



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! Scan or visit tinyurl.com/NDCEvaluation

Camp Critter

The Eastern Screech Owl is frequently seen around CNC. They notify us of their presence with a descending trill called the "whinny" call. They may also give a soft hoot 2-4 times, loud barks, or a screech! These six-inch-tall owls forage by sitting under the tree canopy. They listen and look for movement of squirrels, chipmunks, shrews, voles, rabbits, or bats. The owl flies off its perch to strike prey with sharp talons on both feet. It may hover briefly to scare prey out of vegetation and seize it on the ground. Help celebrate these amazing animals and CNC by wearing your throwback camp shirt, especially on Fridays during the summer!



Nature Day Camp 2026



Welcome to Nature Day Camp 2026!

Nature Day Camp cannot wait to celebrate its 60th summer with campers and their families in the beloved ecosystems of the Chippewa Nature Center. The CNC team remains committed to improving children's lives and will do our best to inspire them to become stewards of the natural world. 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,

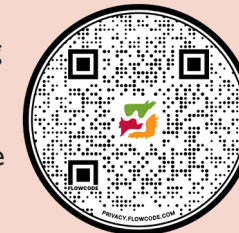
Steve Frisbee,
Nature Day Camp Director

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 a Nature Day Camp Leadership Team member.



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 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
- Smart Watch
- 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.

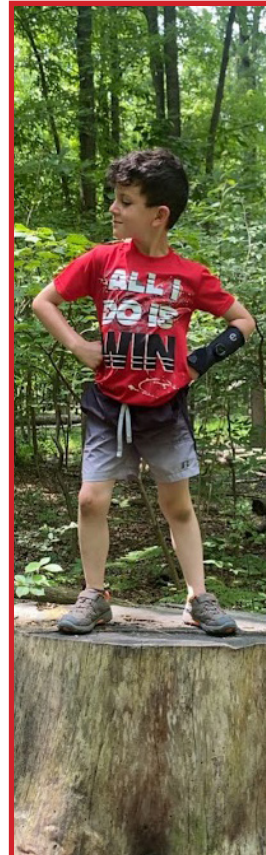
- No refrigerator is available for camper lunches.
- **Please do not send peanuts or tree nuts** as we have several campers who are severely allergic.
- We encourage you to pack lunch items in reusable containers. Campers participate in team projects, including recycling, all week to help with stewardship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

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.



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 • Tues, July 28 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Join us Tuesday, July 28th, 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, visit
tinyurl.com/ndcpicnic2026
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.



Clara Allington, Camp Counselor

I am a senior at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, where I am pursuing a BFA in Illustration and an Art Education Certificate. When I'm not at school, you can find me in the Saginaw River with the Bay City Rowing Club or painting watercolor landscapes. I am beyond excited to get out of the big city and share my love for the outdoors!



Shea Arnold, Junior Counselor

I have been a teen volunteer for many years, and I am very excited to continue working with Nature Day Camps! I have just finished my senior year at Bullock Creek High School and will attend Central Michigan University for Music Education in the fall! I love learning, staying active, and being on the water! I am so excited to get to know these campers on the trails.



Joey Bebeau, Junior Counselor

I've been at the Chippewa Nature Center since I was three years old. This will be my first summer on camp staff after five years as a volunteer. I just finished my senior year at Bullock Creek High School, and I plan to attend Grand Valley State University in the fall. I am so excited to experience camp with your family this summer!



Aubrey Brown, Preschool Counselor

I have completed the full (life) cycle at Nature Day Camp. Starting as a camper, then a teen volunteer, and then a Junior Counselor, I am now thrilled to return for my eighth 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!



Marcus Collins, Program Coordinator

This is my 12th 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 Bachelor's 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.



Sawyer Collins, Camp Counselor

I am a freshman at Central Michigan University, majoring in Outdoor Recreation with a minor in Music, and I serve as the Social Chair for the CMU Running Club. I grew up attending camps at the nature center, where I especially loved backpacking and developed my passion for the outdoors. I'm so excited to be part of the team this summer and to help create fun, meaningful experiences for campers just like the ones I had.



Brady Dixon, Camp Counselor

Hello, I am so excited to share this summer with you! I am coming out of my third year at Oregon State University, studying Marine Biology. This will be my fourth year on staff, but my 14th 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'm so excited for another season of Nature Day Camp! Unfortunately, I won't be at CNC this summer because I'll be home welcoming a new baby! I've been part of the NDC Leadership Team since 2019, beginning as a Program Coordinator and spending the last four summers as the Assistant Director. I hope to see families and campers out on the trails this season, so please don't hesitate to say hi!



Autumn Fransen, Camp Counselor

After spending four summers as a teen volunteer and one summer as a junior counselor, I am thrilled to be back at Nature Day Camp as a camp counselor! This school year, I hosted birthday parties at CNC, completed 165 observation hours in local elementary schools, and recently earned an Associate Degree from Delta College. This fall, I will be heading off to Albion College to major in elementary education while pursuing my passion for running on Albion's cross country and track teams. In the meantime, I am looking forward to enjoying another great summer spent smiling, laughing, and playing games with campers!



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 nineteen years, and this summer will be my ninth year as the Nature Day Camp Director. I previously taught at 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!



Maddie Frisbee, Volunteer Crew Leader

I am excited for a summer full of playing outside, splashing in the river, and exploring nature with campers. While this is my first year on staff, NDC has been a big part of my life, from being a camper to volunteering as I got older. In the fall, I will be a senior at H. H. Dow High. Aside from school, I love running and singing in choirs and theater. I can't wait to be on the trails at CNC this summer!



Emmerson Goodin, Camp Counselor

I am currently a student at Alma College studying Environmental Science with a minor in Biology. I have experience working with children as a Preschool Assistant Teacher and through coaching and volunteering at youth sports camps. I love spending time outdoors and helping kids learn, grow, and try new things. I'm excited to be part of camp this summer and help create a fun and memorable experience for all campers!



Cherie Grasman, Preschool Counselor

This is my second 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 back as a Nature Day Camp Counselor for my second summer! I am a fourth-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 fifth summer at Nature Day Camp, and my second 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 second summer with Nature Day Camp, and I am so excited to explore nature with you! I have travelled around the state doing natural history work and finally landed at CNC as a Nature Educator two years ago. I am passionate about connecting people to the things that I love, like birds, turtles, and even ticks! Outside of work, I love to read, spend time with my family and pets, and hike outside in new places. I can't wait to spend the summer having fun, exploring, and learning along with all the campers!



Maisy Matthews, Camp Counselor

This summer is my second year on staff at CNC and my first year as a Counselor! This fall, I will be a Sophomore at GVSU! I am a Pre-Law student and a Midland High Alum! 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 campers' moments of wonder, fascination, and joy in nature. I am excited to meet your camper and create an experience they will cherish for years!



Meredith McCulloch, Camp Counselor

I'm so excited to start my first summer as a counselor! I just finished my first year at CMU, where I am studying Outdoor and Environmental Recreation. In my free time, I enjoy reading, spending time outdoors, and mermaiding with my friends. I've been a Nature Day Camper since 2014, and I can't wait to pass on my love of Nature Day Camp to all the campers!



Emily Northrup, Camp Counselor

I am currently studying elementary education at Saginaw Valley State University to become a teacher. I have experience working with kids of all ages and enjoy helping kids learn through hands-on and engaging activities. I love being outdoors and going on adventures, so I'm really excited to spend the summer exploring nature with campers. I'm looking forward to building strong relationships and helping create a fun and welcoming camp environment.



Emily Osborne, Program Coordinator

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 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 and support camp being on the Leadership Team for exciting and fun-filled adventures.



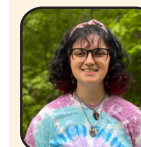
Marissa Pannett, Before and After Care Coordinator

Hello, campers! This will be my first summer at CNC's Nature Day Camp, and I couldn't be more excited! I just wrapped up my first year as one of CNC's Nature Preschool teachers and loved every moment of it! Before that, I spent six years as an environmental educator and two years as a camp director at For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum, immersing others in the great outdoors and sparking their passion for nature. I graduated from Michigan State University in 2020, where I studied Fisheries and Wildlife. I am looking forward to spending my summer with you and creating core memories in nature.



Nick Pellegrino, Camp Counselor

This is my fourth summer with Chippewa Nature Center after an amazing year working as a Nature Preschool teacher. I have also been an educator with CNC's School Programs. I'm studying early elementary and special education at SVSU and have worked with day camps for the last seven years around Midland. I am so excited to spend summer days in nature exploring, discovering, and learning along with all the campers!



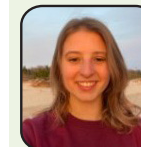
Bridgette Plante, Camp Counselor

This is my 3rd year as a counselor. I also work with Nature Preschool during the school year, and I will be a fourth-year secondary English education major at SVSU. In my free time, I am a musician in a local band, and I love people, art, diy, fixing things, and anything silly. The forest is my absolute favorite place to be, and I am so excited to be a part of our community learning and growing in a natural space!



Justin Pruitt, Program Coordinator

This will be my fifth 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.



Rachel Rasette, Camp Counselor

I am looking forward to spending my first summer at Nature Day Camp! I graduated from Central Michigan in Spring 2026 with a major in Biology and a minor in Environmental Science. I love hiking, camping, paddling, and anything that involves being outside. I'm excited to explore nature with campers!



Avery Shepard, Camp Counselor

This is my first summer on staff for Nature Day Camp, and I couldn't be more excited! I started my journey at CNC as a preschooler, then a camper, then a teen volunteer, and I am thrilled to be able to be a Camp Counselor this summer. I am currently a nursing student at the University of Michigan, and I will be going into my sophomore year this fall. I can't wait to help campers build a strong connection to nature and explore everything it has to offer!



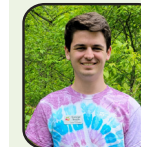
Reese Shepard, Volunteer Crew Leader

I am so excited to be a part of the Nature Day Camp staff this year! My journey at CNC started when I was in preschool, then as a camper, and now, finally, as a Volunteer Crew Leader. I just finished up my junior year at Midland High School. I love volleyball, paddleboarding, hiking, and being outdoors. I can't wait to spend this summer connecting with campers through nature and building lifelong memories.



Morgan Simons, Camp Counselor

This is my sixth summer at CNC, and I'm excited to be back! I graduated from Central Michigan University and am 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!



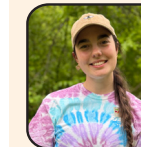
Conrad Smith, Camp Counselor

I'm so excited to be back again this summer as a Camp Counselor! I've spent over a decade with Nature Day Camp, and I'm looking forward to yet another summer in one of my favorite places. Exploring and adventuring in the outdoors is one of my favorite ways to spend time, and I'm excited to share these experiences with everyone!



Katie Steinhaus, Adventure Trip Leader

It's great to be back at Nature Day Camp for my third summer as an Adventure Trip Leader. I also just recently graduated from 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!



Katie Vauhkonen, Camp Counselor

This will be my third year as a camp counselor for Nature Day Camp! I spent my time this year as a long-term substitute and preschool assistant for Nature Preschool as well as an educator here at CNC. I also attend Saginaw Valley State University, pursuing a BA in elementary education. I can't wait to make more memories this summer with some awesome kids!