



Howard
County
Conservancy
connecting people to nature

Adventures in Nature

Parent Guide to Summer Nature Camp

Howard County Conservancy Day Camps 2024

June 17 — August 23, 2024

Mt. Pleasant

10520 Old Frederick Rd, Woodstock MD, 21163

camp@howardnature.org

www.howardnature.org/camp/

Dear Camp Families,

Welcome to Camp! We are so excited to share our land, animals, and love of nature with you this summer. We know that you have many options for summer camp and we are excited that you have chosen to spend your time with us here at the Conservancy!

To help prepare you and your camper for your summer camp adventures with us, please read this Camp Guide which includes information on schedules, day to day activities, our code of conduct, and more.

Our camps are certified through the Maryland Department of Health. Before coming to camp, please review and complete the [medication forms](#) on the parent dashboard. If you still have any questions, or if you need to ***change your registration***, please contact us via email at camp@howardnature.org.

See you this summer!



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Mission of Summer Nature Camp

The Conservancy's camp is designed to nurture respect for the natural world, increase awareness of environmental issues, and instill a sense of stewardship for our flora and fauna. Campers will hike, explore the landscape, play nature games, and create earth friendly arts and crafts, among many other themed activities. Each week, we invite campers to discover the Great Outdoors!

Where is Camp?

Summer camp is at our Mt. Pleasant location.

The address is 10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock MD, 21163.

Hours of Camp

The regular camp hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-3:30 pm.

Drop off and Pick up at Camp

We utilize a drop off and pick up line. Camper safety is our first priority and we will require that all campers are **checked in and out** with a staff member daily on our attendance log.

During pick up, only individual(s) designated on the registration form will be allowed to pick up their children. Conservancy pickup cards will be provided on the first day of your child's first session. These cards can be displayed in the dash of your vehicle to use at pickup time. Please have your photo ID available at pick up.

Locations of Drop Off and Pick Up

Morning drop off line (8:45 am - 9:00 am) and afternoon pick up line (3:30 pm - 3:45 pm) will be near the picnic area. Please pull forward to the marked area. Guardians will remain in the vehicle unless the camper needs assistance with a car seat.

In the event of inclement weather or an event on the Conservancy's grounds, our pickup location may change. Please check your email for updates on pickup location, and look for signage or Conservancy staff members when picking up your child.

Before Care and After Care

Before Care is offered from 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM for an additional fee of \$50.

After Care is offered from 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM for an additional fee of \$75.

The same procedures for drop off and pickup will apply during before and after care.

Late Pick Up

A charge of \$10 for the first fifteen minutes, and \$1/ each additional minute will be charged to parents for campers not picked up on time. If you are running late, please contact us

Communication

Camp communication will be provided electronically to the email addresses provided by the camp family at the time of registration. It is the responsibility of the camp family to let Conservancy Camps know of any email address changes.

Emails will come from camp@howardnature.org and/or the camp director.

Pre-summer information, including the Parent's Guide to Camp, Packing List, and additional camp specific information will be available on the Camp Parents page of our website. Summer Camps will send session-specific camp information the week prior to the beginning of each camp week.

Health Forms/ Medications

A health history form must be submitted (online) prior to the start of the camp season. This must be updated for every camper every year. It is the responsibility of the camp family to inform the Howard County Conservancy Camps of any changes to the information submitted on the health history form.

If a camper does not attend an accredited Maryland school, you must submit an Immunization Form prior to the start of the camp season.

A Medication Authorization Form must be filled out and signed for every medication that the camper will bring to camp.

Rules at Camp

Our camp rules require respect for oneself, each other, and the environment. Out of respect for our natural areas, we follow Leave No Trace ethics which includes not climbing in trees, removing wild animals or destroying habitats. Campers will help us preserve our historic land and buildings by not defacing or destroying Conservancy property.

Behavior/ Camper Code of Conduct

Summer Nature Camps at the Howard County Conservancy are safe places for all campers. At camp, we follow our 5 Rules that inform all of our actions. Please read these guidelines with your camper to help them fully understand the expectations and behave appropriately at camp.

1. Be Safe

- Respect the health and safety of other campers, staff, and the public. Understand that fighting, pushing, kicking, hitting, and bullying are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Cooperate with staff instructions.
- Work out disagreements with other campers and staff in a non-violent manner. Ask for help.

2. Be Kind

- Communicate appropriately. Inappropriate language or gestures shall not be used.
- Listen to others when they try to communicate with you.

3. Be Respectful

- Show respect to other campers and staff, and treat them with courtesy.
- Respect the property of others.
- Use program equipment, natural areas, and facilities properly.

4. Be Responsible

- Know and follow behavior guidelines and camp rules.
- Take responsibility for your own actions, and work towards solutions with others.

5. Have Fun

- Don't knock it till you try it. Try everything at least once!
- Don't yuck someone else's yum. Let everyone enjoy what they like, even if it's not your favorite.

Camp is a special place where we prioritize all campers' right to physical and emotional safety. All campers deserve to try new things, make new friends, explore and have fun in a safe environment. Conservancy staff will work with campers individually to resolve minor behavior issues. If more significant behavioral issues arise, Conservancy staff will work with guardians to create a behavioral plan to best support their child. The Conservancy reserves the right to dismiss a camper who exhibits unsafe behavior or endangers other campers. No refunds are provided if a camper is dismissed due to behavioral problems.

What to Wear

- Comfortable clothing that can get dirty and wet
- Shoes such as sneakers or boots, with socks
 - **NO open toed shoes (such as flip flops)**
- Sunscreen
- A hat or bandana (to keep ticks and sun away)

What to Bring (labeled with camper's name)

- Extra set of clothing
 - Especially pants, underwear and socks which may get wet or muddy
- Favorite book or toy for free time
- Beach Towel (for outdoor activities or lunch on the lawn)
- Closed-toed water shoes
 - Sports sandals or Crocs with ankle straps for water activities
- Rain gear (weather dependent)
- Sunscreen
- Water Bottle
- Lunch and Snack

- Send a hearty, non-perishable lunch with your camper every day
- We do NOT provide refrigeration
- Please try to minimize waste in your camper's lunch
- A backpack in which to store all your camper's items

What to Leave at Home

- Anything breakable, easily lost, valuable, or sentimental
- All electronics
- Any cards or toys for the purpose of trading
- Gum or excessive candy
- Any weapons, including knives or bats
- Any toys resembling weapons including knives, guns, axes, bats, etc.
- Cell Phones
 - Note: older campers and junior staff may have cell phones, but they should remain away in their bags during camp hours

Labeling

All personal items need to be labeled including backpacks, water bottles, lunches, and clothes. The Howard County Conservancy is not responsible for any lost/stolen personal items. The Lost and Found basket will be available inside our Nature Center.

Inclement Weather

Camp is outdoors unless there is severe weather. On rainy days, please prepare your camper for outdoor exploration by packing a rain jacket, extra shoes and clothes. If there is thunder, high winds, lightning storms, or severe air quality alerts, we will not be outside and will have alternative indoor activities planned.

On code red heat days and less severe air quality alert days, campers will also spend time inside. The Conservancy may close camps if there is a forecast for prolonged, extreme weather.

Waste-Free Lunches

Much of the trash we generate comes from the packaging on the food we buy, and lunch foods are no exception. Our waste-free lunch program favors the use of reusable food containers, drink containers, utensils, and napkins. For ideas for waste-free lunches, visit <http://www.wastefreelunches.org/parents.html>.

Tick Checks

Staff will remind campers and conduct tick checks 2-3 times a day. It is also very important that you check your camper at home thoroughly after each camp day. For more information on stopping ticks, see the [CDC fact sheet](#).

Sunscreen

We do not provide or apply sunscreen to campers; however, we encourage you to apply sunscreen before camp. If you provide sunscreen we will remind campers to reapply sunscreen at lunch or after getting wet. All sunscreen is FDA controlled and must be in its original container with your child's name on the outside.

Day to Day

This summer, we will explore our wild, wonderful world! Armed with creativity and curiosity, our campers will explore habitats and connect to nature through games, stories, activities, lessons, hikes, crafts, experiments, and STEM challenges.

Each week, campers will work with a STEAM challenge to explore in depth our weekly theme. Activities can be found on our [STEM at Camp page](#).

All campers hike and explore the landscape on a daily basis. We will spend almost the entire day outside if weather allows, rain or shine. Campers are expected to participate meaningfully in nature games, activity and learning.

Sample Daily Schedule	
8:00-8:45	Before Care
8:45-9:00	Drop Off
9:00-9:30	What If Scenarios?, Introductions, Icebreakers
9:30-10:00	Crafting Nature Journals
10:00-10:15	Snack
10:15-11:30	Hiking Scavenger Hunt
11:30-12:00	Building Bird Kites
12:00-12:20	Lunch
12:20-1:00	Free Time
1:00-2:00	Stream Time and Crayfish Catching
2:00-2:45	Sprinkler Games
2:45-3:00	Nature Journaling
3:00-3:30	Closing Out the Day, Rose/Bud/Thorn, Clean Up
3:30-3:45	Pick Up
3:45-5:00	After Care

Howard County Conservancy

Summer Camps 2024

Session Schedule

Week	Dates	Theme
1	June 17-21	Environment Engineers
2	June 24-28	Ferns, Flowers, and Fungi
3	July 1-3, and 5	Bugs' Eye View
4	July 8-12	Birds of a Feather
5	July 15-19	Marvelous Mammals
6	July 22-26	Snakes to Salamanders
7	July 29- August 2	Puddles and Ponds
8	August 5-9	Survival Skills
9	August 12-16	Legends and Lore/ Climate Camp (optional for ages 9-12)
10	August 19-23	Investigation: Nature

Mt. Pleasant

Camp/Mailing Address: 10520 Old Frederick Rd, Woodstock, MD 21163

Phone: 410.465.8877 / Fax: 410.379.1924

Email: camp@howardnature.org



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) 2024

How much is a session of summer camp?

Each 5-day session of camp is \$365. *Week 3 is \$295

How much and when is Before and After Care?

Before Care will run from 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM and is \$50 for the week.

After Care will run from 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM and is \$75 for the week.

What are the regular hours of camp?

Camp runs from 9:00 - 3:30 daily.

Morning drop off is from 8:45 AM – 9:00 AM.

Afternoon pickup is from 3:30 PM -3:45 PM.

If your camper is arriving late or being picked up early, please inform our staff so that we can make arrangements to meet you at your car.

Can my camper be in a group with their friend/ sibling?

We try to accommodate requests, however we may not be able to accommodate every request due to several factors including the ages of campers in a group. If you do have a request, please notify us at least one week prior to camp. You may include this information in “Health History and Grouping Information” on the application or email the camp director at camp@howardnature.org.

How do you break up groups at camp?

We break up our groups by age, placing similarly aged children together. We do not generally weigh factors such as gender or grade level. Typically, we will have a group for campers ages 5-6, a second group for campers ages 7-8, a third group for campers ages 9-10, and a fourth group for ages 10-12. The age breakdown is determined by the age of registrants and may differ slightly depending on the session.

If I need to cancel, can I get a refund?

A full refund minus cancellation fee of \$50 is permitted up to **May 17, 2024**.

A 50% refund minus cancellation fee of \$50 is permitted up to **one month of the start** of the camp session.

*No refunds after one month prior to the start of camp session unless the camper suffers a medical emergency, attested to by a physician, which keeps the child from attending. Refunds are permitted for positive COVID-19 cases with the camper (requires

documentation). Refunds are not given for absence, family emergencies, sick days or if a camper is dismissed due to behavioral problems.

Refund Availability	
Start of camp	50% Refund available until
6/17/2024	5/17/2024
6/24/2024	5/24/2024
7/1/2024	6/1/2024
7/8/2024	6/8/2024
7/15/2024	6/15/2024
7/22/2024	6/22/2024
7/29/2024	6/29/2024
8/5/2024	7/5/2024
8/12/2024	7/12/2024
8/19/2024	7/19/2024

Do you serve food at camp?

No. Campers should bring a filling, waste free lunch and snack. There is no refrigeration for lunches; include a freezer pack if need be.

Exceptions may be made for special events, when Conservancy staff may bring in small food items for all campers. Please make note of any allergies your camper has in their Health Form.

What do I need to pack for my camper?

Please pack a water bottle, a filling lunch, snack, sunscreen, closed toed shoes, water shoes, change of clothes, rain gear (weather dependent), a beach towel, a book or toy, and a backpack.

My child requires medication during the day, what should I do?

Children who must take medications while at camp must be able to take their own medications under supervision of Conservancy staff. To do this, we must have parent authorization for over-the-counter medicines and a physician's authorization for

prescription medications. A Medication Form must be filled out for each medication the camper is taking while at camp, including regular prescriptions and emergency medications. The Medication Form may be found on our camp webpage, <https://www.howardnature.org/camp/>.

Medications will be held in a secure location during the camp session. Emergency medications will be carried by a camp staff member in the camper's group.

Please submit Medication Administration forms via email to camp@howardnature.org prior to your camper's first day.

My child is young, will you put sunscreen on them?

No. Sunscreen is considered a topical medication by the Maryland Department of Health, and we are not allowed to help apply it.

My child has special needs. Can they attend camp?

If your child is able to participate in normal day to day activities, they are welcome to join us. However, we are unable to provide one-on-one assistance for camps. Please provide us as much information as possible to allow camp staff to properly assist your camper.

In the case that we need additional information or support from home, the camp director will contact guardians to assist in creating a support plan.

Something came up! I need someone to pick up my camper who is not on the authorization list. What should I do?

Email the camp director (camp@howardnature.org). You should call as well to let us know about the change, but we must have the name documented in writing to check against their ID.

How do I contact you during the day?

For important issues (during business hours), call us at 410-465-8877.

For non-pressing issues (or outside of business hours), email at camp@howardnature.org.

Our camp director may not be at their desk while camp is in session. Please allow 24 hours for an email reply, or call for immediate assistance.