



Nature Camp at Hidden Oaks Nature Center – 5 Day

Welcome to another great camp season. Whether you are a returning camp family or new to our program we want to make sure you have all the information you need to help your camper have a wonderful time with us. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns by calling 630-739-2600. If you have a question that does not need immediate attention you may email Kate Johns at kjohns@bolingbrookparks.org

Camp hours run from 9:00am-3:00pm. We ask that you sign your child in at the start of the day and sign your child out by the end of the day. If you have registered for the sunset program, you may pick your child up between 3:00-5:00pm

Camp Forms

This year camp forms will be done through ePACT. Starting April 15, when you register for camp you will get an email invitation to fill out the forms online. These forms provide us with vital information that allows us to keep your child safe and to contact you. Your child will not be allowed to attend camp if a parent has not completed the forms.

Camp Themes/Schedule – 5 day

Nature Camp operates around weekly themes. During the week campers will participate in games, crafts, activities, and/or experiments. Archery, Fishing, Canoeing, and Pond Dipping will also be incorporated into appropriate theme weeks.

Dates – 5 day	Weekly Theme	Camper Special Supplies
June 3 rd – 7 th	Nature Pirates	
June 10 th – 14 th	Myths & Magical Creatures	
June 17 th – 21 st	S.T.E.M.	
June 24 th – 28 th	Animal Adventures	
July 1 st – 5 th *	Dig Into Dirt	Extra Change of Clothes/shoes *no camp on July 4 th
July 8 th – 12 th	Paleoquest	
July 15 th – 19 th	Nature CSI	
July 22 nd – 26 th	Wacky Water Week	Bathing Suit/Extra change of clothes/shoes
July 29 th – Aug 2 nd	Nature Jams	
Aug 5 th – 9 th	Wilderness Survival	

What to Wear

Campers should wear comfortable clothing that may get dirty or wet. Close-toed shoes, such as gym shoes, with socks are required every day. Some campers may benefit from lightweight long pants to protect against insect bites. A hat, sunglasses, and a lightweight jacket are helpful.

What to Bring

- Bag to carry gear
- Refillable water bottle
- Lunch (no refrigeration available)
 - If you need to bring a lunch After 9am please leave it at the front desk. We will deliver the lunch to your child
- Sunscreen (please apply before camp)
- Insect repellent (please apply before camp)
- Raingear (jacket or poncho)
- Snack (no refrigeration available)
- Change of clothing (optional)

What Not to Bring

- Toys
- Money
- Electronics – Your child will not have time to use electronic devices during the camp day.
- Cell Phones – If your child must have a cell phone on them for safety before and after the camp day please remind them that it should be turned off or on vibrate during the camp day. Cell phones should remain in the camper's bag until after they are signed out for the day

**We are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged property. Please ask your child to use good judgment about what to bring to camp and what to leave at home.

Behavior Policy

The staff at Hidden Oaks Nature Center strives to provide a fun learning experience for all campers. We stress a respect for the environment and other campers. Bullying will not be tolerated. Other examples of inappropriate behavior include but are not limited to:

- Hitting, kicking, physical abuse, throwing objects or fighting.
- Abusive foul language, verbal abuse.
- Defiance of authority, not following counselor's direction.
- Talking to a camper being timed out, talking with while being timed out.
- Abuse or disrespect for program facilities, equipment, supplies.

We follow a "Three strikes and you're out" behavior program. The following procedure will be followed when children misbehave or break camp rules:

- 1st offense: Verbal warning and notification of parent/guardian
- 2nd offense: Verbal warning, removal from activity to sit with an office staff member. Parent/guardian will be notified via letter that will need to be signed and returned.
- 3rd offense: Dismissal from program or session. No refunds will be given.

We reserve the right to bypass on more steps in the process if a situation warrants. Bolingbrook Park District reserves the right to dismiss any camper from the program who poses serious continual discipline problems, whether or not all the steps in our discipline procedure have been completed.

Severe Weather

Our goal is to spend the majority of each day outdoors. If the weather permits we may explore in the rain and enjoy some shade on a warm day. However, in the event of thunderstorms we will be indoors until thirty minutes after the last thunder is heard and have been notified that it is safe to be outdoors. In the event of extreme heat we will spend part of the day indoors as needed. Staff members monitor the weather regularly.



Absences

If your child will be absent please call us at 630-739-2600. If it is before 9am, please leave a voicemail. You will not be refunded missed days.

Parent Contact

In case of an emergency you will be contacted immediately. Please make sure you have provided the best numbers to reach you and an emergency contact.

If you need to reach your child during the camp day please call 630-739-2600. We are able to contact all staff and campers as needed.

Late Drop-off and Early Pick-up

If you know in advance that your child will need to be picked up early or dropped off late, please send a note or call us. We will have your child ready at the front desk at the designated time.

If you need to pick up your child and have notified us please go to the front desk. Front Desk Personnel will contact staff and they will bring your child to you. This will typically take about fifteen minutes but may take longer depending on the group's current activity. It is challenging for you to find your child on the grounds and by meeting at the desk we will be able to follow appropriate sign out procedure.

Sign-Out

Sign out begins at 3:00pm. If you need to pick up your child at a different time please let us know as soon as possible. Your child must be signed out by a parent or individual you have approved on the emergency contact form.

Self-Sign-out

If your child is ten years or older you may choose to allow them to sign themselves out. Any child with this permission will only be permitted to sign out at 3:00pm. After a child is signed out, either by a parent or themselves, they are no longer the responsibility of the Bolingbrook Park District or staff. If you choose self-sign out please make it clear to your child where you want them to meet you. In order for your child to self-sign out you must sign the permission form at the bottom of your camp's information sheet.

Sunset Program

This program is an option for families who do not believe they can make it to pick up their child at 3:00pm. If you have registered for our sunset program, you may pick up your child anytime at Hidden Oaks Nature Center between 3:00pm and 5:00pm

Late Sign-Out Fee

Please remember to pick up your child at 3:00pm. If you will not be able to arrive by this time please call Hidden Oaks Nature Center at 630-739-2600 and let us know your situation. If we are not contacted regarding your late arrival and you have not arrived to sign out your child by 3:15pm you will be charged a late fee of \$1.00 per minute for every minute your child requires our additional supervision. It is important that camp staff is able to clean up and prepare for the next camp day and this work cannot be completed if they are supervising children. We thank you for your help.

Thank You!

Thank you for helping us make this summer a memorable one for your camper. We look forward to having lots of fun connecting to nature. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

The Hidden Oaks Staff

2019 Summer Nature Camp: Registration Form

5 day camp

Camper Name: _____ Age _____
 Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ City/Zip: _____
 Household # _____ Email _____ (needed for camp newsletter)

Camp	Day	Time	Res/ FEE	After Early Bird Date
Eco- Voyagers	M - F	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	\$110/\$156	\$135/\$181
Eco-Trekkers	M - F	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	\$110/\$156	\$135/\$181
Eco-Explorers	M - F	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	\$110/\$156	\$135/\$181
Sunset	M-F	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	\$30/\$40	



\$25 FEE if Registered after Early Bird Date

Week	Date	Theme	Voyagers	Trekkers	Explorers	Sunset	Early Bird Date
1	June 3-7	Nature Pirates	300210-G01	300211-G01	300212-G01	300219-G01	May 27
2	June 10-14	Myths & Magical Creatures	300210-G02	300211-G02	300212-G02	300219-G02	June 3
3	June 17-21	S.T.E.M.	300210-G03	300211-G03	300212-G03	300219-G03	June 10
4	June 24-28	Animal Adventures	300210-G04	300211-G04	300212-G04	300219-G04	June 17
5	July 1-5*	Dig Into Dirt	300210-G05	300211-G05	300212-G05	300219-G05	June 24
6	July 8-12	Paleoquest	300210-G06	300211-G06	300212-G06	300219-G06	July 1
7	July 15-19	Nature CSI	300210-G07	300211-G07	300212-G07	300219-G07	July 8
8	July 22-26	Wacky Water	300210-G08	300211-G08	300212-G08	300219-G08	July 15
9	July 29-Aug. 2	Nature Jams	300210-G09	300211-G09	300212-G09	300219-G09	July 22
10	Aug. 5-9	Wilderness Survival	300210-G10	300211-G10	300212-G10	300219-G10	July 29

WAIVER

As a participant in Nature Camp, I recognize and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury and I and those in my charge agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, including death, damages or loss which I and those I my charge may sustain as a result of participating in and any and all activities connected with or associated with such use of Park District Facilities or Park. I agree to waive and relinquish all claims I and those in my charge may have as a result of use of Park district Facilities or Parks against the Park District and its officers, agents, servants, and employees.

I do hereby fully release and discharge the Park District and its officers, agents, servants, and employees from any and all claims from injuries, including death, damage or loss which I and those in my charge may have or which may occur to us on account of our participation in the use of Park district Facilities or Parks.

I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless and defend the Park District and its officers, agents, servants, and employees from any and all losses sustained from injuries, including death, damages and losses sustained by me and those in my charge and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with the activities in the use of Park District Facilities and Parks.

I have read the above permissions and fully understand Program Details and Waiver and Release of all claims.

Code	Session	Fee

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Eco Nature Camp Theme Descriptions

Week 1: *Nature Pirates*

Avast ye maties! This week we be pirates! Create yer team's pirate flag, learn to talk pirate, engineer a boat to sail on the high seas, walk the plank, and battle yer other pirate maties in a game of capture the flag! This will be a rip roaring good time! We might even get a chance to look for pirate treasure!

Week 2: *Myths & Magical Creatures*

What's your favorite mythological creature? Spend the week creating creatures, fighting dragons, and learning about all sorts of cryptic animals! Where did the story of the unicorn originate? Is Bigfoot real? We might have to go on a hike and find out. Join us this week. It will be a great fun time!

Week 3: *S.T.E.M.*

What is S.T.E.M.? Science, Technology, Engineering, Math! It's the new wave to include in your classrooms, but how does it apply to nature? Each day we will attempt to answer nature questions using the scientific method. Join us for experiments, observations, and more!

Week 4: *Animal Adventures*

Spend the week investigating different types of animals! Dig for worms, go birdwatching, get up close and personal with our resident reptiles, and investigate the creatures that live in our pond! This will be a fun all around week filled with animal games, crafts, activities, and nature hikes!

Week 5: *Dig Into Dirt*

Come get messy and muddy this week! Each day will be a new adventure as we investigate and discover the things that live in the dirt, like bugs, worms, fungus, roots, and more! Make mud pies, learn about nutrients and compost, help plant a garden, and more! Make sure to bring extra clothes this week!

Week 6: *Paleoquest*

Calling all Rock Hounds and Paleontologists! The ground you walk on hides all sorts of surprises! This week in camp we'll discover how the earth looked millions of years ago. Investigate different kinds of rocks through hands-on investigations, experiments, and crafts. Crack open a geode and find the hidden gems inside! Learn about fossils and go on a dino dig. Put your dinosaur knowledge to the test!

Week 7: *Nature CSI*

Animals leave behind clues wherever they go, but many are hard to spot. Put your thinking caps on for the week and discover how to tell if a coyote was in your backyard, or if a deer ate part of your bush! By learning about their footprints, bones, skulls, and furs, we can follow their clues and see what they see, or solve our very own nature crime!

Week 8: *Wacky Water*

Heat of summer getting you down? We have just the thing to cool you down! Join us for a week of wet and wild fun! Dive into science and learn more about the properties of water! Bring your waders and study the lake and rivers and the animals that live in them! Participate in some water games and team challenges! Make sure to bring extra clothes this week!

Week 9: *Nature Jams*

Animals create music all their own! Join us this week as we investigate the different noises and music that different kinds of animals make, and how they communicate with each other. Learn how sound travels and about echoes through experiments. Create a nature band complete with musical instruments, learn about night sounds, and create your own unique sound.

Week 10: *Wilderness Survival*

Do you have what it takes to survive in the wild? Train all week in the skills of a survival warrior: learn to make a fire, walk silently, identify poison ivy and venomous spiders, make your own fishing pole, and other useful skills. Then compete in a team of your fellow campers against others to see who wins: Child, or wild?