

Nature's Chorus

Nature Awareness, Survival, and Ecology Camp and Young Naturalist Training

Learn how to sharpen your senses, track animals, understand bird language, survive in the woods, and expand your awareness of nature's ways! Entering its eighth season, this camp is solely devoted to naturalist training and development. This is a high quality program for young people who truly desire to enhance their connection with the natural world. Join our highly specialized staff as we explore the forests, fields, wetlands, meadows, and other mysteries of Great Hollow! At Nature's Chorus, the invisible curriculum of the Earth is our teacher as students and instructors alike connect with the land, one another, and their own creative selves. We maintain a small staff to camper ratio, which enables us to offer focused attention to each individual's passions and needs.

Evergreen (Full Day Program)

There are five weeks of day camp, each with its own special theme. Unifying themes include but are not limited to: fire making, identifying hazards, stream exploration, field guide use, camouflage, awareness games, bird language, shelter building, primitive tool making and craft, animal movement, plant uses and identification, outdoor cooking, storytelling and tracking. These themes will be explored and built upon each week while focusing on the highlighted subject. The last two weeks offer Evergreens (those age 8 - 15) an optional Thursday overnight campout, allowing for deeper exploration of these areas (additional charge of \$30.00 for the overnight).

Week 1 Natural Awareness

July 6 – July 10

Participants will have their eyes opened to the secrets of the forest through games and exercises designed to hone the senses. Stalking, tracking and games that focus on using one sense at a time will culminate in a day of challenges to demonstrate how much the participants have learned.

Week 2 Wetlands

July 13 – July 17

We will explore the beautiful wetlands of our 890 acres. The waterfall crawl, river walk and visits to our dipping pools will be focuses for the week. Learn about aquatic and amphibious animals, wetland plant life and the terrestrial visitors to these wet places.

Week 3 Lives of Plants & Animals

July 20 – July 24

Through observation and tracking we will study the plants and animals that surround us. One may be surprised how much is going on right under their nose. Get to know a few trees, plants and animal species better than you thought possible.

Week 4 Ancient Crafts and Skills

July 27 – July 31

Learn the old ways as we experiment in getting things done without modern tools. Primitive fire making, cooking, shelter-building and an introduction to useful and edible plants highlight all the amazing skills we will cover.

Week 5 People In Nature

Aug. 3 - Aug. 7

Humanity's effects on Nature and its effect on us is profound. Learn more about our relationship with the world around us by studying the old farm fields and foundations and how Nature has reclaimed them as well as discovering your own level of comfort in the outdoors.

AGES: 8 - 15 years

DATE: July 6 – Aug. 7

TIMES: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FEE: \$275 per week

Weeks 4 & 5 there is an additional \$30 charge for optional overnight.

AM Extended Care 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.: \$25 per week

PM Extended Care 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.: \$25 per week

Riversong (Half Day Program)

This program has been designed to foster creativity and compassion in the hearts and minds of children ages 5 - 7. Using the natural world as a medium, children will engage in singing, storytelling, nature crafts, nature exploration, role-playing, and basic naturalist skills (animal tracking, shelter building, leaf studies, nature observation, etc.). Social skills enhancement and inner creativity will result from the stories as peace, unity, sharing, respect, appreciation, and honesty serve as invisible threads weaving through the subtle curriculum.

AGES: 5 - 7 years

DATE: June 29 – July 31 (Mon. - Fri.)

TIMES: 9:00am - 1:00pm

FEE: \$150 per week

AM Extended Care 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.: \$25 per week

**No camp on July 3 - fee is pro-rated to \$120*

In developing each camp, Great Hollow has remained true to our roots in Adventure & Experiential Education. We maintain a small camper to staff ratio and focus on the power of teamwork and group support in a safe, noncompetitive environment. Many of the activities are challenging, and all of them are fun, but we never pass up an opportunity to reflect on the value of each experience. From adventure to nature, all activities teach us about ourselves and the world around us.

Please return the following:

- **Camp Application with payment and post dated information (if not paying in full)**

- **The following forms must be turned in by the first day your child attends camp.**
 - **Medical Form**

 - **Waiver Form**

 - **Permission to administer medication, if needed. Note: This form must be signed by both a physician and parent.**

 - **Participant Medical**

Participant Medical Forms

All participants are required to have a medical form completed by both a physician and parent/guardian. This is a Connecticut State regulation. The physical MUST be completed within 36 months prior to the camp stay. NO participant will be permitted to attend camp until his/her medical form is submitted. Forms are available upon registration. If medication is needed, you must submit an Administration of Medication form signed by both the parent/guardian and the physician.

Lunch

All campers need to bring a lunch made up of *nonperishable* foods that they can carry in their backpack. The state health department no longer accepts insulated boxes or bags as adequate storage for perishable foods.

What to Wear and Bring to Camp

Campers spend all of their time outside every day. Therefore, we recommend that participants wear comfortable, practical clothing such as sweats, shorts and T-shirts.

Campers should *wear* only sneakers or hiking boots (sandals are NOT appropriate). Campers should *bring* an old pair of sneakers or footwear, like Aqua Socs or Tevas that can be worn in the water.

Each day, campers should bring, sunscreen, a raincoat, water bottle, extra socks, a bathing suit and towel. (Please send a towel that you don't care about in case it gets misplaced).

Please make sure that each item is marked with your child's name. We recommend that each child have a bag or backpack in which to carry all of the required items. Optional items include hats, visors, and insect repellent. PLEASE DO NOT allow your child to bring any toys.