



Watershed Nature Camp

Explore. Discover. Connect.

2024



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 most 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 animal ambassadors inside the nature center. The Watershed Institute is a non-profit dedicated to keeping Central New Jersey's water clean, safe, and healthy. We're excited that after five years Wargo Pond will be part of the camp experience again. Campers will examine the wildlife in and on the pond, and practice age-appropriate paddling skills.

Values

While our offerings vary in each camp week, our underlying values are threaded through each day. At Watershed Nature Camp, 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 water, the plants, the animals, the people, and ourselves.

Accessibility

While we value accessibility and inclusion, we are a very active camp. 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. We are outdoors all day, every day. 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.

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:

- **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 lots of time on the trails, learn how to build a survival shelter, and learn age-appropriate 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.

Entering grade for 2024	Week 1 Jun 24-28	Week 2 Jul 1-5*	Week 3 Jul 8-12	Week 4 Jul 15-19	Week 5 Jul 22-26	Week 6 Jul 29- Aug 2	Week 7 Aug 5-9	Week 8 Aug 12-16
Rising 1-2	Amazing Animals	Art in Nature	Wonderful Water	Outdoor Adventures	Amazing Animals	Wonderful Water	Art in Nature	Outdoor Adventures
Price	\$425	\$340	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425
Rising 3-4	Wonderful Water	Amazing Animals	Outdoor Adventures	Amazing Animals	Outdoor Adventures	Art in Nature	Wonderful Water	Amazing Animals
Price	\$475	\$380	\$475	\$475	\$475	\$475	\$475	\$475
Rising 5-6	Outdoor Adventures	Wonderful Water	Outdoor Adventures	Amazing Animals	Wonderful Water	Art in Nature	Outdoor Adventures	Wonderful Water
Price	\$550	\$380	\$550	\$475	\$475	\$475	\$550	\$500
Rising 7-9	Amazing Animals	Wonderful Water	Wonderful Water	Outdoor Adventures	Amazing Animals	Outdoor Adventures	Outdoor Adventures	Wonderful Water
Price	\$475	\$380	\$650	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$550	\$500

**there will be no camp on Thurs. July 4*

Registration process for 2024

1. Become a member or renew your membership before January 17, 2024 to receive members-only early access to get a chance to register on January 23, 2024. Members receive a 5% discount on registration rates.
2. Registration opens to non-members on February 6, 2024. (This camp sells out quickly, become a member to register early!)
3. **Limit of 4 sessions per camper.**
4. A 50% deposit is due upon registration, full payment is due by April 10, 2024.
5. No refunds will be given after April 10, 2024.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

All cancellations will be charged a \$35 processing fee. The Watershed Institute memberships are not refundable

Program Descriptions

Rising 1st and 2nd grade campers:

\$425 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 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 independently, and carry their own backpacks with food and water in them.



Rising 3rd and 4th grade campers:

\$475 per week, 20 campers per group, 3 Counselors



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

Special activities include:

- Week 1: Daytime cookout on Thursday (camp ends at 4:00)
- Week 2: Live animal show
- Week 3: Daytime cookout on Thursday (camp ends at 4:00)
- Week 4: Field trip to Raptor Trust and Great Swamp Environmental Education Center
- Week 5: Field trip to Sourland Mountain Preserve and daytime cookout on Thursday (camp ends at 4:00)
- Week 6: Field trip to Grounds for Sculpture
- Week 7: Daytime cookout on Thursday (camp ends at 4:00)
- Week 8: Field trip to Howell Living History Farm

Program Descriptions

Rising 5th and 6th grade campers:

\$475-\$550 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 offsite.

Special activities include:

- Week 1: Thursday night camp out on The Watershed Reserve
- Week 2: Swimming at Hopewell Quarry (campers must pass swim test)
- Week 3: Thursday night camp out on The Watershed Reserve
- Week 4: Field trip to Raptor Trust and Great Swamp Environmental Education Center
- Week 5: Field trip to Sourland Mountain Preserve and swimming at Hopewell Quarry (campers must pass swim test)
- Week 6: Field trip to Grounds for Sculpture
- Week 7: Thursday night camp out on The Watershed Reserve
- Week 8: Field trip to canoe on the D&R Canal



Rising 7th to 9th grade campers:

\$475-\$650 per week, 21 campers per group, 3 Counselors

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

Special activities include:

- Week 1: Swimming at Hopewell Quarry and Thursday night cook out (camp ends at 8:00pm)
- Week 2: Swimming at Hopewell Quarry (campers must pass swim test)
- Week 3: Wednesday and Thursday overnight trip to Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center
- Week 4: Wednesday overnight trip hiking and exploring the unique biology of the Pinelands
- Week 5: Wednesday overnight trip canoeing at the Delaware Water Gap
- Week 6: Wednesday overnight trip hiking part of the Appalachian Trail in Waywayanda State Park (this trip will include some difficult hiking trails)
- Week 7: Thursday night camp out on The Watershed Reserve
- Week 8: Field trip to canoe on the D&R Canal

Watershed Nature Camp FAQ

What are the dates and hours of camp?

The 2024 camp season is weekdays **June 24 – August 16, 2024 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Do you offer extended care?

We offer daily Early Care from 8-9 a.m. and Late Care from 4-5:30 p.m. Quiet, outdoor activities and games will be provided.

- **Early Care: 8-9 a.m., \$12 per camper per day**
- **Late Care: 4-5:30 p.m., \$18 per camper per day**

Extended care will be limited to 20 campers maximum.

Membership discounts also apply to early and late care



Application for Financial Aid

Complete the application and documentation found online at thewatershed.org/camp or email camp@thewatershed.org to have them mailed to you. We will review your application and inform you of your eligibility on a rolling basis.

What is your refund policy?

To be eligible for a refund, cancellations must be submitted by April 10, 2024. All refunds will be charged a \$35 processing fee. Watershed Institute memberships are not refundable.

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.

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 60 minutes, you will be notified that your camper(s) will be taking shelter indoors and you will have the opportunity to pick them up.

Do you serve meals?

Campers must bring 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.

Watershed Nature Camp FAQ

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.

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 camper safety, 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 if my camper is sick?

If your camper or someone in their household is sick, please keep campers at home. If your camper becomes unwell at camp you will be contacted to pick them up.

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 outdoors.

These staff members are typically between the ages of 18-24. Our volunteer Counselors-in-Training are high school students who are excited to share their interest in nature 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 literacy, appropriate camp games and songs, and training in diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice.





Contact Information

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