

2012

NatureRamblers



Summer Camp



The Schuylkill
Center for ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION



Nature Ramblers



The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education is one of the nation's leading environmental education centers. Based on 340 acres of diverse habitat, our Nature Ramblers Summer Camp provides children aged 4 to 9 intimate and ongoing access to forests, fields, streams, ponds and even an organic farm garden. Nature Rambler campers explore the natural world through hands-on discoveries, hiking excursions, art, play, field trips and more.

All camp programs are led by experienced environmental educators, with an educator-to-camper ratio of 1:6 for the four- and five-year olds and 1:8 for older children. Our educators work with each child to foster his/her understanding of and appreciation for the natural world.

Camp Schedules, Fees, and Requirements

Full-Day Programs

Monday - Friday 9:00 am-3:30 pm

Members: \$225/week Non-members: \$245/week

Half-Day Programs (4 & 5 years old only)

Monday - Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Members: \$190/week Non-members: \$210/week

 For programs with a field trip add \$20 (or \$30 for Half-Day Programs). Remember to pack a lunch; field trips are scheduled as full day events!

Before Care is available for all campers

Monday - Friday 8:00 am-9:00 am

\$7/day (\$35/week)

After Care is also available for all campers

Monday - Friday 3:30 pm-6:00 pm

\$15/day (\$75/week)

Pre-registration and payment are required for Before & After Care. Campers must be of age by June 15, 2012.

Sibling Discount!

Save \$10 per child off the price of each additional camp session.

Snacks & Meals

Campers should bring their own lunch. A morning snack is provided.

Info and Registration

Questions? Please contact Camila Rivera-Tinsley at 215-482-7300 ext. 122 or email crivera@schuylkillcenter.org.

Registration: Please call 215-482-7300 x110. You can also visit our website at www.schuylkillcenter.org to download an application.

Save! Become a Member!

Become a member of the Schuylkill Center and take advantage of discounted prices and priority registration for Nature Ramblers Summer Camp, as well as other great benefits! For more information on membership, please contact Emily Simmons at 215-482-7300 x 117 or emily@schuylkillcenter.org, or visit our website at www.schuylkillcenter.org.

4 & 5
years old



Wild in the Woods | June 18-22



Come explore the Schuylkill Center and meet the animals that live here. Each day will take us on a new discovery as we learn about insects, mammals, reptiles, and more. We'll take a field trip to the Elmwood Park Zoo to see and learn about even more wild animals.

Things with Wings | June 25-29

Get ready to flap your wings! Fly away with us as we learn about birds, butterflies, and other flying creatures. Children will enjoy a visit from live raptors and an up-close and personal look at flying creatures inhabiting our woods and meadows.

Houses, Homes & Shelters | July 2-6

Members \$195 / Non-members \$210
(Note: This is a shortened week due to the 4th of July holiday. No camp Wednesday, July 4.)

Dens, burrows, caves, nests... animals make their shelters from so many different things and in so many different places. Spend time seeking out different types of shelters and exploring the ways that animals use natural materials.

Nature Detectives | July 9-13



Get out your tools! It's time to learn how to be your own nature detective as we use our senses to explore the Schuylkill Center for clues left by the animals that live here. We will also use our five senses to explore the Please Touch Museum.

Dinosaurs! | July 16-20



Blast back to the age of the dinosaurs as we explore what these prehistoric creatures looked like, where they lived, what they ate, and even if they still exist. Imagine life during the Age of Dinosaurs by examining fossils and interesting artifacts, as well as enjoying a visit from dinosaur relatives. A visit to the Academy of Natural Sciences for a dinosaur dig rounds out this week of excitement.

Creepy Crawly Critters | July 23-27

What is it like to be one of the smallest creatures on Earth? Take a closer look at insects, spiders and other creepy-crawlies that zip through the air, live in the water, and dig underground. Enjoy hands-on exploration and up-close interactions with insects. A visit from some exotic live insects makes this week unforgettable.

Nature Crafts | July 30-August 3

Making connections between nature and art is a great way to foster appreciation of our natural world. This week will focus on representing nature through art by making crafts with materials found in nature. We'll turn berries into natural pigments, make our own charcoal, and more.

How Does Your Garden Grow? | August 6-10

Come learn about the power of flowers and other plants. Discover how a seed grows, where plants live, and how they survive. Visit the Schuylkill Center's own organic farm to learn about the veggies we grow—and help with the harvest! A hayride and a visit from our farm animals will have us smiling.

The Pond and Beyond | August 13-17



Get ready to make a splash! It's a wet and wild look at aquatic life in our ponds and streams as we discover the importance of water and the creatures that live in it. Enjoy stomping in the stream and identifying the creatures that inhabit our waterways. A field trip to Adventure Aquarium will enhance what we discover at the Schuylkill Center.

Half-Day Programs

Monday - Friday from 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Members: \$190/week | Non-members: \$210/week

Full-Day Programs

Monday - Friday from 9:00 am-3:30 pm
Members: \$225/week | Non-members: \$245/week

Indicates field trip. Full-Day campers add \$20; Half-Day add \$30.

6 & 7
years old



Habitat Hunters | June 18-22



Explore our forests and fields to find the animals that live here. Discover many different animal habitats, and learn how each one meets animals' needs. Each day takes us on a new discovery, as we learn about insects, mammals, birds and much more. This camp includes a trip to the Philadelphia Zoo.

Things with Wings | June 25-29

Keep your eyes and ears open as we discover the flying animals of the Schuylkill Center. Learn about birds and butterflies that are active during the day, and about the mysterious lives of those that come out at night. Dissect owl pellets and enjoy a visit from live hawks and owls to see birds of prey up close.

Earth Protectors | July 2-6

Members \$195 / Non-members \$210

(Note: This is a shortened week due to the 4th of July holiday, no camp Wednesday, July 4.)

The impact that people—even kids!—have on the environment can be huge, both positive and negative. We'll become superheroes for the planet by singing songs, playing games, making crafts and engaging in activities that protect and preserve the environment.

Cold Blooded Creatures | July 9-13

Learn about the many reptiles and amphibians—snakes, lizards, toads and more—that live here, and discover the many adaptations that make these creatures uniquely suited to their way of life. A special guest visits to show us reptiles and amphibians found locally—and in exotic places too.

Digging the Past | July 16-20



Explore the rich history of the Schuylkill Center by visiting historic ruins on the property. Discover how the land was used in the past through Native American lore, and make crafts that represent how people lived in a time without modern conveniences. A trip to the Academy of Natural Sciences for a dinosaur dig gives insight into archaeology as we piece together the past based on clues left behind by people and animals.

Creepy Crawly Critters | July 23-27

Take a closer look at insects, spiders, and other creepy-crawlies that zip through the air, burrow underground, or swim through a pond. Learn how they live, what they eat, and why they are important. See a collection of insects from around the world brought to us by a special guest.

Flower Power | July 30-August 3

Learn about the awesome power of plants and all of the wonderful things they do for people. Examine plants up close and learn how to make your garden grow. We'll visit the Schuylkill Center's organic farm to see a real farm in action and use some of our newfound knowledge to help on the farm. We'll even learn to identify many plants native to Pennsylvania's fields and forests.

Mad Scientist I | August 6-10



The bigger the mess, the better! Come get wacky in the Mad Scientist Lab as we have hours of gooey, oozy fun. Includes a special appearance from our own mystery scientist! A trip to the Franklin Institute, with its many interactive displays, gives us an opportunity to see science in action.

The Pond and Beyond | August 13-17



Get ready to make a splash! Come take a wet and wild look at aquatic life in our ponds and streams as we discover the importance of water and the creatures that live there. The week includes a trip to Adventure Aquarium to see both fish that are common to Pennsylvania's waterways and uncommonly strange ones too.

All Programs

Monday - Friday from 9:00 am-3:30 pm

Members: \$225/week | Non-members: \$245/week

 Indicates field trip, add \$20.

8 & 9
years old



Amazing Adaptations | June 18-22



How'd they do that? Join us as we explore the special features that make animals and plants unique and perfectly adapted to survive in their habitats. We'll do in-depth studies of Schuylkill Center animals and visit the Philadelphia Zoo to explore exotic animals too.

Art in Nature I | June 25-29

Get in tune with the artist in you. Get inspired to take in and interpret nature in many different ways as we work with a professional artist to explore painting, photography, pottery, journaling, drawing, and much more.

Earth: The Great Green Machine | July 2-6

Members \$195 / Non-members \$210

(Note: This is a shortened week due to the 4th of July holiday, no camp Wednesday, July 4.)

Go green with us as we explore the Earth as a giant ecosystem that we all inhabit and share. Learn about the Earth's natural resources and ways that we can protect them and teach others to protect them as well. We'll experiment with alternative energy with solar cells, build compost bins, and explore ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Art in Nature II | July 9-13



The Play's the Thing! Combine your interest in art with your passion for the environment. Learn about different environmental topics, then collaborate to share the information through art. We'll visit a local theater for inspiration, then build a set, write a script, and create puppets or characters for the play, presented on the last day of camp.

Habitat Tenders | July 16-20



Join us for a fun-filled week where we'll study animal habitats and factors affecting habitat loss. We'll learn what it takes to make a home as we build shelters for animals like bat houses, bird houses, and brush piles. The week includes a trip to a very special habitat, Crystal Caverns.

Wildlife Tracker | July 23-27



Ever wanted to test out your animal tracking skills? Come spend a week learning to pay close attention to the signs that animals leave behind, like tracks, scat, fur and more. Learn how to track deer herds, which plants are edible, and much more. Includes a visit to the Churchville Nature Center.

Archaeology | July 30-August 3



Before the Schuylkill Center began, its grounds were used for farming; and before that, the Lenape Indians lived here. Explore what life used to be like in this area. Discover the history of the Lenape and learn some of their survival skills. We'll make ice cream, build a fire, unearth ruins, create paper, and more. Includes a trip to the Archaeology Museum at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mad Scientist II | August 6-10



Even bigger and better messes than you remember in the 6-7's! The group revisits some of our old projects while trying out new ones like bridge building, rocket launching, solar panels, and more. Includes a trip to the Franklin Institute to explore the many interesting interactive displays to see science in action.

Aquatic Adventures | August 13-17



Get ready to make a splash! Explore our ponds, streams, and wetlands. Learn to identify aquatic life, and catch fish using the SMART Angler program from the PA Fish and Boat Commission. We'll visit local watering holes and venture to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge for water testing and netting. Includes swimming at a local pool.

All Programs

Monday - Friday from 9:00 am-3:30 pm
Members: \$225/week | Non-members: \$245/week

 Indicates field trip, add \$20.

Down On The Farm

7-9
years old



The Schuylkill Center's sustainably managed organic farm will be the backdrop and location for **Down on the Farm**. Campers learn about farming and food through hands-on discoveries and experiences. Opportunities to plant, harvest, and help run Farm Camp's Friday Market are just a few of the activities awaiting campers down on the farm!

Plants: Parts and Products | June 18-22

Learn about the many parts of a plant, and how each part is harvested and turned in to so many different products. By participating in farm chores, we'll learn how plant parts are harvested on a small-scale farm, and enjoy cooking the fruits of our labor. By the end of the week, we'll be making connections between raw foods and the processed things we purchase from the store.

PA Farms: Exploring History | June 25-29

Did you know agriculture is the biggest business in Pennsylvania? We'll tour historic farms in the area to learn about the many different types of farms in our state, and the history of farming in this area. Hunting for signs of how the land was used and recreating some of the activities that occurred in the past will help us relive our farming history.

City Farm Fun | July 2-6

Members \$195 / Non-members \$210

(Note: This is a shortened week due to the 4th of July holiday, no camp Wednesday, July 4.)

We'll sample a variety of farm activities while focusing on the urban farms of Philadelphia, visiting several while learning about the similarities and differences between these farms and larger rural farms. Field trips include tours of a rooftop garden and the historic Physics Garden. Harvesting, farm chores, games and crafts round out the week.

The Scoop on Poop | July 9-13

Recycling on the Farm! Explore energy, nutrients and soil on the farm. We'll learn all about soil and why it is so important to farmers and food. We'll create our own compost and build worm composting bins. We'll also visit a recycling center to consider recycling outside of the farm.

Farm Arts I | July 16-20

We'll both learn and create by making rope, dyes, soap, and fabric arts — projects tied to the activities of a farm. A guest artist will guide us in creating and learning how these projects are connected to the farm and farm life.

Animals on the Farm | July 23-27

Can you name some animals that live on Pennsylvania farms? We'll learn about several types of farm animals, how they are cared for, and the products we get from them. We'll meet the Center's pygmy goat and chickens, discovering the process of egg laying and the important role chickens can play in controlling pests. We'll also visit a dairy farm.

Bread Basket | July 30-August 3

Our part of Pennsylvania is known for its many mills, including grist mills that made flour from grain. We'll devote this week to grains, exploring the differences among grain plants like corn, wheat and rye, comparing them to other types of food plants. We'll identify the parts of grain plants we eat and don't eat, visit a real mill and bakery, and even make our own bread.

Farm Arts II | August 6-10

This is a repeat of a great previous week during which we both learn and create. Making rope, dyes, soap, and fabric arts are projects tied to the activities of the farm. A guest artist will guide us in creating and learning how these projects are connected to the farm and farm life.

Water on the Farm (New!) | August 13-17

How much water does it take to make the food you eat? Explore the importance of water for the ecosystem, the farm and ourselves. Learn about the water cycle and how important it is to conserve water on the farm, and even design a way to catch and save rain. We'll also enjoy water's simple pleasures by splashing in local streams and swimming holes.

All Programs

Monday - Friday from 9:00 am-3:30 pm
Members: \$225/week | Non-members: \$245/week

Farm Camp is now the same price as regular camp!

 Indicates field trip, add \$20.



The Schuylkill
Center | for ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION

8480 Hagy's Mill Road
Philadelphia, PA 19128

www.schuylkillcenter.org

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