

Camp Schuylkill 2021

OUTDOOR CAMPS FOR CHILDREN AGES 3–12



8480 HAGY'S MILL ROAD
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19128
WWW.SCHUYLKILLCENTER.ORG
215-482-7300

GIVE YOUR CHILD A SUMMER OF

exploration, discovery, and wonder at Camp Schuylkill. Our summer camp provides children ages 3–12 intimate access to 340 acres of forest, fields, streams, and ponds. Campers explore nature through hands-on discoveries, hiking, art, and play.

Each camp session features an age-appropriate theme that deepens your child’s knowledge and awareness of the natural world. We value the importance of unstructured, free play to help children develop emotional and mental resilience as well as a strong connection to nature and the environment. Camp sessions will include a combination of structured activities based on each week’s theme and unstructured play in nature. Our highly trained staff is committed to guiding your child in outdoor adventures that are engaging, fun, and informative.



CAMP GROUPS

Ages 3–5 page 3

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Ages 8–9 page 7

Ages 10–12 page 9

* Campers must be of age by the start of their first week of camp. Children must be toilet trained and toilet confident to attend our program.

ADULT:CHILD RATIOS

- Ages 3–5 - 1:6
- Ages 6–7 - 1:8
- Ages 8–9 - 1:8
- Ages 10–12 - 1:8

CAMP HOURS

Monday–Friday 9:00 am–3:30 pm

DISCOUNTS

Members discount:

Schuylkill Center family members receive a 10% discount on summer camps.

Multi-week discount:

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

PAYMENT POLICY

A 50% deposit is required for registration through April 12, 2021. In case of cancellation, deposits are 50% refundable or transferable until April 12. On and after April 12, full payment is due and is not refundable or transferable.

QUESTIONS

Please contact Beatrice Kelly at 215-853-6249 or bkelly@schuylkillcenter.org

REGISTRATION

Register online at www.schuylkillcenter.org.



COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

As with last summer, we will follow specific protocols to prevent COVID’s spread, including but not limited to masking, temperature checks, enhanced cleaning procedures, and keeping campers in separated groups. A document outlining all of our COVID-19 protocols will be emailed to all registered campers. These protocols are subject to change depending on state and city regulations and requirements. A combination of structured activities based on each week’s theme and unstructured play in nature. Our highly trained staff is committed to guiding your child in outdoor adventures that are engaging, fun, and informative.



Ages 3-5

CHILDREN AGES 3-5

will grow and learn while immersed in nature. We will explore ponds and streams, observe tadpoles and butterflies, and build knowledge and relationships. Camp Schuylkill is the perfect place for young children to deepen their connection to the natural world while getting messy and having fun through unstructured, imaginative play. Uncover the skills that we need to improve our world and take simple steps to care for the earth.

GROUP SELECTION

Children ages 3-5 are divided into three groups, Crawling Caterpillars, Slimy Slugs, and Wiggly Worms. If coordinating with others to attend camp together, please be sure to communicate your group selection prior to registration.

SCHEDULE

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

Members: \$360/week

Non-members: \$400/week

We also offer a morning option until 12:30 pm.

Members: \$270/week | Non-members: \$300/week

Children attending our full day program will participate in a mid-day siesta to rest before afternoon activities.

Our adult: child ratio is 1:6

Please be sure to have your camper bring a child-sized backpack containing a labeled water bottle, a healthy lunch, multiple snacks, sunscreen, bug spray, and an extra set of play clothes.

**Our camp themes are often emergent, following children's interests and allowing for deeper connections and more child-led learning. Children must be toilet trained and toilet confident to attend our program.

Dig Deep | June 14-18

Get ready to get dirty as we flip over rocks, poke into logs, and dig under dirt to discover the super tiny but incredibly cool creatures that call the underground home. What role do decomposers play in our ecosystem? Why do worms create tunnels? Grab a shovel and get ready to make a mess as we unearth the hidden secrets of what's below the surface.

Making Maps | June 21-25

Have you ever heard the saying, "Not all who wander are lost"? We'll wander and wonder as we discover new places and find our way in the woods. Create maps using rocks, twigs, feathers, and shells and then follow them on a treasure hunt through the forest. Using loose parts like rocks, twigs, and feathers, young explorers will learn about the world as they begin to see the forest in new ways.

Bird is the Word | June 28-July 2

Chirps, squawks, twitters, and tweets—the sounds of songbirds, woodpeckers, waterfowl, and raptors fill our trails. Soar through forests, fields, and meadows as we discover what makes a bird a bird and learn about some of the most common feathered friends to visit our feeders. It's sure to be a hoot!

Nature's Music | July 6-9

Buzz, ribbit, hiss, and hoot. Our forest is full of nature's music—from the rustling of leaves to the chirping of birds. We'll use our senses to explore the forest in a whole new way as we learn about different animal sounds, create musical instruments from natural materials, and start our own mini-band.

**Shortened week due to of the July 4 holiday
Special Price: Members (half day): \$215,
Members (full day): \$290;
Non-Members (half day): \$240,
Non-Members (full day): \$320



Incredible Insects | July 12-16

Creepy and crawly, cool and captivating—did you know that insects make up 80% of our total animal species? What would it be like to be as small as an ant or view the world through the eyes of a dragonfly? Scoops for water insects in ponds, dig for earthworms under the soil, and discover pillbugs under rocks as we learn about the bugs that fly, float, and forage through our forests.

Wonderful Water | July 19-23

Splash into the wonderful world of water as we stomp through puddles, wade into streams, paint with mud, and catch tadpoles in ponds. Delight in first-hand discovery as we learn about the aquatic animals that call our ponds and streams home. Water you waiting for?

Seeds to Trees | July 26-30

What living species can create air out of gas and food out of sunshine? Trees, of course! From oaks to tulip poplars to birches—get ready for an adventure as we discover how these majestic beings grow from small seeds to one of the most important parts of the forest.

Habitat Heroes | August 2-6

Are you ready to become a planet protector? From the smallest of animals to the largest of trees—all living things have homes or habitats, and this week we'll learn how we can help care for those sacred spaces. Transform into true superheroes and channel your inner super powers as we take steps to create a happier and healthier planet.

Nature Art | August 9-13

Let's put our imagination and creativity to the test by looking at the forest in a whole new way. Can pine needles be turned into paintbrushes, or sticks into musical instruments? Create beautiful works of art from natural materials as we explore the many reasons that we're all nature-ally artistic.

Marvel at Mammals | August 16-20

Be a miniature mad scientist and make a mess—the bigger, the better. Nature is alive in all our senses, so let's make, explore, and experiment. See nature in action through the natural world.



Ages 6-7

CHILDREN AGES 6-7

Campers ages 6-7 will hike, canoe, create, and investigate while learning about the natural world—enjoying a mix of environmental education and unstructured free play. Crafts, games, and incredible discoveries will make learning about nature fun and create wonderful lasting memories.

GROUP SELECTION

Children ages 6-7 are divided into three groups, Amazing Ants, Busy Bees, and Dashing Dragonflies. If coordinating with others to attend camp together, please be sure to communicate your group selection prior to registration.

SCHEDULE

Monday–Friday 9:00 am–3:30 pm

Members: \$315/week

Non-members: \$350/week

** Weeks with a field trip or a visiting program have an additional \$25 fee.

Incredible Insects** | June 14–18

Did you know that insects make up approximately 80% of the world's species? Hiding under logs, clinging onto plants, and swimming in ponds—insects can be found everywhere. Scoop for water striders in ponds, dig for earthworms under the soil, and explore the world from a bug's eye view as we learn about the important role these tiny creatures play in our ecosystem.

Wild about Weather | June 21–25

From sun to rain, thunderstorms to hurricanes, snow flurries to heat waves—weather is part of our everyday lives. Explore how the sky above affects the ground below. Create a rain gauge, wield the power of the sun to make works of art, and deepen your knowledge through out-of-this-world experimentation.

Wonders of Water | June 28–July 2

Dive into the wonderful world of water as we wade into streams, spot tadpoles in ponds, and canoe on Wind Dance Pond. We'll come face-to-face with aquatic animals, learn about a raindrop's journey through the water cycle, and play fun water games to end the week. Get ready to get wet!

Nature's Makers** | July 6–9

Put your creativity to the test in this week of experimentation and design. Look at the forest in a whole new way as we turn pine needles into paintbrushes, sticks into musical instruments, and pressed flowers into beautiful suncatchers. Forage through the forest for materials and inspiration before meeting with a local artist to turn our found objects into expressive works of art.

Note: Shortened week due to observation of the July 4 holiday

Special Price: Members: \$275, Non-members: \$305

Mad Scientists | July 12–16

Crazy ooey, gooey science fun is the name of the game this week. Set off rockets, learn about chemical reactions, and create your own silly putty as we make things fizz, simmer, and pop (safely, of course). Put on your lab coat, grab your goggles, and prepare to get messy as we put our hypotheses to the test in this week of jam-packed experimentation.

Our adult:child ratio is 1:8

Please be sure to have your camper bring a backpack containing a water bottle, a healthy lunch, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray, and an extra set of play clothes.

Animal Detectives | July 19–23

Search, scour, and sleuth through the forest for tracks, scat, and signs from the animals that live there. Learn the tips and techniques behind successful wildlife tracking as we make our own ID guides and plaster tracks to take home. Traces of animals are everywhere... if you just look close enough.

The Dirt on Decomposers | July 26–30

From fungi to bacteria to insects, decomposers are the cleanup crew of the forest, turning dead matter into nutritious soil so that organisms can grow again. Dissect mushrooms, create a compost bin, and dig into the soil as we learn about the integral role these hard workers play in our ecosystem.

Plant Power | August 2–6

Did you know that over 2,000 different types of plants are used by humans for food? Or that trees can actually help to clean the water and air by filtering out pollutants with their roots and leaves? From seed to plant to flower to fruit, we'll learn about the life cycles of these secret superheroes as we make botanical prints, experiment with seeds, and even plant our own wildflower gardens.

Forest Explorers** | August 9–13

Trees, insects, fungus, mammals and more—become a forest explorer as we study the trees above and the soil below. Learn how to identify trees based on bark and leaf shape, discover what the growth rings of a tree can tell us about its life story, and make delicious tea from the needles of pines.

Camp Schuylkill Olympics | August 16–20

On your marks, get set...go! In this week of friendly rivalry, we'll put our nature know-hot to the test in this special end of the summer celebration. Who can spot the most toads? Hear the most bird calls? Or build the sturdiest fort? We'll finish the week with a team relay through the forest. Let the games begin!





Ages
8-9

CHILDREN AGES 8-9

Campers in the 8-9 age group will delve a bit deeper into environmental topics while spending plenty of time exploring, hiking, canoeing, and playing. Campers will participate in environmental stewardship projects, helping to develop their knowledge, a sense of pride in their accomplishments, and a lifelong appreciation of the natural world.

SCHEDULE

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

Members: \$315/week

Non-members: \$350/week

** Weeks with a field trip or a visiting program have an additional \$25 fee.

Tracks, Scat, and Signs | June 14-18

Have you ever spotted an animal track—or better yet, almost stepped in animal scat—and wondered what creature it came from? This week we'll go on an adventure through the forest, uncovering the hidden stories behind tracks, trails, and scat. How can you tell a coyote track from a fox track? What animal uses its scat to mark its territory? Create a track mold from plaster and put together your own tracking notebook as we search, scour, and sleuth through the forest for the secret signs that animals leave behind.

On the Water | June 21-25

What's a summer without fun in the water? From ponds to streams to marshes, enjoy a week of wacky water adventures. Fish in Wind Dance Pond, measure water quality in our streams, splash in the creek, and end the week with canoeing.

Navigating by Nature | June 28-July 2

Time to put away Google Maps and bust out the compass as we spend our week getting lost and then found. We'll make and follow our own maps using forest landmarks, complete an orienteering course, and create geocaches to take home. Let's get ready to explore!

Nature's Makers** | July 6-9

Put your creativity to the test in this week of experimentation and design. Look at the forest in a whole new way as we turn pine needles into paintbrushes, sticks into musical instruments, and pressed flowers into beautiful suncatchers. Forage through the forest for materials and inspiration before meeting with a local artist to turn our found objects into expressive works of art.

Note: Shortened week due to observation of the July 4 holiday

Special Price: Members: \$275, Non-members: \$305

Mad Scientists | July 12-16

We'll go mad with science experimentation in this week of ooey, gooey, slimy, and grimy science fun. Set off rockets and learn about chemical reactions in nature as we make things fizz, simmer, and pop (safely, of course). Put on your lab coat, grab your goggles, and prepare to get messy.

Our adult:child ratio is 1:8

Please be sure to have your camper bring a backpack containing a water bottle, a healthy lunch, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray, and an extra set of play clothes.

Rock On! | July 19-23

Become a junior geologist as we break out the hammers and chisels to examine rocks and minerals up close. Crack open a geode, make a rock necklace, and learn about our local Wissahickon schist as we uncover the many reasons that rocks rock.

Wild about Weather | July 26-30

From sun to rain, thunderstorms to hurricanes, snow flurries to heat waves, weather is part of our everyday lives. Explore how the sky above affects the ground below by creating a rain gauge, wielding the power of the sun to make art, and deepening your knowledge through out-of-this-world experimentation.

Nature's Chefs | August 2-6

Mile-a-minute, garlic mustard, dandelion, and wineberries—learn how to identify wild edibles as we forage for plants in our forests, fields, and meadows. Get ready to plant, harvest, and cook as we grow crops, explore new recipes, and learn about the path crops take from farm to supermarket. Bon appétit!

Junior Ecologists | August 9-13

An oak tree relies on a squirrel to bury its acorns, a monarch butterfly relies on milkweed to feed its caterpillars, and we rely on trees for oxygen to breathe. Ecology is the study of how all living things, from the smallest of bugs to the tallest of trees, are interconnected. Budding ecologists complete citizen science projects aimed at aiding the plants and wildlife that call our forest home.

Camp Schuylkill Olympics | August 16-20

On your marks, get set...go! In this week of friendly rivalry, we'll put our nature know-how to the test in this special end of the summer celebration. Who can spot the most toads? Hear the most bird calls? Or build the sturdiest fort? We'll finish the week with a team relay through the forest. Let the games begin!





Ages
10-12

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CAMP

Our Environmental Science Camp gives campers an immersive field science experience. Campers collect samples, take measurements, and conduct experiments to learn about the natural world. By measuring and observing the impacts that human activities have on natural habitats and wildlife populations, campers will gain a deeper understanding of the interconnectivity of nature, as well as a sense of obligation to protect it. Campers will also contribute to citizen science and environmental stewardship projects, all while exploring our 340 acres of forest, ponds, streams, and meadows.

SCHEDULE

Monday–Friday 9:00 am–3:30 pm

Members: \$360/week

Non-members: \$400/week

*** Weeks with a field trip or a visiting program have an additional \$25 fee*

Birds | June 14–18 and July 19–23

Birdwatching is an excellent way to practice observational skills, study animal behavior, develop patience and concentration, and connect with nature. Campers will learn the basics of birdwatching, including recognizing field marks, identifying common local birds, and birding by ear. We'll also practice actions we can take to help conserve local bird populations. We'll keep track of all the birds we identify throughout the week and submit our observations to eBird, an international citizen science project managed by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Our adult:child ratio is 1:7

Please be sure to have your camper bring a backpack containing a water bottle, a healthy lunch, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray, and an extra set of play clothes.

Watersheds and Water Quality | June 21–25 and July 26–30

We rely on rivers and streams for so many things—from agriculture and energy production to recreation and drinking water. How can we determine if the water in a stream is healthy, and what can we do in our communities to protect the quality of our water? Campers will become amateur watershed scientists to investigate these research questions and more. We'll collect aquatic insects to assess stream and pond health, measure nutrient levels in the water, and complete a stewardship project to control erosion on trails and reduce sediment runoff into our streams.

Reptiles and Amphibians | June 28–July 2 and August 2–6

Join us in the field as we practice a variety of sampling methods to study local reptiles and amphibians. We'll count basking turtles and examine frogs and tadpoles in the pond, catch salamanders in the stream, and search for snakes on the forest floor. We'll also learn about global threats to wild reptile and amphibian populations, as well as actions we can take locally to preserve our native species.

Insects and Arachnids** | July 6–10 and August 9–13

Campers will conduct investigations to discover the huge impact that these tiny organisms have on our ecosystems. We'll dipnet for larval insects to assess the health of the stream, comb the forest floor in search of decomposers, and take part in a national citizen science project measuring insect abundance. Then, we'll take our investigations to the laboratory to examine anatomy, learn about life cycles, and explore the unique adaptations that help insects and arachnids survive in a variety of habitats.

Note: Shortened week due to observation of the July 4 holiday

Special Price: Members: \$290, Non-Members: \$320

Soil and Rocks | July 12–16 and August 16–20

Be prepared to get your hands dirty as we dig into earth science. Campers will take samples and perform experiments to determine the impact that soil has on everything from where flooding occurs to the types of plants that grow in a habitat. We'll also measure nutrients in the soil, discover the impact that human activities have on soil quality, and examine the organisms that live beneath the surface. We'll close the week with an exploration of rocks, including how to classify them and what they can tell us about the history of our planet.

