



Friday Flagpole

On Friday at 3:15 pm, we invite camper's friends and family to join us as we celebrate a week of Nature Day Camp. We'll sing songs, hear about each group's adventures, and watch a Counselor Challenge!

Evaluations & Feedback



We love to hear about your camp experience! Please take time to complete this online survey as it helps us to continually improve to best serve you! tinyurl.com/EvaluateNDC

Poison Ivy, Ticks & Mosquitoes

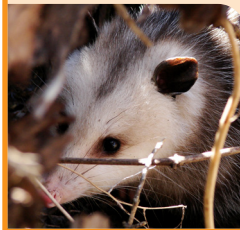
Poison Ivy - You will be notified if we suspect your child had contact with poison ivy. Washing the area with soap and cool water helps prevent a reaction and the spread of oils. Also be sure to wash exposed clothing promptly.

Ticks - Finding ticks at CNC is uncommon. Each night, check your camper for ticks, focusing on the backs of knees, sock and underwear lines, and other borders between clothing and skin.

Mosquitoes - Mosquitos are not prevalent at camp, but depending on recent weather, levels may change. If you would like your camper to use repellent, please send bracelets, stickers or lotion or spray them before they arrive at camp.

Camp Critter

The Virginia Opossum is a fascinating example of evolutionary success – its skeletal structure has remained largely unchanged for over 90 million years. As North America's only native marsupial, it has unique traits like a low body temperature, reptilian hips, and an impressive set of 50 teeth. The most of any land mammal on the continent! As their range has expanded northward, they've



become more vulnerable to frostbite on their ears, tails, and toes. Want to learn more? Assistant Camp Director Allie would be happy to share – opossums are her favorite!



Nature Day Camp 2025



Welcome to Nature Day Camp 2025!

The Nature Day Camp team is excited to welcome children to camp for its 59th summer and our first in our new home, the Nature Education Center. Our mission remains to encourage children to build lifelong, meaningful relationships with the natural world, community, and self through facilitating intentional outdoor experiences. Whether catching a frog, building a fort with friends, or floating in the river, our campers will have a dynamic, engaging experience. We hope you all are ready for an adventure!

If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 989-631-0830 or email camp@chippewanaturecenter.org.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

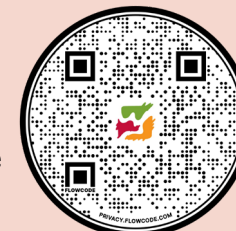
Steve Frisbee,
Nature Day Camp Director

Allie Elliott,
Nature Day Camp
Assistant Director

Health Form

A health form is required for each camper to attend camp. Log in to your Nature Day Camp registration account and update your camper's Health, Emergency Contact, and Photo Release information. You will receive emails with instructions for completing the weeks leading up to the first day of camp. If you cannot access this form online, please call 989.631.0830 to have one mailed to you.

Medications must be in their original packaging with the camper's name and dosage information. Medication must be given directly to the Nature Day Camp Director or Assistant Director.



Where do we go on the first day of camp?

Before and After Care will meet at the Homestead Barn for check-in from 7:30-8 am. When you arrive at the welcome sign, turn right at the stop sign and follow Homestead Road down to the parking area outside the farm.

Full day camps (except **Habitat Hunters**) will meet at the Nature Day Camp Arrival Space at the far end of the new Nature Education Center (NEC) parking lot. After entering CNC, turn right at the stop sign and park in the NEC parking lot. Camp staff will be ready to welcome campers beginning at 9:15 am. Follow the signs to the check-in areas at the arrival space marked with flags and signs.

Half day and Habitat Hunters sessions will meet at the Nature Preschool beginning at 9:15 am. When you arrive at the welcome sign, turn left at the stop sign and park in the main parking lot. Follow the trail that begins under the small pavilion to Nature Preschool.

Check In

On Monday, you will need to stop at the check-in table. You and your child will then be directed to their counselor. For the rest of the week, you will sign-in with your child's counselor. **Please do not drop campers off before 9:15 am unless they are enrolled in Before and After Care.**

Sign Out

Sign out will take place with your child's counselor each day.

What should I bring to camp?

- Water bottle
- Rain gear (no umbrellas please)
- Change of clothes
- Optional items: Sunscreen & Hat
- Lunch (if attending a full-day program)

Please do not bring:

- Spray insect repellent (lotion, bracelets and stickers are ok)
- Toys and games
- Camera
- Cell phone

Lunch at Nature Day Camp

Campers attending a full-day session (9:30 am-3:30 pm) should pack a lunch. Below are some helpful tips for planning your camper's lunch.

- No refrigerator is available for camper lunches.
- **Please do not send peanuts or tree nuts** as we have several campers who are severely allergic.
- We encourage you to pack lunch items in reusable containers. Campers participate in team projects, including recycling, all week to help with stewardship initiatives at CNC!

Tips from the Pros

- **Label everything.**
Be sure to check the Lost and Found on Friday.
- **Complete your health form ahead of time.**
Please log-in to make sure your forms are complete. Call us at 989.631.0830 if you are unable to complete an online form.
- **Embrace the dirt!**
Dress your camper in old clothes and stick an old towel in the car to keep the seats clean.
- **Wear close-toed shoes.**
Avoid Crocs, slip-ons, and flip flops. Tennis shoes are usually best.
- **Talk to your camper's counselor.**
You are the expert on your camper and we appreciate any tips you can provide so we can give them the best experience possible.



Family Picnic • Tuesday, July 29 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Join us Tuesday, July 29, from 5:30-7:30 pm as we celebrate a summer of fun at Nature Day Camp! Park at the Nature Education Center, ride the wagon to the Homestead Farm, and enjoy games, cold treats, crafts, and a scavenger hunt with NDC staff. If you like, bring dinner and a blanket and make it a picnic for the whole family! *If the weather is poor, we will cancel the event.*



PLEASE RSVP
Scan to go to
tinyurl.com/ndcpicnic2025
or call 989.631.0830



Meet our Staff

We work hard to hire the best staff at Chippewa Nature Center in order to provide the very best camp experience for your child. Each staff member was selected for their commitment to teaching kids about nature and their passion for learning. Staff members are assigned to individual sessions based on their interests, knowledge, and training. Each staff member is certified in First Aid and CPR, has undergone a background check and central registry clearance, and is 100% committed to providing an excellent experience for your camper.



Holly Bobola, Camp Counselor

I am so excited to be a part of Nature Day Camp this year! I just graduated from Central Michigan University with my degree in Elementary Education. I had the opportunity to complete my student teaching with the Bullock Creek School District, where I became very familiar with their Nature program. When not at school, I enjoy shopping, arts and crafts, going to the gym, and hanging out with friends! I can't wait for an amazing summer with the campers!



Aubrey Brown, Preschool Counselor

I have completed the full (life) cycle at Nature Day Camp. Starting as a camper, then teen volunteer, and then a Junior Counselor, I am now thrilled to return for my seventh summer on staff as a Preschool Counselor. When I am not whipping up delicious creations in the mud kitchen, you can find me teaching preschool at Gladwin Elementary. This summer, I look forward to challenging campers by choice, making lots of s'mores, and jumping into all of the muddiest puddles Nature Day Camp has to offer! Let's make a summer full of memories!



Anthony Clark, Before and After Care Coordinator

This is my third summer at Nature Day Camp, and my first as a Leadership Team member. I am ecstatic to be back for another great summer! I am currently studying at GVSU and will be entering my third year in the fall, majoring in Secondary History Education. In my free time I will most likely be at the gym, playing Pokémon, and all around just chillin'. I am super excited to connect all campers with nature, let's get it!!



Marcus Collins, Program Coordinator

This is my 11th summer working at Nature Day Camp. During the school year, I teach at the Nature Preschool. I am originally from Cornwall, England, and now live in Midland, Michigan. I hold a Bachelors in Education from the University of Massachusetts and have received my Master's Degree in Family and Community Services from Michigan State. Over the last 20+ years, I have worked in 10 different summer camps in 7 states. I believe camp is a truly magical place that provides endless opportunities to teach, learn, and grow in the natural world. I look forward to getting to know you all.



Caden Cummings, Camp Counselor

I am a current sophomore student at Case Western Reserve University studying biomedical engineering. After a school year spent in downtown Cleveland and filling my days in lecture halls, dorms, and researching in a secluded basement laboratory, I am REALLY excited to be back in Michigan and spend my days outside exploring the natural world with campers! While this will only be my second summer on staff as a camp counselor, it seems I've always been around camp one way or another! In fact this will be my 13th season at NDC! I'm ready for a great summer!



Brady Dixon, Camp Counselor

Hello, I am so excited to share this summer with you! I am coming out of my second year at Oregon State University, studying Marine Biology. This will be my third year on staff, but my 13th year overall at this amazing summer camp. With every year giving new experiences, I can't wait to see what this year has in store!



Allie Elliott, Assistant Camp Director

I am so excited to be back at Nature Day Camp! I have been on the NDC Leadership Team since 2019 as a Program Coordinator and as an Assistant Director. I graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's in Biology: Natural Resources. I fell in love with the CNC and teaching through nature during my work as an Interpretive Naturalist. I am most looking forward to climbing, camping, and getting muddy this summer!



Autumn Fransen, Junior Counselor

I have spent the last four summers as a teen volunteer for NDC and I just finished out my senior year at Bullock Creek High School. I will be going to Delta College next year, and then I plan to transfer to Saginaw Valley State University to major in Elementary Education. I look forward to enjoying the great outdoors with all of our amazing campers this summer!



Steve Frisbee, Nature Day Camp Director

I joined CNC in 2007 as a Nature Day Camp Counselor. I have been on the Leadership Team at camp for eighteen years, and this summer will be my eighth year as the Nature Day Camp Director. I previously taught Nature Preschool for 10 years. I look forward to supporting campers and families in getting the most out of the camp experience while I coach staff to meet their full potential. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your family!



Cherie Grasman, Preschool Counselor

This is my first summer with Nature Day Camp, but I have been with the Chippewa Nature Center since 2014 as an educator and seasonal naturalist. During the school year, I teach at Nature Preschool, and I look forward to sharing the summer season with preschoolers this year as well. It is a privilege to be able to share my love of learning, log climbing, frog catching, and puddle jumping with children through the experiences they have at Nature Day Camp.



Erin Harnick, Camp Counselor

I am super excited to be a Nature Day Camp Counselor this summer! I am a third-year student at Northern Michigan University studying Environmental Studies & Sustainability with a minor in Natural Resources & Outdoor Education. I love spending time outdoors, whether hiking, birding, fishing, or exploring the natural world. I can't wait to share my passion for nature and help campers discover the wonder of it all!



Ashley Harvey, Program Coordinator

This is my fourth summer at Nature Day Camp, and my first as a Leadership Team member. I'm so excited to be back at my favorite place! I am currently teaching high school biology in Novi. I am a recent graduate of Central Michigan University, where I studied Biology: Ecology and Conservation and Education! I cannot wait to spend the summer exploring nature, looking at different animals, and getting to know campers! Outside of camp, you can find me researching fish or hammocking!



Belinda Kisting, Camp Counselor

Hello friends! This will be my first summer with Nature Day Camp and I am so excited to experience it with you! I graduated from Michigan State in 2021 and since then I have been working around the state with birds, small mammals, turtles, snakes, invasive plants, and even ticks! I landed at CNC last fall as a Nature Educator. Outside of work, I love to read, hang out with my family and pets, and recreate outside in any way I can. I can't wait to spend the summer having fun, exploring, and learning just as much as all the campers.



Maisy Matthews, Volunteer Crew Leader

This will be my third summer at the CNC but my first year on staff! I am thrilled to be a Volunteer Crew Leader this summer. This fall, I will be a Freshman at GVSU, and I have just graduated from Midland High. I love swimming, reading, and learning new things! I can't wait to spend my summer outdoors, teaching and learning about our wonderful environment.



Chris McCreedy, Camp Counselor

I have been with CNC since 2021 as a camp counselor and nature educator. My background is in natural resources, outdoor recreation, and history interpretation. It is a pleasure to get outside daily and connect children to nature, their passions, and each other. My favorite part of the week is watching camper moments of wonder, fascination, and nature joy. I am excited to meet your camper and create an experience they will cherish for years!



Emily Northrup, Camp Counselor

Hi! I'm currently studying Elementary Education at Saginaw Valley State University. I love camping, exploring the outdoors, and spending time in nature. I'm so excited to be part of CNC this summer. There's nothing better than helping kids connect with nature and have fun outside!



Emily Osborne, Adventure Trip Leader

My journey with Nature Day Camp started as a camper and then as a teen volunteer. 2021 was my first year as a counselor, and I switched to Trip Leader in 2022. I just graduated from CMU, majoring in Outdoor and Environmental Recreation with a minor in Environmental Sustainability and Policy. During the school year, I am an Educator at CNC, leading school group programs. I am beyond excited to hit the trails again this summer for exciting and fun-filled adventures.



Katie Papst, Camp Counselor

I am very grateful for the opportunity to come back to Nature Day Camp as a Camp Counselor after such a great summer last year in the Junior Counselor role. I am currently enrolled in Central Michigan University's School of Music program, studying Music Education. Alongside my studies, I really enjoy hiking and being outside, and have been able to do a lot of things like hiking the Grand Canyon. I am excited about this summer and can't wait to see what adventures camp will bring.



Nick Pellegrino, Camp Counselor

This is my fourth summer with Chippewa Nature Center after an amazing year working as a Nature Preschool Teacher. I'm studying Early Elementary and Special Education at SVSU and have worked with day camps around Midland for the last six years. I am so excited to spend summer days in nature exploring, discovering, and learning along with all the campers!



Bridgette Plante, Camp Counselor

This will be my second year at camp. I've worked as an assistant at Nature Preschool this school year, and I am so excited to continue at CNC! I am a Bullock Creek graduate studying secondary education at SVSU, and I love all things music and nature. I look forward to spending the summer building community through nature and play!



Justin Pruitt, Program Coordinator

This will be my fourth summer with Nature Day Camp, and I am just as excited as I was for my first. Using the knowledge I gained from pursuing my degree in Recreation Event Management and Outdoor Education, I plan to give the campers under my care a summer they will remember fondly for the rest of their lives. During the school year, I am an Educator at CNC and will use those skills to inspire future stewards of our beautiful world. This summer will be filled with fun activities, interesting sights and sounds, and memories to last a lifetime.



Morgan Simons, Camp Counselor

This is my fifth summer at CNC, and I'm excited to be back! I'm a recent graduate of Central Michigan University and a 5th-grade teacher at Floyd Elementary with Bullock Creek Public Schools. I have previously taught kindergarten at Coleman Elementary, too. This summer, I'm looking forward to exploring nature alongside your kiddos!



Conrad Smith, Junior Counselor

I'm absolutely thrilled to be a Junior Counselor this summer! CNC camps have been a part of my life for over a decade, both as a camper and a Teen Volunteer, and being here feels like a second home to me. I've spent hours adventuring in the nature center and my own local parks, and can't wait to keep exploring nature with everyone again this year!



Katie Steinhuis, Adventure Trip Leader

It's great to be back at Nature Day Camp for my 2nd summer as an Adventure Trip Leader. I also just finished my third year at SVSU in the environmental science program and have had the opportunity to work on some cool research in the Saginaw Bay watershed. I have been leading high-adventure and backcountry trips with peers at SVSU, and I look forward to engaging with a younger generation and sharing the knowledge I have gained with them as we explore Michigan's beautiful environment. This summer will be a blast, and I can't wait to continue supporting CNC's mission to connect all people to nature!



Tessa Swier, Volunteer Crew Leader

Chippewa Nature Center has been a part of my life since I was going to camps as a little kid! I have been volunteering at Nature Day Camp for the last three summers, and I can't wait to return this summer for my first year on staff. In the fall, I will be starting my senior year at H.H. Dow High School. I am excited to be a part of the Center's ability to exhibit and respect wildlife in a way that brings people and nature together.



Makenna Town, Camp Counselor

I am thrilled to be back at Nature Day Camp again as a counselor for my 2nd summer at CNC! I grew up in Midland and have enjoyed walking the CNC trails for as long as I can remember. I attend Saginaw Valley State University, pursuing a BA in Environmental Studies and Sustainability. I am excited for a summer filled with learning and fun!



Katie Vauhkonen, Camp Counselor

This is my second year on staff at Nature Day Camp, and I am so excited! This year, I spent my time student teaching at Nature Preschool while finishing up my senior year at Bullock Creek High School. I can't wait to make more memories with some awesome kids!