



2021 Mini Canes Camp Parent Newsletter



TOM SORIA
Camp Director



Tom Soria received his bachelor's degree in secondary education and his master's degree in sports administration from Wichita State University. He has been a part of the Mini Canes Camp staff since 2006 and has been the Camp Director since 2014. He is CPR/AED certified and is also a Registered Collegiate Recreational Sports Professional (RCRSP). Tom enjoys officiating sports, traveling, the beach, and is a proud father to his two boys.

MERRISSA VAULT
Assistant Camp Director



Merrissa Vault received her bachelor's degree in physical education at Eastern Kentucky University in 2016, where she also played Division I Soccer for four years. She later moved on to receive her Master of Science in Sport Management in 2018. Merrissa previously served as the Competitive Sports and Camps Coordinator for Mason Recreation at George Mason University. As a sports enthusiast, she is excited for her second year at Mini Canes Camp!

MARENA GAVILAN
Camp Registration Assistant



Marena Gavilan joined the Department of Wellness and Recreation in August 2007. She works directly with Dave and Tom Soria assisting with club sports, intramurals/special events, and camp. Marena has two sons and a daughter. She enjoys traveling, reading, music, and exercising. Marena is responsible for all camper registration and is very excited for her eleventh summer of camp.

ZAC BEMMEL
Camp Coordinator



Zac Bommel received his bachelor's degree in exercise science from FAU in 2015. He later moved on to receive his master's degree in Recreation and Leisure Administration in 2017. Zac previously worked in a similar role at the University of Cincinnati. As someone who has been a part of kids camps for 15 years, he is excited for Mini Canes Camp to return this Summer.

MARK
Operations Director for Sports Programs



Mark "The Bird" Dusek graduated from the University of Miami in 1978 with a Bachelor's of Education degree. He is a State of Florida Certified Teacher in Physical Education with over 30 years of experience and has served as a FHSAA Certified Basketball Official for 39 years. Mark has been Director of Operations at Mini Canes Camp since its inception in 1995. He looks forward to having everyone back and making memorable experiences.

MARY
Operations Director for Administration



Mary is a University of Florida and University of Miami graduate. She is currently a middle school teacher and proud mother. Mary is a Miami native who enjoys doing anything outdoors and trying new places to eat. She has been with Mini Canes Camp for 4 years and is looking forward to meeting the new campers, parents, and staff.

MATT
Assistant Director of Operations



Matt is a sophomore majoring in sports management at the University of Miami. He is a Miami native who enjoys playing and watching sports (especially basketball), playing his trombone, and listening to music. Matt has experience working at other sports camps and coaching basketball and baseball. He is looking forward to working with Mini Canes administration to facilitate bringing health and fitness to our community's youth this summer.

KEENAN
Assistant Operations Director for Sports Programs



Keenan is an alumnus from the University of Miami with a degree in marketing. He is originally from Virginia Beach, but enjoys living in Miami for all the activities it has to offer. Keenan has been a part of the Mini Canes family for the past 7 years and has worked with almost all of the different age groups. In his spare time, he enjoys playing sports, watching movies, going to the beach, and traveling. Keenan is excited to be back with Mini Canes!

LIVIA
Arts and Crafts Director



Livia is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in music education at the University of Miami. She is originally from Sao Paulo, Brazil and spent some time as an elementary music teacher in Cincinnati, OH. In her spare time, she likes to ride her bike as well as making and playing flutes from PVC pipe. Livia is excited for her first year with Mini Canes Camp.

AMBUR
Arts and Crafts Assistant Director



Ambur recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in Athletic Training from the University of Miami. She is a Miami native who has a lot of experience working with kids camps. Ambur enjoys arts and crafts, shopping, doing makeup, and also loves plants! She is looking forward to joining the fun in her first year with Mini Canes Camp.





2021 Camp Information



 Follow us on Instagram @um_minicanes

EACH CAMP SESSION







- Carnival Day - first Friday
- Color Olympics - second Friday
- Extravaganza - second Friday

DAILY ACTIVITIES

- Arts and crafts
- Games and team sports
- Swimming instruction

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Special events
- Theme days
- Wellness education

	CANES 6 years old		DOLPHINS 9 years old
	MANATEES 7 years old		MARLINS 10 years old
	PANTHERS 8 years old		HEAT 11-12 years old

As part of the "Green U" initiative at the University of Miami, Mini Canes Camp uses recycled materials for some of our arts and crafts activities. To assist in our green efforts in using recycled materials, we encourage campers to bring: empty and cleaned milk cartons and soda/water bottles, old newspapers & empty paper towel tubes.

2021 Camp Calendar

CAMP DATES

SESSION 1

Week 1: June 14 - 18
Week 2: June 21 - 25

SESSION 2

Week 1: June 28 - July 2
Week 2: July 6 - July 9

SESSION 3

Week 1: July 12 - 16
Week 2: July 19 - 23

SESSION 4

Week 1: July 26 - 30
Week 2: Aug. 2 - Aug. 6

SPORT OF THE WEEK

SESSION 1

Week 1: Soccer
Week 2: Basketball

SESSION 2

Week 1: Tennis
Week 2: Flag Football

SESSION 3

Week 1: Soccer
Week 2: Martial Arts

SESSION 4

Week 1: Ultimate Frisbee
Week 2: Basketball

CAMP THEME DAYS - WEDNESDAYS

SESSION 1

June 16: Sport Jersey Day
June 23: Disney Day

SESSION 2

June 30: Matching Day
July 8: Red, White,
and Blue Day

SESSION 3

July 14: Decades Day
July 21: Wacky Tacky Day

SESSION 4

July 28: UM Spirit Day
Aug. 4: Olympic Day

The Mini Canes Camp office staff is available for parents in need of receipts, additional T-shirts, and extra pick-up slips.

The office is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and can be reached at 305-284-8510 for any questions or concerns.

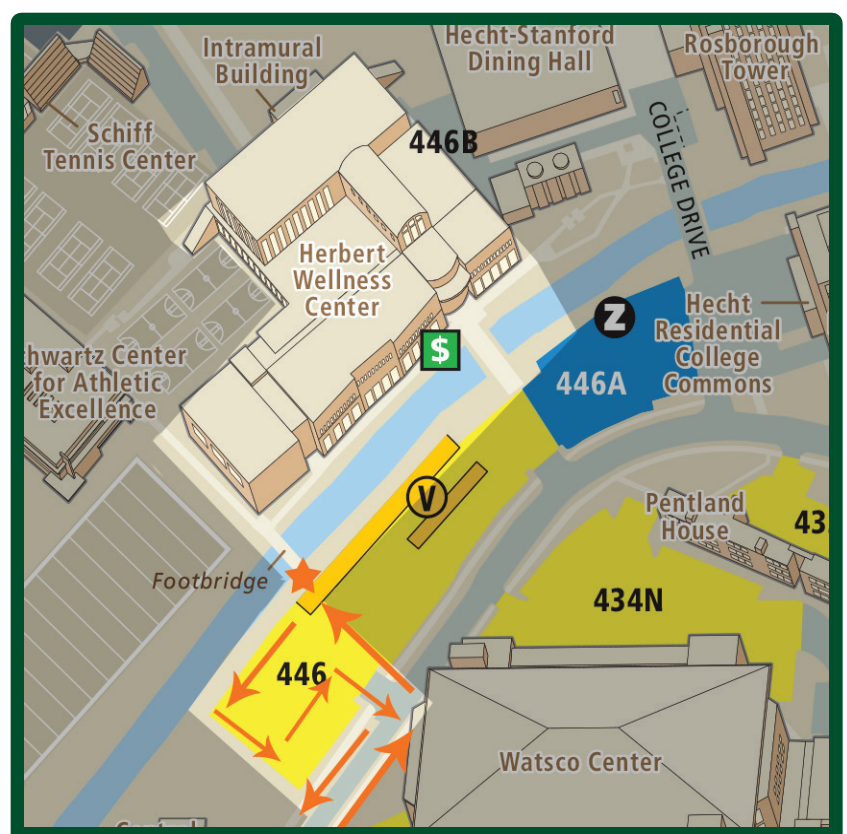


Drop-off & Pick-up Location

Lots are enforced by the Department of Parking & Transportation. Hourly parking passes are available from the Wellness Center pay machine and via the paybyphone App. Mini Canes Camp and the Herbert Wellness Center are not responsible for parking citations.

Questions?

Call the camp office at 305-284-8510.




KELVIN




Kelvin is a proud dad of a 4-year-old son and an FIU graduate with a bachelor’s degree in Physical Education. He is a Miami native, born and raised. He enjoys playing flag football, working out, mixed martial arts, and other activities. Kelvin is very down to earth and enjoys spending time with his son and staying active. This is Kelvin’s fourth year of Mini Canes Camp.

ASHAUNI



Ashauni is a University of Miami senior from Accokeek, Maryland and is currently studying psychology. She has experience working with kids in her family and at the Hope Chinese School. In her free time, Ashauni enjoys songwriting and writing poetry. As a member of UM’s Women’s Club Basketball team, she is looking forward to teaching the fundamentals of sports and creating a warm and inclusive environment.

NADER



Nader is a Florida State University junior majoring in sports management. He is originally from Miami and has experience coaching middle school basketball. In his most recent season, he led his team to the championship! In his free time, Nader enjoys lifting weights and playing basketball. Nader is looking forward to his first summer with Mini Canes Camp.

ISABELLA




Isabella is a sophomore majoring in psychology at Rollins College. She is originally from Miami, where she has taught tennis at several schools. Isabella enjoys working out, hanging out with friends, and going on adventures. She is looking forward to making fun memories with all of our Mini Canes!

DANIEL




Daniel is a University of Miami senior majoring in sports administration. He is from Miami Beach, where he has previously served as a camp counselor. In his spare time he enjoys playing basketball, streaming movies and shows, and hanging out with friends. Daniel is looking forward to joining the Mini Canes family.

MADISON



Madison is a sophomore majoring in elementary education. She is a Miami native and has many years of experience babysitting kids. Madison really enjoys art, running, the outdoors, and LOVES going to Disney. She goes about 8 times a year! Madison is looking forward to getting to know all of the campers.

DANIEL




Daniel is a senior majoring in environmental science at Ave Maria University. He is a Miami native and has worked at other camps where he has taught campers how to fish. Daniel enjoys fishing, hanging out with friends, and his 15 month old yellow lab named Buddy. Daniel is looking forward to bonding with the campers in sports-related activities and meeting new people.

KATE



Kate is a Miami native and a recent University of Miami graduate with a bachelor’s degree in education. Her experience with kids ranges from coaching tennis to volunteering and mentoring kids. In her free time, she likes to listen to music, walk her dog, read and watch movies. Kate is looking forward to interacting with the campers and meeting her fellow counselors.

NATE




Nate is a senior majoring in Creative Advertising at the University of Miami. He is originally from Foxboro, Massachusetts where he has experience working at a basketball camp. In his free time, he enjoys taking photos, listening to music and spending time with his giant family. Nate has 23 first cousins! He is looking forward to keeping the campers active and having fun.

ISABEL




Isabel is a sophomore majoring in business administration at the University of Florida. She is a Miami native and was previously a preschool teacher. She enjoys taking care of her plants, watching basketball, and cheering for the Miami Heat! Isabel is looking forward to making new friends and meeting the campers.

COLLIER



Collier is a junior majoring in sports administration at the University of Miami. He is originally from West Palm Beach and has experience being a teacher, teacher’s assistant, and basketball coach. Collier enjoys playing basketball, going to the beach, and playing with his dogs. He is looking forward to teaching the kids about sports that they may not have tried before.

ALEXANDREA



Alexandrea is a Miami native and recent University of Miami graduate with a bachelor’s degree in biology and religion in healthcare. She will be attending Emory to pursue her master’s degree in both public health and theology. Alexandra has been coaching boys and girls softball since she was 18 years old. She is looking forward to getting to know all of the Mini Canes and playing outside!



2021 Mini Canes Camp Substitute Counselors

COLISSA



Colissa is a Miami native and recently graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in sports administration. She has volunteered her time working with kids and being a part of other kids camps. Colissa enjoys shopping and practicing different hairstyles in her free time. She is most excited about doing sport related activities and working with children again.

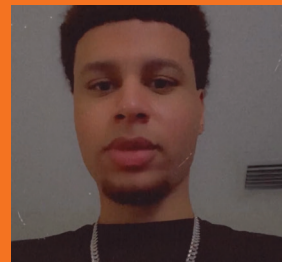
NINA



Nina is a sophomore who wants to major in clinical psychology at Wheaton College. She is a Coral Gables native and has previously worked for other camps at UM. In her free time she loves to read, play games, cosplay, and knitting. She is looking forward to connecting with the kids and meeting the other counselors.

2021 Mini Canes Camp Facilities Staff

DANIEL



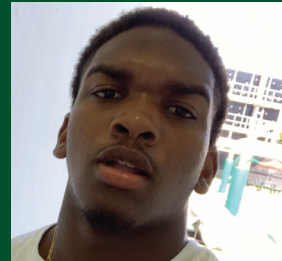
Daniel is a junior majoring in business and architecture at Miami Dade College. He is a Miami native and most of his experience comes from babysitting his cousins. Daniel enjoys playing basketball, going out with friends, and enjoying the ocean. He is looking forward to working with the kids and helping with all the camp events.

BEN



Ben is a graduate student in the Interactive Media Program at the University of Miami. He is a Caribou, Maine native and officiated youth sports in Miami and Caribou as well as working other camps. Ben enjoys video production, officiating, teaching, and trying new foods. Ben is looking forward to staying active again.

COLVIN



Colvin is a University of Miami senior majoring in sports administration. He is a Miami native and has volunteered his time at several football camps. He enjoys working out, motivating others, and eating. Colvin is looking forward to helping out in any way he can to make Mini Canes Camp the best possible experience for everyone.

2021 Mini Canes Camp Extended Care

ELISA



Elisa is a University of Miami graduate student studying applied behavior analysis. Elisa has previously lived in Caracas, Venezuela and Barcelona, Spain. She has worked at previous camps, coached field hockey, and worked in summer schools. She enjoys exercising, going to the beach, and walking her dog.

MARIA



Maria is a junior majoring in public health and microbiology & immunology at the University of Miami. She is originally from Culver, Oregon where she has previously been a camp counselor for 4 years and also taught ecology and nutrition to elementary and middle school students. She enjoys kayaking, paddle boarding, and hiking, as well as learning about plants. She is most excited

about building new friendships and creating fun memories with the campers.

CASEY



Casey is a senior majoring in exercise psychology at the University of Miami. She is a Miami native and has previously worked at a summer camp as well as being a lifeguard. Casey enjoys working out and being outside in the sun. She is looking forward to working with the staff and for the kids to be able to socialize and engage in fun activities.