

Watershed Nature Camp 2022



ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS:
January 18 **for Members** • January 25 **for Everyone**

WELCOME TO WATERSHED NATURE CAMP!



Your child will experience nature every day and return home brimming with stories. On a typical summer day, our campers venture into the woods to explore under logs, out into the meadow to catch butterflies, or down to the stream to explore watery worlds. Led by our amazing staff, our campers enjoy fresh air, make new friends, and receive a healthy dose of adventure.

THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE AND RESERVE

Campers will spend the majority of their time exploring our 950-acre Watershed Reserve of fields, forests, trails, ponds, and streams. They will also have access to the exhibits and critters inside the nature center. The Watershed Institute is a non-profit dedicated to keeping Central New Jersey's water clean, safe, and healthy.

Visit thewatershed.org to learn more.

VALUES

While our offerings vary in each camp week, our underlying values are woven into each day. At The Watershed Institute, we believe that every child deserves a chance to experience a summer exploring the outdoors with their peers. In everything we do, we uphold and instill these values: We respect the land, the plants, the animals, the people, and ourselves.

ACCESSIBILITY

While we value accessibility and inclusion, we are a very active camp. We cannot offer one-on-one support. Even the youngest campers hike a minimum of 2 miles a day. Our oldest campers hike up to 8 miles a day on moderate to rugged terrain. If you want to discuss if our camp is the right choice for your camper, please reach out for more information. We are happy to work with you to provide the best experience possible.

COVID-19

Our policies and procedures for keeping campers and staff as healthy as possible will be continually monitored, evaluated, and communicated as current events shift. These will be based on the best practices provided by local health officials, the CDC, and the American Camp Association. Campers ages 12 and up must be fully vaccinated to participate.

SESSIONS & PRICING

ENTERING GRADE FOR 2022	WEEK 1 JUNE 27 - JUL 1	WEEK 2 JUL 5 - 8	WEEK 3 JUL 11 - 15	WEEK 4 JUL 18 - 22	WEEK 5 JUL 25 - 29	WEEK 6 AUG 1 - 5	WEEK 7 AUG 8 - 12	WEEK 8 AUG 15 - 19
K	Amazing Animals	Art in Nature	Wonderful Water	Outdoor Adventures	Amazing Animals	Art in Nature	Wonderful Water	Outdoor Adventures
PRICE	\$360	\$288	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$360
1-2	Wonderful Water	Amazing Animals	Outdoor Adventures	Amazing Animals	Art in Nature	Wonderful Water	Outdoor Adventures	Amazing Animals
PRICE	\$360	\$288	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$360	\$360
3-4	Outdoor Adventures	Wonderful Water	Amazing Animals	Art in Nature	Wonderful Water	Outdoor Adventures	Wonderful Water	Amazing Animals
PRICE	\$420	\$325	\$420	\$410	\$420	\$410	\$420	\$420
5-6	Outdoor Adventures	Wonderful Water	Amazing Animals	Art in Nature	Wonderful Water	Outdoor Adventures	Amazing Animals	Outdoor Adventures
PRICE	\$420	\$325	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440
7-9	Wonderful Water	Amazing Animals	Outdoor Adventures	Outdoor Adventures	Wonderful Water	Outdoor Adventures	Amazing Animals	Wonderful Water
PRICE	\$460	\$368	\$575	\$460	\$460	\$575	\$460	\$460

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY AT WATERSHED NATURE CAMP LOOK LIKE?

Every camp day will include hiking, exploring, and playing outdoors, but the more focused activities will vary depending on these themes. All campers will receive one Watershed Nature Camp T-shirt to tie-dye during their first week:

- **Wonderful Water:** Your camper will spend lots of time at the stream and at the pond. They'll learn about the properties of water, aquatic animals, and why water is important in our lives.
- **Outdoor Adventures:** Your camper will spend time on the trails, learn how to build a survival shelter, and learn about survival skills.
- **Art in Nature:** Your camper will use natural materials such as sticks, rocks, mud, and clay to create visual arts, crafts, and poetry.
- **Amazing Animals:** Your camper will spend time searching for critters. They may go butterfly catching, crayfish catching, or log rolling. They will also learn about one or more of our animal ambassadors including the Eastern Red Eared Slider, Corn Snake, Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches and more.

REGISTRATION



1. Become a member of The Watershed Institute or renew your membership before January 15, 2022 to receive members-only early access to registration on January 18, 2022. **A 5% discount will apply automatically if you are a member.** You must be logged into your account when registering in order to have the discount apply to your order.
2. A 50% deposit is due upon registration, full payment is due by May 2, 2022.
3. Registration closes the Thursday prior to the first day of a session, unless the session is already full.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

- Cancellations can be made until May 2, 2022. After that date, no refunds will be offered.
- All refunds will be charged a \$15 processing fee per camper per session.
- The Watershed Institute memberships are not refundable.

EARLY & LATE CARE

- **Early Care:** 8:00-9:00 am, \$10 per camper per day
- **Late Care:** 4:00-5:30 pm, \$15 per camper per day
- Extended care will be limited to 20 campers maximum.
- *Membership discounts also apply to early and late care.*

FINANCIAL AID

- Full and partial aid is available based on financial need and campers expressed desire to participate.
- Financial aid will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is dispersed.
- Transportation will be provided to a limited number of stops in and around Trenton.

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL AID

1. Complete the application and documentation found online at thewatershed.org/camp or email camp@thewatershed.org to have them mailed to you.
2. We will review your application and inform you of your eligibility on a rolling basis.
3. If you receive partial financial aid, you must pay the remaining balance not covered by financial aid by June 13, 2022.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Rising Kindergarten campers:

\$360 per week, 10 campers per group, 2 Counselors

Each day campers will hike, play games, and begin to appreciate the natural world around them using their senses and children's literature. The camp day will be very active, so our youngest campers should be prepared to hike at least 2 miles a day, be on their feet much of the day, change their own clothes and shoes with minimal assistance, and carry their own backpacks with food and water in them. Nap time will not be provided, but there will be a period of quiet time scheduled each midday.



Rising 1st and 2nd grade campers:

\$360 per week,

16 campers per group (2 groups), 3 Counselors per group

Each day campers will hike, play games, and grow their appreciation for the natural world around them using their senses and children's literature. The camp day will be very active, so campers should be prepared to hike at least 2 miles a day, be on their feet much of the day, change their own clothes and shoes independently, and carry their own backpacks with food and water in them.

Rising 3rd and 4th grade campers:

\$410 per week, 21 campers per group, 3 Counselors

Campers will explore nature by hiking, journaling, crafting and building with natural materials, visiting the stream and its inhabitants, and playing games.

Evening cookouts will be offered on Thursday evenings during the following sessions: Week 1, 3, 5, 7, 8. The camp day will be extended until 8:00pm on these days. Healthy meals will be cooked by staff.

Off-site field trips will be included during Weeks 4 and 6. Field trips will take place during the camp day. Campers will ride chartered buses to relevant destinations within a 45 minute radius. Field trip examples include destinations like Churchville Nature Center, Grounds For Sculpture, Washington Crossing Park, or Sourland Mountain Preserve.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Rising 5th and 6th grade campers:

\$440 per week, 21 campers per group, 3 Counselors
Campers will delve into nature adventures with themed exploration, nature journaling, hikes to the far reaches of the Watershed Reserve, and encounters with new landscapes off-site.

Evening cookouts will be offered on Thursday evenings during the following sessions: Week 1, 5, 8. The camp day will be extended until 8:00pm on these days. Healthy meals will be planned and prepared by staff and campers together.

A laid-back campout on The Watershed Reserve will be offered on **Thursday night during Weeks 3 and 7.**

Campers will have a cookout for dinner, set-up campsites, take part in nighttime nature activities, then sleep outside in tents. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks on Friday will be provided.

Off-site field trips will be included during Weeks 4, 5, 6, and 8. Field trips will take place during the camp day. Campers will ride chartered buses to relevant destinations within a 45 minute radius. Field trip examples include destinations like Churchville Nature Center, Grounds For Sculpture, Washington Crossing Park, or Sourland Mountain Preserve.

Rising 7th to 9th grade campers:

\$460 or \$575 per week, 21 campers per group, 3 Counselors

Campers will push their limits of nature exploration with longer hikes, more STEM-focused activities, and two opportunities for off-site overnight trips to new natural settings.

Evening cookouts will be offered on Thursday evenings during the following sessions: Week 1, 5, 8. The camp day will be extended until 8:00pm on these days. Healthy meals will be planned and cooked by the campers themselves!

A laid-back campout on The Watershed Reserve will be offered on **Thursday night during Week 7.** Campers will do their own cookout for dinner, set-up campsites, take part in nighttime nature activities, then sleep outside in tents. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks on Friday will be provided.

Off-site field trips will be included during the following sessions: Weeks 4, 5, 8. Field trips will take place during the camp day. Campers will ride chartered buses to relevant destinations within a 45 minute radius. Field trip examples include destinations like canoeing on the D&R canal, exploring Washington Crossing Park, or hiking at Sourland Mountain Preserve.

During Weeks 3 and 6, campers will take part in off-site, overnight camping trips to places like the Delaware Water Gap, NJ State Parks, or the Pine Barrens.



WATERSHED NATURE CAMP FAQ

What are the dates and hours of camp?

The 2022 camp season is weekdays June 27 – August 19, 2022 from 9:00am - 4:00pm.

Do you offer extended care?

Yes, we offer daily Early Care from 8:00am-9:00am and Late Care from 4:00pm-5:30pm. Quiet, outdoor activities and games will be provided.

What is your refund policy?

Cancellations can be made until May 2, 2022. After that date, no refunds will be offered. All refunds will be charged a \$15 processing fee per camper per session.

What if my camper is sick?

If your camper or someone in their household is sick please refer to our camp policies on the website regarding symptoms and attendance. If your camper becomes unwell at camp you will be contacted to pick them up immediately.

What about the weather? Thunderstorms?

In the rain, we put our jackets and ponchos on and keep exploring! If it's excessively hot, we'll spend time in the stream, under sprinklers, and in the shade. During thunderstorms or other unsafe weather, we will take shelter indoors. If it is predicted that conditions will be unsafe for more than 30 minutes, you will be notified that your camper will be taking shelter indoors and you will have the opportunity to pick them up.

What is the dress code?

Dress for active outdoor play – shorts, t-shirt, and closed-toe, hard-sole shoes. Open-toe or soft-sole shoes (flip flops, crocs, and open-toed sandals) are not allowed.

Do you serve meals?

Campers must bring a lunch and at least two snacks daily (campers attending Early and/or Late Care should bring an extra). Healthy meals are provided during overnights and cookouts and will be prepared by staff.

What do campers need to bring?

The three main items to remember are: plenty of water and food for the day, a change of shoes and socks, and a change of clothes. For a complete list, please refer to the Camp Policies on the website.

How do you handle food allergies?

Please inform us of all food allergies when you complete the health profile. We do not exclude foods from camp. Campers are instructed to clean their hands after eating to avoid contamination.



WATERSHED NATURE CAMP FAQ CONTINUED

Should I bring insect repellent or sunscreen?

Campers should arrive wearing your choice of sunscreen and/or insect repellent. Campers will be instructed to re-apply sunscreen mid-morning and mid-afternoon. To maintain a safe distance, staff will not assist campers with the application of sunscreen. For younger campers please make sure they wear clothing that makes reapplication of sunscreen easy. Aerosol sprays are not allowed.

What about poison ivy and ticks?

Staff members are trained to teach campers how to identify and avoid natural hazards like ticks and poison ivy. Campers should also check themselves daily. If you have further questions, contact the Camp Director.

What are Watershed Nature Camp staff like?

Our core staff are primarily college students and recent graduates who are passionate about the environment and have experience working with children in the outdoors. These staff members are typically between the ages of 18-24. Our volunteer Counselors-in-Training are high school students who have shown a strong work ethic, are excited to share their knowledge of the outdoors, and demonstrate eagerness and aptitude to work with children. Our staff undergo robust training where we cover safety policies, working with children outdoors, natural history knowledge, appropriate camp games and songs, and justice, equity, and diversity training.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

The Watershed Institute
31 Titus Mill Rd.
Pennington, NJ 08534

609-737-3735 • camp@thewatershed.org