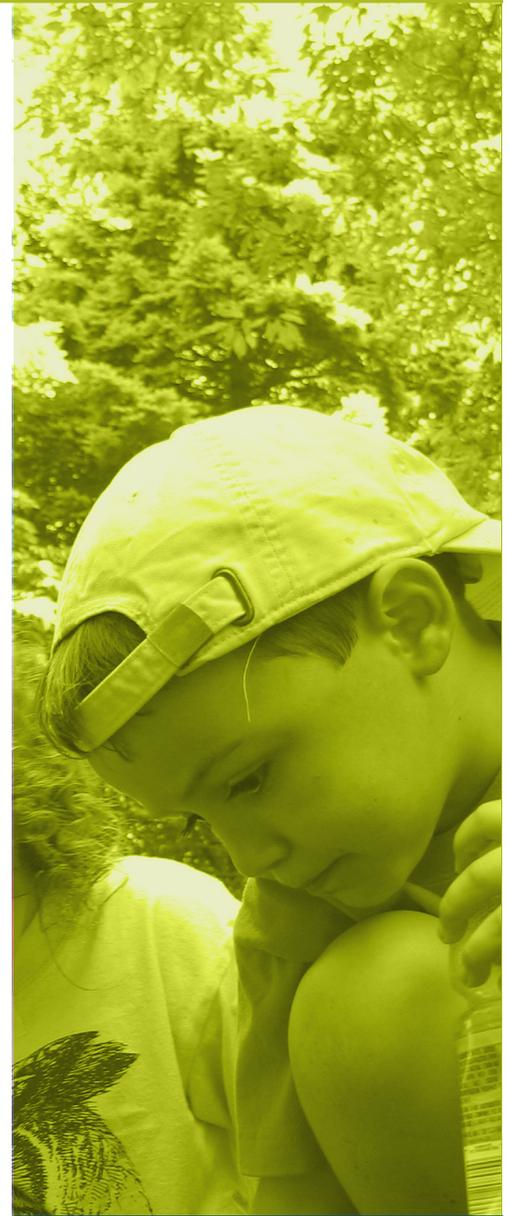


2015 NatureRamblers

SUMMER CAMPS FOR AGES 3 - 9 AT THE SCHUYLKILL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



NEW IN 2015!

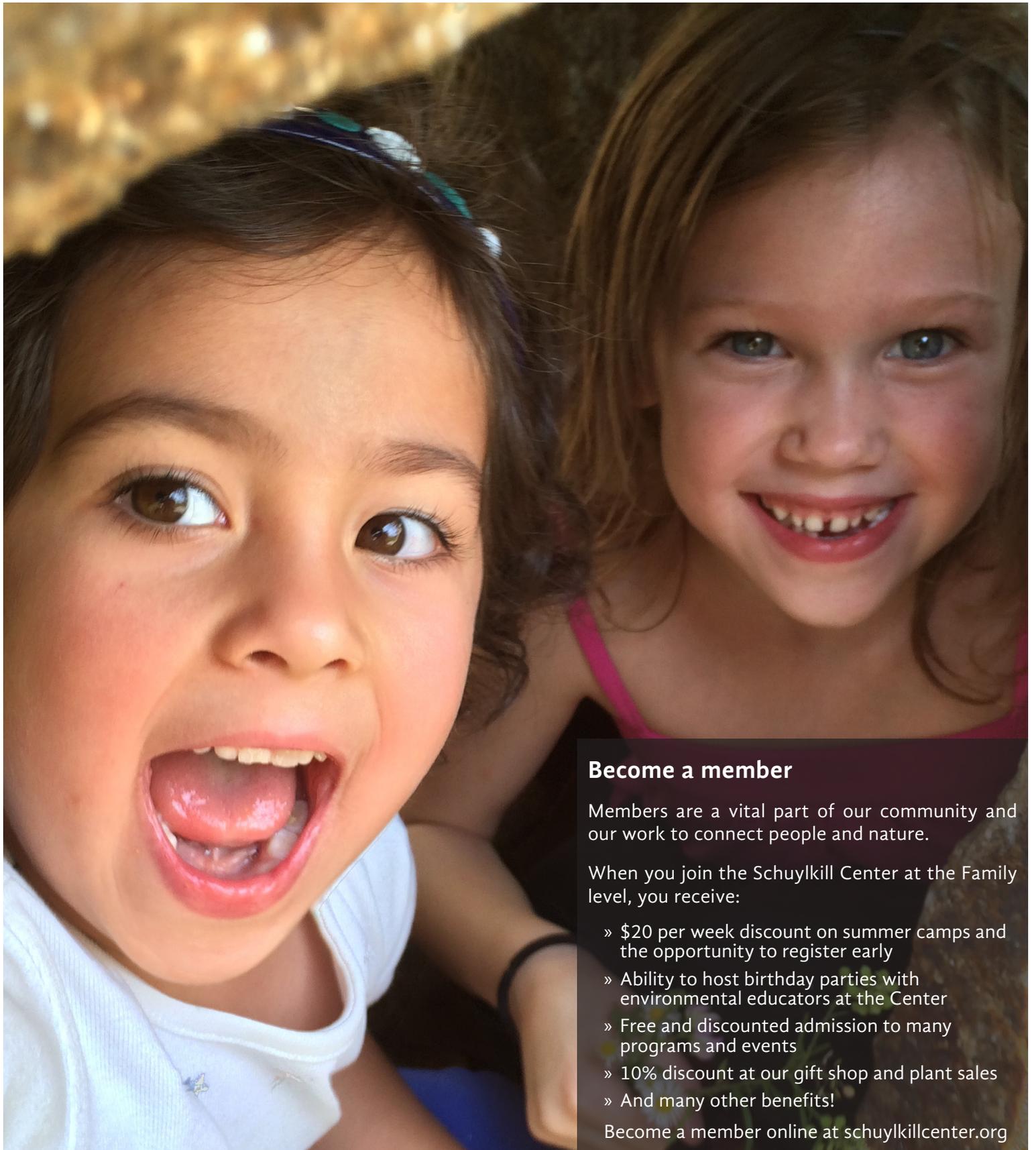
STICKY, SLIMY, SLIPPERY
SCIENCE, PAGE 3

NAVIGATING BY NATURE,
PAGE 7

50 YEARS  OF PEOPLE + NATURE

50 The Schuylkill
Center 

8480 HAGY'S MILL ROAD
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19128
www.schuylkillcenter.org
215-482-7300



Become a member

Members are a vital part of our community and our work to connect people and nature.

When you join the Schuylkill Center at the Family level, you receive:

- » \$20 per week discount on summer camps and the opportunity to register early
- » Ability to host birthday parties with environmental educators at the Center
- » Free and discounted admission to many programs and events
- » 10% discount at our gift shop and plant sales
- » And many other benefits!

Become a member online at schuylkillcenter.org



50 YEARS OF PEOPLE + NATURE

The Schuylkill Center inspires meaningful connections between people and nature. We use our forests and fields as a living laboratory to foster appreciation, deepen understanding, and encourage stewardship of the environment.



Nature Ramblers

Give your child a summer of exploration, discovery, and wonder at the Schuylkill Center. Our Nature Ramblers Summer Camp provides children ages 3 to 9 with intimate and ongoing access to 340 acres of forest, fields, streams, ponds, and even an organic farm. Campers explore the natural world through hands-on discoveries, hiking excursions, art, play, field trips, and more.

Each camp session features an age-appropriate theme that deepens your child's knowledge and awareness of the natural world, throughout the summer and beyond. Our highly-trained, college-educated staff is committed to guiding your child in outdoor adventures that are engaging, fun, and informative.



Camps, Schedules, Fees & Requirements

Nature Rambler Summer Camps

- Preschool camp for ages 3 - 5 page 3
- Camps for ages 6 - 7 page 5
- Camps for ages 8 - 9 page 7
- Down on the Farm Camp for ages 7 - 9 page 9

Members discount

Schuylkill Center members receive \$20/week discount on summer camps.

Multi-week Discount

Registering for multiple sessions? Pay the regular price for the first week and get \$10 off each additional week.

Snacks & Meals

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

Scholarships

Limited financial assistance is available for low income families; for information on how to apply, please call 215-482-7300, x110.

Beforecare & Aftercare

Beforecare is available for all campers

Monday - Friday, 8 am - 9 am
\$7/day (\$35/week)

Aftercare is available for campers ages 4 - 9 years old

Monday - Friday, 3:30 - 6 pm
\$15/day (\$75/week)

Pre-registration is required for before and aftercare

Questions & Registration

Questions?

Please contact Beatrice Kelly, 215-482-7300, x110 or email beatrice@schuylkillcenter.org

Registration

Online registration is available at www.schuylkillcenter.org

Campers must be of age by June 13, 2015.

3-5
years old

Preschool Camp

Nature Preschool Camp is the perfect place for young children to deepen their connection to the natural world while getting messy, learning and having fun. The children will explore ponds and streams, observe the life cycles of frogs and butterflies, catch animals and insects and build lasting social bonds. There will be endless opportunities to play and learn in nature.

FULL-DAY PROGRAMS

Open to 4 & 5 year olds
Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Members: \$290/week
Non-members: \$310/week

HALF-DAY PROGRAMS

Open to 3, 4 & 5 year olds
Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Members: \$160/week
Non-members: \$180/week



Indicates weeks with a special visitor to the camp, add \$15
The adult: child ratio is 1:6 | Campers should bring a packed lunch

Exploring Extravaganza | June 15 – 19

It's time to get wild in the woods. We will explore the Schuylkill Center and its ecosystems. Each day campers visit a new area, from pine forest to pond, orchard to farm, field to stream. There'll be no way to escape seeing and learning about insects, mammals, reptiles, and more.

Seeds, Soil & Sustainability | June 22 – 26

How does your garden grow? Learn about the life cycles of plants and flowers through planting seeds and studying how they grow. It's time to learn about food, farms, and nutrition. Here in our woods and meadows we'll identify common plants and figure out what they do and where they live. We'll also enjoy visits to the organic farm right here at the Schuylkill Center.

Fly in the Sky | June 29 – July 2

Note: shortened week; no camp on Friday, July 3rd.

Special Price:

Members \$232; non-members \$248 half days

Members \$128; non-members \$152 full days

What is it like to fly? We'll be soaring with excitement and questions as we learn about the miracle of flight! A live raptor from our wildlife clinic will come for a visit and we'll have a chance to get up close and personal with the many flying friends here, with walks to our bird blind, bird crafts, and much, much more.

Noticing Nature | July 6 – 10

Turn your attention to your senses. Campers will use their ears, eyes, noses, hands, mouths, and imagination to explore the world around them. Come investigate the trails for clues left by the animals around us and turn into real life nature detectives.



Schuylkill Center
nature
PRESCHOOL

For more information or to schedule a tour, call 215-482-7300, x 110.

Registration for the 2015 school year opens January 19 for members and February 2 for non-members.



About Nature Preschool

The Schuylkill Center Nature Preschool immerses children ages 3 - 5 in nature every day, while preparing them for the intellectual, social, and physical challenges of kindergarten.

Bugs, Slugs & Beyond | July 13 – 17



What would it feel like to be as small as an ant? Let's get out our magnifying glasses and take a closer look at insects, spiders, and other crawling creatures that fly, float, or forage underground. Enjoy first-hand interactions with creepy, crawly critters all around. The Insectarium makes this week unforgettable.

There's No Place Like Home | July 20 – 24

What is a home? Animals create their homes under the earth, in treetops, and everywhere in-between! We will learn what a habitat is and search for habitats like hives, caves, burrows, and dens. Find out how these homes are made and what natural materials animals use to make them. Campers will make their own shelters too – fairy houses, toad houses, slug homes, and anything else we can dream up.

Dig Deep | July 27 – 31

Explore soil and what happens when we dig down into the earth. We'll make our own fossils and think about what earth was like long ago. It's a chance to learn more about geology as we will build dams, sample soil, and get dirty! Who knows what we can build if we have time, dirt, rocks, mud, and water?

Wet & Wild | August 3 – 7

Campers can ponder the pond as they discover aquatic habitats and wildlife. Find out what creatures inhabit our waterways and what they do in our ecosystem. While we're at it, we'll have some water fun ourselves. Sprinklers, pond wading, playing with our Rain Yard installation . . . who knows – your child might turn into a polliwog.

Sticky, Slimy, Slippery Science | August 10 – 14

It's time to make a mess. As we climb, build, and get messy, our miniature mad scientists will be learning measurement, physics, and chemistry without even knowing it! Come make playdough, float little boats, drop things from great heights, and much, much, more. Let's see science in action.

Earth Superheroes | August 17 – 21

Get dramatic as we're transformed into Earth Superheroes, becoming stewards of nature. We'll show kindness to the plants and animals that live around us, think about what special powers we might need to improve our world, and find out simple things we can do each day to care for the earth. Parents are invited to visit on Friday afternoon to see how our heroes protect the planet.

6&7
years old



ALL PROGRAMS

The adult:child ratio is at least 1:8

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

Members: \$250/week | Non-members: \$270/week



Indicates a field trip, add \$25.

Campers should bring a packed lunch

Register online at www.schuylkillcenter.org

Journey into the Past | June 15 – 19



Explore the rich history of the Schuylkill Center by visiting historic ruins on the property. Discover how the land was used by Native Americans and make crafts that represent how people lived in a time without modern conveniences. We'll enjoy a special visit to a living history exhibit of a Lenape Village at the Churchville Nature Center in Bucks County.



Plant Power | June 22 – 26

Discover the awesome power of plants. From trees to weeds, tomatoes to trillium, we'll get to the root of the matter. We'll identify plants native to Pennsylvania's fields and forests, then use our newfound knowledge to help out during a visit to the organic farm at the Schuylkill Center and see real farmers in action.

Bird is the Word | June 29 – July 2

Note: shortened week; no camp on Friday, July 3rd
Special Price:

Members \$200; non-members \$220

Keep your eye on the sky. It's all about birds. Learn about the songbirds that make music in our forests, see birds of prey soaring high in the sky, and dissect owl pellets to learn about these mysterious night hunters. Enjoy a visit from live hawks and owls to see birds of prey up close.

Air & Space | July 6 – 10



Join us as we explore our atmosphere and what it does for life here at the Center. We'll examine weather, learn about the sun, figure out how birds and planes soar, and look deep into space at the Franklin Institute's Fels Planetarium.

Digging into Dirt | July 13 – 17

Find out what's underground. We'll explore life beneath our feet, including reptiles, amphibians, spiders, and insects. Learn about how they live and why they are important. We'll dig through the dirt, make mud pies, and have a special guest show us these creatures up close.

End of Summer Session: Forest Fun & Woodland Wanderings | For campers aged 5 – 9 | August 17 – 21

Loved your summer experience and just can't get enough? We've extended our summer season to bring you one more exciting week. It's a grab-bag of child-led nature play, fort building, mud pies, canoeing, and art. Space is limited for this special week so register early!

Habitat Explorers | July 20 – 24

Find animal homes all over the Schuylkill Center. We'll weave through woods, meander through meadows, and play around ponds. Each day campers will discover different animals in each habitat, and learn about the adaptations that help them live here.

Mad Scientist 1 | July 27 – 31



The bigger the mess, the better. Come get wacky in the Mad Scientist Lab with hours of gooey, oozy fun. Get your lab coat ready and put your goggles on to spend the entire week experimenting with science, making homemade volcanos, disappearing ink, and other concoctions. A trip to the Franklin Institute gives us an opportunity to see science in action.

Art Is Your Nature | August 3 – 7

Take inspiration from nature and become an artist, discovering all of the colors and shapes of the environment while using nature to inspire paintings and sculpture. A visiting artist will help us understand color, texture, and shape. We'll be painting with watercolors, creating sculptures with natural materials, and discovering how to look at the world in a different light.

The Pond & Beyond | August 10 – 14



Come take a wet and wild look at aquatic life in our ponds and streams as we discover the importance of water while meeting the creatures that live there. It'll be a week full of water play in our ponds and streams. We'll also enjoy a field trip to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.

8&9
years old



ALL PROGRAMS

The adult:child ratio is at least 1:8

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

Members: \$250/week | Non-members: \$270/week



Indicates a field trip, add \$25.

Campers should bring a packed lunch

Register online at www.schuylkillcenter.org

Archeology & Ancient Living | June 15 – 19



Explore what life used to be like in this area. Before the Schuylkill Center was founded in 1965, these grounds were used for farming; and before that, the Lenape Indians lived here. Discover the history of the Lenape and learn some of their skills. We'll build fires, unearth ruins, create paper, and more. Visit a hands-on living history exhibit of a Lenape Village at the Churchville Nature Center in Bucks County.

Nature Rocks | June 22 – 26

Open up rocks and become a geologist. We'll look at rock formations and learn how they came to be. Come along as we travel far back in time to learn how the earth is always changing and shifting. Climb over the Schuylkill Center's own rock pile, and learn to identify different types of rocks. It's a week of climbing and exploring, all about the stuff our planet is made from.

Junior Ecologist | June 29 – July 2

Note: shortened week; no camp on Friday, July 3rd
Special Price: Members \$200; Non-members \$220

Become an ecologist. Keep a field journal, count populations of plants and wildlife, learn about biodiversity, and find out how we restore our land. Discover how plants, animals, and humans interact through games and explore the ecosystems where it all happens.

Air & Space | July 6 – 10



Did you know the atmosphere is also a part of the environment? Discover how the sky above us affects nature around us. We'll explore weather and the seasons to discover what makes up the air we breathe and how that air has changed over time. We'll also take a deep look into space at the Franklin Institute's Fels Planetarium.

Navigating by Nature | July 13 – 17

Before the age of GPS, people used natural landmarks and the sky to find their way around. Do you know how to find your way around? Does moss really only grow on the north side of trees? What important resource do sycamores lead us to? Can you create an accurate map? We'll be getting lost and found again, as we learn to use compasses and forest landmarks for navigation.



Creative Writing in Nature | July 20 – 24

Let's get creative! For the budding writer, we'll use nature as our inspiration to tell stories about the plants and animals that live here. An expert will guide us through writing short stories and poems, and teach us to tap into the storyteller within us all.

Mad Scientist II | July 27 – 31



Even bigger and better messes than in the Mad Scientist I camp for younger kids. The group dives into projects like bridge building, rocket launching, creating solar panels, and more. We'll see science in action every day here at the Center, and on a special trip to the Franklin Institute.

Nature Photography | August 3 – 7

Note: campers must bring their own photo-taking device. The Schuylkill Center will provide photo printing, exhibit materials, and portfolio. Materials fee: \$35.

Look at nature through a rose-colored lens as we learn photography. An expert will join us as we create our own story through pictures, photographing nature's beauty. We'll hike through the grounds, collect natural specimens, and curate our very own exhibit in the Schuylkill Center's gallery. Campers will also make a portfolio of their work. The week culminates with a Friday reception and exhibition opening in our art gallery.

Aquatic Adventures | August 10 – August 14



Let's make a splash. Explore our ponds, streams, and wetlands. Learn to identify aquatic life and catch fish. We'll visit local watering holes and venture to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge for water testing and netting. Be ready to swim!

End of Summer Session: Forest Fun & Woodland Wanderings | For campers aged 5 – 9 | August 17 – 21

Loved your summer experience and just can't get enough? We've extended our summer season to bring you one more exciting week. It's a grab-bag of child-led nature play, fort building, mud pies, canoeing, and art. Space is limited for this special week so register early!



7-9
years old

Down on the Farm

Come down to the farm to learn about food, farming, and how the earth sustains us. In partnership with the **North Light Community Center**, farm camp enjoys hands-on discoveries at the **Teens4Good** organic farm at the Schuylkill Center, letting kids see farming up close and spend time with teen farmers and their advisors. Opportunities to plant, harvest, taste, and just get dirty abound.

ALL PROGRAMS

The adult:child ratio is at least 1:8

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

Members: \$250/week | Non-members: \$270/week



Indicates a field trip, add \$25.

Campers should bring a packed lunch

Register online at www.schuylkillcenter.org

Unearthing Our Roots | June 15 – 19



Farming and agriculture is big business in Pennsylvania. Come learn about the many different types of farms in our state and the history of farming in this area. We'll connect with our history a little, hunting for signs of how this land was used long ago and trying out old ways to make and grow food. And of course, we'll take trips to some local historic farms to find out more.

Plants: Parts & Products | June 22 – 26

Learn about the many parts of a plant, and how each part can be harvested and turned into many things we can use and eat in our daily lives. By joining in farm chores, we'll learn about how plants are harvested on a small-scale farm, and enjoy cooking and eating the fruits of our labor.

City Farm Fun | June 29 – July 2



Note: shortened week; no camp on Friday, July 3rd
Special Price: Members \$200; Non-members \$220

Enjoy a sampling of all of our farm activities with a focus on urban farms in Philadelphia. It might be cooking, planting, or learning how people grow food right here in the city. Visits to a few local urban farms, harvesting, farm chores, games, and crafts round out this week.

The Scoop on Poop | July 6 – 10

Campers will get down and dirty as they explore soil, nutrients, and energy on the farm. First, find out just what soil is and why it is so important to farmers and to us, then we'll make our own worm composting bins. We'll also visit a recycling center to see recycling outside the farm.

Pollinators in the Pantry | July 13 – 17

Insects on the farm have a big job to do. Find out all about pollinators and the role they play in the ecosystem. Campers will 'waggle dance' their way through the farm looking for insects in action and learning about the role that bees, butterflies, and other pollinators play in bringing food to our tables. A visit from a local bee keeper will fascinate our little farmers.

End of Summer Session: Forest Fun & Woodland Wanderings | For campers aged 5 – 9 | August 17 – 21

Loved your summer experience and just can't get enough? We've extended our summer season to bring you one more exciting week. It's a grab-bag of child-led nature play, fort building, mud pies, canoeing, and art. Space is limited for this special week so register early!



Animals on the Farm July 20 – 24



Can you name some animals that live on farms? We'll learn about several types of farm animals, how they are cared for, and the products we get from them. Meet chickens and a pygmy goat, discovering the process of egg-laying and the important role chickens can play in controlling pests. At a local dairy farm we'll make our own 'farmer's cheese.'

Bread Basket | July 27 – July 31



Northwest Philadelphia is known for its many mills, including grist mills that made flour from grain. This is a week devoted to grasses and grains, exploring plants like corn, wheat, and wild grasses. Experiments with yeast, visiting a real mill, and making our own bread are just the start.

Farm Arts | July 3 – 7



It's time to learn by making. We'll use traditional farm arts to make rope, dye with natural materials, make soap, and more. We'll also spend plenty of time on the farm, learning all about traditional farm life while having lots of fun.

Water on the Farm | August 10 – 14

How much water does it take to make the food we eat? Campers will explore the importance of water for the farm and for us. What could be a better way to learn about the water cycle than experiencing it up close? We'll design ways to catch and save rain, and go splashing along the edge of the creeks and ponds here at the Schuylkill Center.

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50 The Schuylkill Center

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