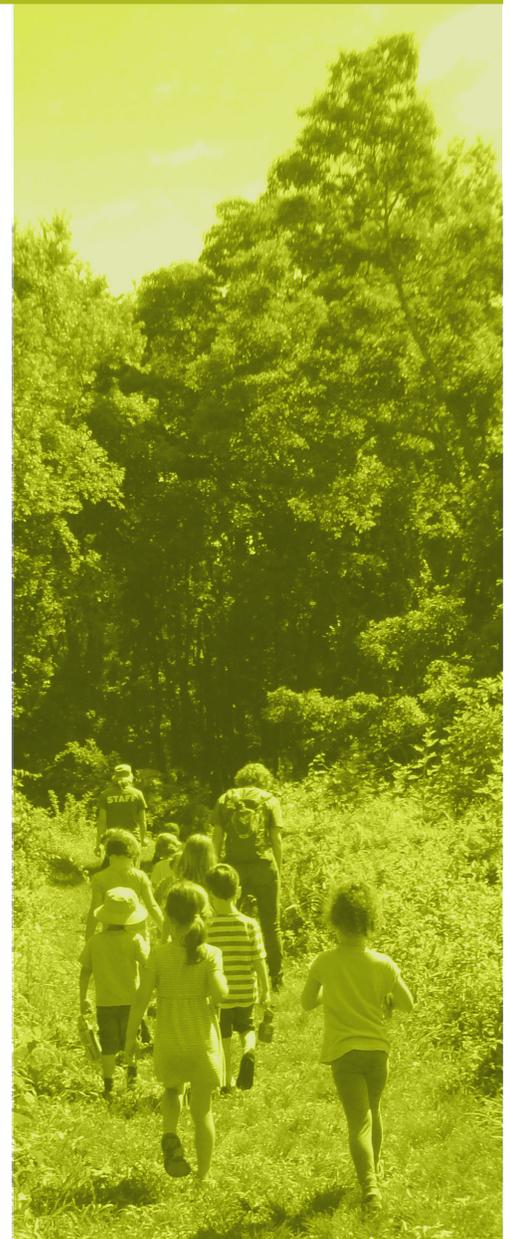


# 2016 NatureRamblers

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



**NEW IN 2016!**

FIBER ART

NATURE MAKERS

SCHUYLKILL CENTER OLYMPICS

SWEET SUNSHINE POWER



8480 HAGY'S MILL ROAD  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19128  
[www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://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](http://schuylkillcenter.org)



### CONNECTING PEOPLE & NATURE SINCE 1965

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 forests, 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.

Campers must be of age by June 13, 2016.

## Discounts & Scholarships

### 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.

### Scholarships

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

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## Questions & Registration

### Questions?

Please contact Beatrice Kelly, 215-482-7300, x110 or email [beatrice@schuylkillcenter.org](mailto:beatrice@schuylkillcenter.org).

### Registration

Online registration is available at [www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org).

### Payment Policy

A deposit is required for registration prior to May 20, 2016 when payment is due in full. In case of registration changes, deposits are 50% refundable or transferable to another camp group registration or camp program. Payment is neither refundable nor transferable after May 20, 2016.

## Beforecare & Aftercare

*Beforecare is available for all campers*

Monday - Friday, 8 am - 9 am | \$8/day (\$40/week)

*Aftercare is available for campers ages 4 - 9 years old*

Monday - Friday, 3:30 - 6 pm | \$16/day (\$80/week)

Pre-registration is required for before and aftercare

## Snacks & Meals

A morning snack is provided.

Campers should bring their own lunch.

# Preschool Camp

3-5  
years old



## FULL-DAY PROGRAMS

*Open to 4 & 5 year olds*

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Members: \$299/week

Non-members: \$319/week

## HALF-DAY PROGRAMS

*Open to 3, 4 & 5 year olds*

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Members: \$165/week

Non-members: \$185/week

The adult: child ratio is 1:6

Campers should bring a packed lunch.

A morning snack is provided.

Register online at [www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org)

### About Nature Preschool



The Schuylkill Center Nature Preschool immerses children in nature every day. For more information or to schedule a tour, call 215-482-7300, x 110.

**JUST FOR PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN**, these camps offer the chance to play and learn in nature, just like our Nature Preschool program. Teachers from Nature Preschool will lead children all around our 340 acres of fields and forests. We'll explore ponds and streams, observe tadpoles and butterflies, and build lasting social bonds, plus we'll spend plenty of time in Tall Trees Playscape, our all-natural playground complete with a rock pile, mud kitchen, and fairy garden. This camp is the perfect place for young children to deepen their connection to the natural world, while getting messy, learning, and having fun with lots of unstructured imaginative play!

There are two groups for each week of preschool camp, **Slimy Slugs** and **Wiggly Worms**, so please specify which group you'd prefer.

### Schuylkill Sneak Peek | June 13 – 17

Time for new adventures along the trails as the animals, plants, and even campers are all getting ready for summer! During the first week, campers will explore the Schuylkill Center as it welcomes summer time. Each day campers will visit new areas, from pine forest to pond, orchard to farm, field to stream.

### Fun with Flowers | June 20 – 24

What happens in the garden? Investigate the life cycles of flowers by planting seeds and studying how they grow. Find native flowers and learn the roles flowers play in our ecosystem: why do they smell and why are they so colorful? Campers will have fun seeing the different colors, shapes, and patterns all around our meadows and forests.

### Birds & Beyond | June 27 – July 1

Can you imagine a day as a bird? We'll be soaring with excitement and questions as we learn about the lives of birds and how they interact in the environment. 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.

### Did you hear that? | July 5 – 8

What can we hear when we listen closely? Children will explore the forest from a new perspective with one of our most useful tools: our ears. Let's learn about animal sounds and the music of nature.

*Note: shortened week; no camp Monday, July 4.*

*Special price:*

*Members: \$135 half day | \$239 full day*

*Non-members: \$155 half day | \$259 full day*

### Sticky, Slimy, Slippery Science | July 11 – 15

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 in nature! Come make play-dough, float little boats, drop things from great heights, and much, much, more. Join us this week to see science in action.

### Junior Archaeologists | July 18 – 22

Explore soil and what happens when we dig into the earth. We'll make our own fossils and imagine what the 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 with dirt, rocks, mud, and water?

### Pond Adventures | July 25 – 29

Campers can ponder the pond as they discover aquatic habitats and wildlife. Find out what creatures inhabit ponds and what they do in the ecosystem. Use nets, trays, scoopers, and more to uncover the hidden creatures beneath the water's surface.

### Interesting Insects | August 1 – 5

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 that fly, float, and forage. What makes insects different from the rest of the smallest creatures around?

### There's No Place Like Home | August 8 – 12

Animals find refuge almost everywhere around us. Explore the forest to find nests and other homes built by animals. Let's make our own toad structures, slug hotels, or fairy houses as we identify animal shelters and collect natural materials to use in our own habitat construction.

### Earth Superheroes | August 15 – 19

Get dramatic as we're transformed into Earth Superheroes and learn how to be 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, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Members: \$260/week | Non-members: \$280/week

 Indicates a field trip, add \$25.

Morning snack is provided. Campers should bring a packed lunch.

Register online at [www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org)

## Bird is the Word | June 13 – 17

Keep your eye on the sky! This week it's all about birds. From the smallest songbirds to the biggest birds of prey, we'll examine flight, learn about birds' amazing adaptations, and break out the binoculars to see who resides in our forest. Enjoy a visit from live hawks and owls from our wildlife clinic to see birds of prey up close.

## A Bright Sunshiny Day | June 20 – 24



It all starts with the sun! Our star gives us the light and heat that we need for life, and this week we'll learn about everything the sun does for us, from photosynthesis to solar energy. Bask in the beautiful light in our fields, and then take a break in forest shade. It's a celebration of the sun, just in time for the summer solstice. A trip to the Franklin Institute observatory and planetarium completes the week.

## Collecting & Classifying | June 27 – July 1



Break out your field journals and become scientists this week. Hike the Schuylkill Center far and wide; learn how to observe similarities and differences in living things, and create your own collection of natural objects, classified to make Linnaeus proud. Don't know who Linnaeus is? Find out this week! We'll visit the Wagner Free Institute of Science to test our newfound skills.

## Wild About Flowers | July 5 – 8

Learn about the native and invasive flowers found in our meadows and woodlands, and take a special look at a yummy flowering plant: the wineberry. We'll dissect flowers to get an up-close look at their parts, make flower imprints and botanical journals, and eat delicious wineberries.

*Note: shortened week; no camp Monday, July 4.*

*Special price: Members: \$210 | Non-members: \$230*

## Wonderful Water | July 11 – 15



What's summer without a healthy dose of water? Our ponds and streams are teeming with hidden life, and this week we'll leave no stream bed rock unturned, no pond unexplored. Prepare for some water play, so bring your swimsuit! We'll also enjoy a field trip to Adventure Aquarium to check out some aquatic life that doesn't quite fit into Wind Dance Pond.

## End of Summer Session: Forest Fun & Woodland Wanderings | For campers aged 6 – 9 | August 15 – 19

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!



## Fiber Art | July 18 – 22

Plants give us paper, and this week we'll become fiber artists. Experiment with making your own paper, weave using different grasses and vines, and check out some of the art created by the environmental artists on our property as inspiration. Learn how to turn plant fiber into art as we tap into our creativity.

## Decomposers | July 25 – 29

The land beneath our feet is a magical and mysterious place. Decomposers play an important role in nature's life cycle. From mushrooms to earthworms, these hard workers turn old plants into dirt, so that new plants can grow again. Get ready for a week of discovery as we dig into the earth, make worm bins, and learn how mushrooms work.

## Nature Makers | August 1 – 5



We'll join the making craze with our own Schuylkill Center twist- Nature Makers! Discover the process of making and design, and learn at the same time. Search for tools and materials in our forest and see where they can take you. We'll experiment with all types of materials, so get ready to get messy. A field trip to a maker space will allow us to see makers in action.

## Schuylkill Center Olympics | August 8 – 12

In a special celebration, team up with your fellow campers in a friendly competition with the eight and nine year old campers. We'll battle it out for the Trophy of Nature Excellence. Who can spot the most toads during the week? Who can build the strongest fort? Who can steer a canoe around Wind Dance Pond the best? Band together and finish out the summer. Let the games begin!



8&9  
years old

## ALL PROGRAMS

The adult:child ratio is at least 1:8

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Members: \$260/week | Non-members: \$280/week



Indicates a field trip, add \$25.

Morning snack is provided. Campers should bring a packed lunch.

Register online at [www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org)

## Navigating by Nature | June 13 – 17

Put away Google Maps and learn to navigate using natural landmarks! 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 spend this week getting lost and found again, as we learn to use compasses and forest landmarks for navigation.

## Back in Time | June 20 – 24



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. A trip to the Penn Museum of Archeology and Anthropology will take us even further back in time.

## Rocking Around the Schuylkill Center | June 27 – July 1



We're living on one giant rock and this week we'll break out the rock hammers and explore the geology of Pennsylvania. Check out the Wissahickon schist that makes up our bedrock, learn how to identify the rocks and minerals you find, and even create your own rock collection to take home. A visit to the Wagner Free Institute of Science gives us a chance to look at rocks not found on our property.

## Wineberries! | July 5 – 8

A Schuylkill Center mid-summer classic! Wineberry season is a delicious and celebrated time here. These sweet berries are in the raspberry family, visitors from Asia. We'll spend the week exploring the effect that this invasive plant has had on the other plants and animals, while we harvest the fruit and create all sorts of concoctions. Wineberry pancakes anyone?

*Note: shortened week; no camp Monday, July 4.  
Special price: Members: \$210 | Non-members: \$230*

## Aquatic Adventures | July 11 – 15



Make a splash! This week it's all about water, from ponds to pools, streams, to marshes. Wade in our streams, learn about the water cycle, and even go fishing in Wind Dance Pond. We'll visit local watering holes and venture to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge for a look at different aquatic life. Be ready to swim!

## End of Summer Session: Forest Fun & Woodland Wanderings | For campers aged 6 – 9 | August 15 – 19

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!

## Nature Photography | July 18 – 29

Photography is a great way to interact with nature, and this year we've expanded photography week for double the fun.

**JULY 18 – 22:** The first week we'll learn about nature photography, and then head out into the woods to capture the beauty of the natural world- from massive tulip poplars to tiny salamanders. An expert will teach us how to take good photographs, and we'll look at some of the iconic nature photographs while we try our hand (and eye) at it ourselves. Campers will leave with a portfolio of their work. *Materials fee: \$35.*

**JULY 25 – 29:** The second week is all about learning how to tell a story through your art work. We'll become exhibition designers and curators to create our very own Nature Ramblers gallery. We'll work as a team to construct a showcase of our best nature photography. The week ends with a Friday reception and exhibition opening. *Exhibition fee: \$10.*

*Note: We strongly encourage campers to enroll in both weeks of **Nature Photography** camp to get the full experience, however enrollment in both weeks is not required. Enjoy \$10 off the second week when you enroll for both. Campers must bring their own photo-taking device – cameras, tablets, or smartphones. The Schuylkill Center will provide photo printing, exhibit materials, and portfolio.*

## Nature Makers | August 1 – 5



A week of DIY fun. We'll join the making craze, with our own Schuylkill Center twist- Nature Makers! Discover the process of making and design, and learn while doing. See where your creative mind – with tools and materials found in our forest – can take you. We'll challenge our creativity even more in this Maker Camp for older kids. A field trip to a Philadelphia maker space adds adventure to the week.

## Schuylkill Center Olympics | August 8 – 12

In a special end of the summer celebration, team up with your fellow campers in a friendly competition with the six and seven year old campers. We'll battle it out for the Trophy of Nature Excellence. Who can spot the most toads during the week? Who can build the strongest fort? Who can steer a canoe around Wind Dance Pond the best? Band together, learn about teamwork, and finish out the summer. Let the games begin!

7-9  
years old

# Down on the Farm

**COME DOWN TO THE FARM** to learn about food, farming, and how we live with our environment. It's hands-on discoveries at the **Teens4Good** organic farm at the Schuylkill Center. This farm, a partnership of the **Federation of Neighborhood Centers** and the **North Light Community Center**, will be the backdrop for Down on the Farm Camp, giving kids a chance to see farming up close. Opportunities to plant, harvest, taste, and just get dirty abound.

## ALL PROGRAMS

The adult:child ratio is at least 1:8

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Members: \$260/week | Non-members: \$280/week

 Indicates a field trip, add \$25.

Morning snack is provided. Campers should bring a packed lunch.

Register online at [www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org)

## Sweet Sunshine Power | June 13 – June 17

Did you know that sunshine makes sugar? Come for a sweet week dedicated to understanding the role that the sun plays in the lives of both plants and people. Campers will learn about photosynthesis, the process where plants turn light in to sugar, as well as experiment with ways that humans can harness the sun's power for cooking and providing energy.

## What Grows Up Must Grow Down | June 20 – June 24

Campers will get down and dirty as they explore world that exists right beneath their feet. Sifting the soil in search of critters and exploring the structures of plant roots are just a few of the highlights of this week. Learn all about creatures that dig and burrow and call the soil their home.

## City Farm Fun | June 27 – July 1

 Enjoy a sampling 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.

## Farm Livin' | July 5 – 8

 Farming has a long history in Pennsylvania. This is a week for exploring early farmstead life in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. We'll connect with history by looking at the clothing, food and customs of both colonial and Native American farmers. We will hunt for signs of how the Schuylkill Center property was used long ago and try out old ways of making and growing food. And of course, we'll take trips to some local historic farms to find out more.

*Note: shortened week; no camp Monday, July 4.  
Special price: Members: \$210 | Non-members: \$230*

## Jammin' on the Farm: From Flower to Fruit July 11- July 15

Dissecting flowers and fruit and learning about the life cycle of a plant will set the scene for scientific discovery with a tasty twist. A wineberry jam making session at the end of this week will have campers enjoying the fruits of their knowledge!

## Seed Savers | July 18 – July 22

What's in a seed? The power to feed our future! This week, campers explore the world of seeds through collecting, planting, dissecting, and eating a variety of seeds. The importance of seed libraries and seed saving will also be highlighted as campers work to create a Schuylkill Center farm camp seed library.

## Cooking on the Farm | July 25 – July 29

This is a week dedicated to harvesting and eating. Campers will delight in trying new foods and creating their own recipe books. Each day, ingredients found on the farm will be used to create a delicious masterpiece. Games, hikes, and other explorations add to the fun this week.

## Hand Crafts & Homesteading | August 1 – 5

 Learn by making this week. 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 8 – 12

 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.



## End of Summer Session: Forest Fun & Woodland Wanderings | For campers aged 6 – 9 | August 15 – 19

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!



The Schuylkill  
Center | for ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION

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# Summer Camp at the Schuylkill Center

FOR PLAYING, FOR ADVENTURE, FOR THE JOY OF NATURE

"The depth [of] nature education and outdoor exploration was exceptional and thoroughly enjoyed by my youngsters."

2015 SUMMER CAMP PARENT

2016

NatureRamblers

