 minutes away. While we enjoyed hosting the camps on our private property, Monster Camp simply became too big to host at home. At Dark Hour, we can host more camps and it is easier for students to get here.

How old do you have to be?

Monster Camp students must be 18 or older to attend. Younger may attend with a parent or legal guardian who must purchase a \$200 observer spot and stay present in the shop for the duration of each class day. Please do not plan to drop off your child. You must stay in the class at all times.

Is Monster Camp good for kids?

You know your kid best. Monster Camp is an intense learning experience that pushes the student to excel. Classes are long and often focused intently on the skill at hand. Example: Day 1 is 12 straight hours of sculpting. If

you think your kid can stay still, focused and committed for this kind of class day, he/she may be alright to attend.

My kid is younger but very mature for their age- and we would like to take the camp together. Is that possible?

Again, if you think your child will be able to keep the pace and the focus of the camp, you may both take the class together. But as previously stated, you must stay on site at all times and know that this is a packed weekend of hard work.

What kind of monster am I making?

Once you have paid for your Monster Camp spot, you will receive instructions on your “homework” – don’t worry, this is awesome homework! Start thinking of TWO designs you’d like to create. Use Google image search and begin to compile examples of what you like.

Example: A photo or drawing of eyes you’d like your creature to have, ears, fangs, skin texture, hair, horns, whatever. But start thinking- start designing. Once we get closer to camp, Allen will go over your ideas with you and help you to choose which is best for the class you have signed up for. Sculpting begins as soon as you arrive, and you’ll need all day. You’ll want your design ready and approved before you get there so you are ready to dive in as soon as you settle into your

workspace. Contemplate your designs in the weeks and months BEFORE camp and be ready to start Day ONE.

How are we kept updated and in contact?

Once you have paid for your Monster Camp spot, you are part of the class. You'll receive emails to keep you updated on any changes or additions to the curriculum.

Once we are close to your Monster Camp weekend, a Facebook group will be compiled to allow students to introduce themselves to each other and share ideas and

designs before they meet in person. Students staying in the host hotel and around town can gather pre-camp for social time and getting to know each other via the Facebook group if desired. You're spending three days of intense instruction together- Monster Camp students tend to bond quickly!

I am not on Facebook.

Not a problem. We'll keep you in all loops via text message and/or email, which ever you choose.

Do you need any experience?

Our Half Mask camp is a beginner level. No experience needed. Our Full Mask camp is recommended for intermediate/advanced skill levels. Monster Camp

alumni and students with previous skills are good to attend. If you are not certain what your skill level is for the advanced class, contact us at stiltbeaststudios@gmail.com.

I heard you use an airbrush. I have no experience with airbrushing. Will this be a problem?

No, not at all. We'll teach you how to use it!

I've never done anything like this before- what if I fail?

You won't. Allen won't let you.

What about the mold for our mask? How do we get it home if we are flying?

Be prepared to have a way to get your mold home. The mold is the plaster shell you create over your clay sculpture. Once dry, this plaster shell is what you pour your latex in to make the skin which eventually becomes your mask. So, you will want to take this home. If you are flying, bring a large empty hard side suitcase with towels for padding and you can check it at the airport. Or some students have opted to make their mold their "carry one" item.

What is included in the class fee?

3 full days of small classroom instruction and guidance, a Stiltbeast Studios apron, resin head form (so you can keep sculpting at home!), work space, sculpting tool kit and all your supplies: clay, plaster, paint, straps, etc. Everything you need to create your mask. Plus meals and complimentary shuttle service to and from the host hotel should you wish.

Is hotel and airfare included?

No- you must provide your own hotel and airfare/transportation. We have a host hotel only 5 minutes away that we provide shuttle to and from for Monster Camp if you need it. DFW International Airport and Love Field Airport are both approximately 25 minutes away from Dark Hour Haunted House.

I'm driving in and want to stay at another hotel. Do I have to stay at the host hotel to attend Monster Camp?

Not at all. The host hotel and shuttle service are a courtesy but are not mandatory. Stay where you wish! If you plan to drive each day to camp, we have free parking at Dark Hour.

What if I have food allergies?

Meals are brought into Monster Camp from nearby restaurants. You'll have a menu you can choose from.

What if I have a latex allergy?

Sadly, that is a deal breaker. If you have a latex allergy, please do not attend Monster Camp. It is in the air in the shop and impossible to avoid.

I can't sit or stand for long periods of time, will I be ok?

Bring what you need. We provide a stool for your work space so you do not have to stand the entire time but you may want to bring back support or a cushion to sit on. The floors in the shop are cement so wear shoes that support you if you choose to stand while working.

What other features are the classroom?

The workshop in Dark Hour Haunted House has bathrooms, refrigerator, a/c heat and wifi, all at your disposal as a Monster Camp student. The wifi password is given to you upon arrival. You're as connected to the outside world as you WANT to be at Monster Camp.

What is the pace of the Monster Camp weekend?

Monster Camp is an intense learning experience. An example of how camp runs:

Day One: On your first day of camp, you will sculpt. "The whole day?" **YES**. Because until you get that sculpt

perfect, your mask is not going to be what you envisioned. It is the foundation of your design and learning how to create with clay is where it all begins.

Day Two: One hour of “last looks” – your chance to make any last-minute adjustments to your sculpt. Then molding your sculpt and letting the plaster set. Once molding is complete, you will pour your latex into your mold to dwell for 2 hours.

While the latex dwells, we take a behind the scenes tour of Dark Hour Haunted House and then enjoy a great dinner together before pouring out the excess latex so it will cure overnight.

Day Three: “Hatch Day!” Pulling your latex skin from your mold and meeting your creation face to face. Trimming the flash (extra latex around the edges), eyes and nose holes. Airbrush and embellishments take place for your finishing touches.

I’m a smoker- is there a break area for smokers?

Yes! We have an area where you can smoke.

May I take photos or video of the lessons?

Yes! As a Monster Camp student, you’re welcome to record and photograph the lessons for future reference.

What is the Monday BITY field trip about?

Monday after Monster Camp is completed, we provide a field trip to BITY Mold Supply- where all of your class supplies (plaster, clay, latex) came from. This is an excellent chance our driving students to load up on supplies and avoid shipping cost.

What is the timeline for the Monday Schedule? I need to fly out.

The Monday schedule usually begins around 9:00 a.m and we finish around 10:30/11:00 so those who need to fly out have time. The field trip is optional.

Can we buy supplies at BITY while we are there?

Yes! And if you're driving, this is a great way to load up on heavy things like latex, plaster and clay and avoid the shipping cost.

I'd like to buy some mask blanks and other supplies from Stiltbeast while I am at Monster Camp. Is this possible?

Yes! We do not keep all blanks in stock but we can always pour one up for you. **Let us know ahead of time** what you'd like to buy and we'll have it ready for you.

Got more questions? Contact us at
stiltbeaststudios@gmail.com