



All CNC Summer Curiosity Camps take place at Cumming Nature Center in Naples NY. Busing from the RMSC's Rochester campus is available during Weeks 2-7 and is noted with a bus  icon.

Explore the table below for camp information, including pricing. Click age groups below for full camp descriptions.

[AGES 6-8](#) | [AGES 9-11](#) | [AGES 12-15](#) | [AGES 14-18](#)

### Overview of Camps

WEEK #	Date/Cost	Ages 6-8	Ages 9-11	Ages 12-15	Ages 14-18
<b>WEEK 1</b>	July 5-7 <b>\$168/wk</b>	Field Guide to Fairies & Gnomes  Pond & Stream Explorers	Woodland Architects		
<b>WEEK 2</b> 	July 10-14 <b>\$280/wk</b>	Superpower Senses	Tinder, Spark & Flame	Survivor	Walden Summer Experience
<b>WEEK 3</b> 	July 17-21 <b>\$280/wk</b>	Songs of the Forest	Nature's Palette	Archeology Adventures	
<b>WEEK 4</b> 	July 24-28 <b>\$280/wk</b>	Nature's Playground	Digging Through Time	Youth Hunter Camp	
<b>WEEK 5</b> 	July 31-Aug. 4 <b>\$280/wk</b>	Muck Hunters	Pond & Stream Explorers	Youth Bowhunter & Trapping Camp	
<b>WEEK 6</b> 	Aug. 7-11 <b>\$280/wk</b>	Field Guide to Fairies  Amazing Mammals	Bushcraft Adventures		
<b>WEEK 7</b> 	Aug. 14-18 <b>\$280/wk</b>	Friends of the Forest  Muck Hunters	Wings n' Things		
<b>WEEK 8</b>	Aug. 21-25 <b>\$280/wk</b>	Nature's Playground	Jr. Naturalists	Survivor	

## CAMP DESCRIPTIONS (AGES 6-8)

### **Field Guide to Fairies and Gnomes (Week 1 & Week 6 🚌)**

The natural world provides all the wonder needed for curious minds to find magic behind every mossy stump, whispering tree, or field flower. Campers will build fairy and gnome homes, create mud trolls, and much more, all while exploring the tiny wonders found under leaves and rocks in the forest. A Field Guide of stories, descriptions, and illustrations by our spritely group will be collected throughout the week, to be anthologized into an enchanting book everyone takes home!

### **Pond and Stream Explorers (Week 1)**

Dragonfly nymphs, spotted newts, tadpoles, and water scorpions are just some of the animals to discover in the water at CNC. Through games and hands-on experience, campers learn about the unique lives and adaptations of amphibians, insects, and other animals found in ponds and streams. The importance of a variety of freshwater aquatic habitats will be investigated. There will also be opportunities to collect data, analyze basic water chemistry, try fishing, do arts and crafts, cool one's toes in the creek, and build a miniature boat to sail downstream.

### **Superpower Senses (Week 2 🚌)**

What if you could smell your next meal from a mile away? What if you could spot a mouse in the pitch black night? What if you could hear the ants marching underground? Animals have special superpower senses to survive in the wild. Come walk the woods in the footsteps of the animals. Explore nature with all five senses through activities, games, challenges and play. Tune in to your own superpowers and become a wilder you!

### **Songs of the Forest (Week 3 🚌)**

The sounds of nature are alive around us, creating a chorus of chirps, swishes, buzzes, creaks, howls and more! Tune into your sense of hearing and discover the sounds that bring the woods to life through games, activities and exploration. Learn how to identify the words of the birds, trees, water and bees. Explore the language of the forest, make instruments from found materials, and join in the chorus!

### **Nature's Playground (Week 4 🚌 & Week 8)**

From stump-jumping and dirt-digging to fort-making and wand-waving, this camp is all about imagination and play. Under the guidance of CNC's outdoor play experts, campers will use natural materials to create their own toys and game pieces, explore stealth and cooperation through guided group play, and hike, splash, tumble, climb, and jump their way through the woods.

### **Muck Hunters (Week 5 🚌 & Week 7 🚌)**

"Who are the masters of the swamp?" asks the skunk cabbage. The other critters of the muck gurgle and glug names like slug, salamander, and ring-necked snake. Campers will spend the week playing in the mud, practicing camouflage games, and exploring the amazing life within the wetlands, squish by squish.

*\*Rubber boots recommended for this camp*

### **Amazing Mammals (Week 6 🚌)**

What do bears, squirrels and humans have in common? They're all mammals! During this camp you'll explore the woods, looking for signs of our furry friends. Discover what makes mammals special and all of the amazing techniques that they have to survive. Learn to tread through the forest like a fox, listen like a deer, and smell like a coyote through games and exploration.

### **Friends of the Forest (Week 7 )**

Calling all friends of the forest! Explore the forests of the Cumming Nature Center and investigate the animals that live there! Listen for birds, hunt for tracks, and discover the connections and mysteries of the animal world. Hike to the Beaver Pond, play animal games, and become one with the creatures in the woods.

## **CAMP DESCRIPTIONS (AGES 9-11)**

### **Woodland Architects (Week 1)**

Shelters! Bridges! Birdhouses! Dive into a week of design and creation as you gather, stack, tie, hammer and glue. Campers will have the opportunity to work individually and in groups to design and create several projects that either use materials found in the woods or benefit our ecosystem. There will also be time for hiking, exploration, and games. This camp will culminate in a final group project, designed and built by the group!

### **Tinder, Spark & Flame (Week 2 )**

With a steady breath you bring your bundle of bark and grasses to life; watch as the flame you created grows larger as it's fed bits of dry goldenrod, bark, and twigs. This camp explores the basics of firemaking and how to use fire as a tool. Campers will learn how to create and manage fire in a safe and responsible way through hands-on activities, games, and storytelling. Opportunities to practice outdoor cooking, make a burned bowl, and learn more campfire bushcraft skills will be offered throughout the week.

### **Nature's Palette (Week 3 )**

Nature can inspire art and provide the tools to make it. This camp will experiment with making paints and stains from minerals and plants, and paint brushes from pine needles and grasses. Campers will have opportunities to try crafts like pottery and cobb, weaving, cordage, printing, and more. Time for hiking, exploration and nature games will be offered. Create a field journal, a palette of nature paints, and crafts to take home.

### **Digging Through Time (Week 4 )**

Help uncover the history of our own backyard and learn about the Euro-American settlers who migrated to the Bristol Hills 200 years ago! History will come alive as campers try pioneer skills like pottery and pit firing, drop spindle spinning, candle making, weaving, building fieldstone walls, roofing shakes, and learning to cook pioneer foods like corn cakes and apples n' onions over an open fire. Campers will also visit the Frost Town archaeological site for a hands-on archaeological experience.

### **Pond & Stream Explorers (Week 5 )**

Dragonfly nymphs, spotted newts, tadpoles, and water scorpions are just some of the animals to discover in the water at CNC. Through games and hands-on experience, campers learn about the unique lives and adaptations of amphibians, insects, and other animals found in ponds and streams. The importance of a variety of freshwater aquatic habitats will be investigated. There will also be opportunities to collect data, analyze basic water chemistry, try fishing, do arts and crafts, cool one's toes in the creek, and build a miniature boat to sail downstream.

### **Bushcraft Adventures (Week 6 )**

The beautiful, natural surroundings of Cumming Nature Center offer an ideal setting for this discovery-based camp. Fire skills, nature awareness games, foraging, trail navigation, and campfire cookery are just some of the activities Bushcraft Adventurers will enjoy during their week at CNC. Campers will have the option to try their hand at whittling a spoon or bowl, making a throw stick, leathercrafting, and more.

### **Wings n' Things (Week 7 )**

Have you ever wondered what it would like to be a hawk, soaring overhead, or an owl, silently drifting through the woods at night? Turn your eyes to the sky and explore the fascinating wonders of the avian world as you discover bird adaptations, learn bird calls, search for bird signs, and learn how to identify some of our winged friends. You may even get to meet a bird or two along the way!

### **Junior Naturalists (Week 8)**

Discover the complexities of the natural world in a week of exploration at Cumming Nature Center. Campers will learn to identify insects, trees, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, and use a plant press to start their own naturalist collection. Come hike the trails, experience the backwoods, explore the ponds, and join in on eco-games as you become a junior naturalist.

## **CAMP DESCRIPTIONS (AGES 12-15)**

### **Survivor (Week 2 & Week 8)**

Learn what it takes to survive in the wilderness! Campers will build debris huts, get clean water, make tools, and learn several ways to build fire. You will learn the art of natural navigation, stalking skills, edible plant identification, and basic bushcraft activities as you get to know your survival buddies deep in the forests of Cumming Nature Center. End the week with an ultimate Survivor challenge!

### **Archaeology Adventures (Week 3 )**

Head outdoors and discover what it's like to work in the fascinating field of archaeology. Uncover the history of the early Euro-American settlers who lived in the Frost Town settlement located on the grounds of Cumming Nature Center. Campers will participate in a guided archaeological excavation, open test units, and find real artifacts from this 200 year-old settlement. In addition, campers can try their hand at pioneer skills, crafts, and living through hands-on activities!

### **Youth Hunter Camp (Week 4 )**

Explore the tradition of hunting while learning the importance of wildlife management, habitat, and how to be a positive role model for sportsperson activities. Activity topics include conservation ethics, firearm safety, hunting safety, and wildlife identification. The sportsman portion of the camp will be taught by Department of Environmental Conservation personnel. In addition to attending a week of camp, youth will obtain their New York State Hunter Education Certificate.

*\*Participants who wish to obtain the certification will be required to complete a workbook before camp. 11 year olds can participate in this camp upon request. Call the nature center at 585.374.6160 for details.*

### **Youth Bowhunter and Trapper Camp (Week 5 )**

Explore the heritage skills of bow hunting and trapping. Youth hunters will learn about wildlife and furbearer management, environmental conservation, wildlife tracking, archery, trapping safety and wildlife ethics. The sportsman portion of the camp will be taught by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation personnel. In addition to attending a week of camp, youth will obtain their New York State Bowhunter Education and Trapper Education Certificates.

*\*Participants who wish to obtain the certifications will be required to complete a workbook for each certification before camp. 11 year olds can participate in this camp upon request. Call the nature center at 585.374.6160 for details.*

## THE WALDEN SUMMER EXPERIENCE (AGES 14-18)

### **Walden Summer Experience (Week 2 🚌)**

This summer you can experience a week of The Walden Project, the innovative outdoor high school program. This summer you can experience a week of The Walden Project, the innovative outdoor high school program inspired by Henry David Thoreau and based at Cumming Nature Center! This week-long camp is perfect for students who are considering a year at Walden - or anyone who is interested in exploring self, society, and the environment. Participants will be immersed in the Walden experience: talking philosophy around the campfire, hiking through the woods, nature writing, gardening, and more!