



**All 2024 CNC Summer Curiosity Camps take place at the RMSC  
Cumming Nature Center in Naples, NY.**

Looking for the RMSC Museum & Science Center camps? [Click here](#)


*Explore the table below for camp information. Click the age group you are interested in below to navigate to full camp descriptions.*

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

### Pricing

Type of Camp	Cost
<b>Full Day Camps (Ages 6-8, 9-11, 12-15)</b> <b>9am-4pm</b>	\$305 per week
<b>Busing from Rochester*</b>	\$80 per week
<b>Extended Care**</b>	<b>Before Care (7:45-9am):</b> \$10/day or \$45/week <b>After Care (4-5:30pm):</b> \$10/day or \$45/week <b>Combo (Before &amp; After):</b> \$80/week

\*  Busing from the RMSC Rochester campus is available Weeks 2 through Weeks 7

\*\*  Extended care is only available July 8-12 (Week 1) and August 26-30 (Week 8)

## AGES 6–8

Full Day Campers spend the whole day exploring the natural world! Investigate ecology and nature-based skills, explore the forests of the CNC, and let your curiosity run wild! Campers must bring their own snack and lunch.

Week	Dates	Camp Name
WEEK 1	July 8-12 🕒	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nature's Playground</li><li>• Field Guide to Fairies &amp; Gnomes</li></ul>
WEEK 2	July 15-19 🚌	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amazing Mammals</li><li>• Muck Hunters</li></ul>
WEEK 3	July 22-26 🚌	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Superpower Senses</li></ul>
WEEK 4	July 29-August 2 🚌	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creepy Crawly Creatures</li></ul>
WEEK 5	August 5-9 🚌	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field Guide to Fairies &amp; Gnomes</li><li>• Friends of the Forest</li></ul>
WEEK 6	August 12-16 🚌	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nature's Playground</li><li>• Songs of the Forest</li></ul>
WEEK 7	August 19-23 🚌	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creepy Crawly Creatures</li></ul>
WEEK 8	August 26-30 🕒	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Muck Hunters</li><li>• Friends of the Forest</li></ul>

## DESCRIPTIONS (AGES 6–8)

### NATURE'S PLAYGROUND

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.

### FIELD GUIDE TO FAIRIES & GNOMES

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. Throughout the week our spritely group will collect a Field Guide of stories, descriptions, and illustrations to create an enchanting book everyone takes home!

## AMAZING MAMMALS

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.

## MUCK HUNTERS

Gurgling and glugging, slippery and slinking, explore the lives of slugs, salamanders, skunk cabbage, and other fascinating creatures of the swamp. 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 are recommended for this camp.*

## SUPERPOWER SENSES

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!

## CREEPY CRAWLY CREATURES

Large or small, cute or creepy, everything in nature plays an important part! From snails to millipedes, this camp will focus on all the tiny critters that wriggle, scuttle, and slither. Campers will get up close and personal with insects, worms, and other "unhuggable" creatures while learning about their lives and role in the ecosystem.

## FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

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.

## SONGS OF THE FOREST

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!

## AGES 9–11

Full Day Campers spend the whole day exploring the natural world! Investigate ecology and nature-based skills, explore the forests of the CNC, and let your curiosity run wild! Campers must bring their own snack and lunch.

Week	Dates	Camp Name
WEEK 1	July 8-12 🕒	Tinder, Spark & Flame
WEEK 2	July 15-19 🚌	Woodland Architects
WEEK 3	July 22-26 🚌	Pond & Stream Explorers
WEEK 4	July 29-August 2 🚌	Jr. Naturalists
WEEK 5	August 5-9 🚌	Digging Through Time
WEEK 6	August 12-16 🚌	Wings n' Things
WEEK 7	August 19-23 🚌	Nature's Palette
WEEK 8	August 26-30 🕒	Bushcraft Adventures

## DESCRIPTIONS (AGES 9–11)

### TINDER, SPARK, & FLAME

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. Throughout the week campers will practice outdoor cooking, learn to make a burned bowl, and discover more campfire bushcraft skills.

### WOODLAND ARCHITECTS

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!

## **POND & STREAM EXPLORERS**

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.

## **JR. NATURALISTS**

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.

## **DIGGING THROUGH TIME**

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, basket-making, and learning to make butter. Campers will also visit the Frost Town archeological site for a hands-on archeological experience.

*\*Camp on Wednesday will take place at the RMSC in Rochester. Transportation will not be provided.*

## **WINGS N' THINGS**

Have you ever wondered what it would be 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!

## **NATURE'S PALETTE**




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.

## **BUSHCRAFT ADVENTURES**

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.

## AGES 12–15

Full Day Campers spend the whole day exploring the natural world! Investigate ecology and nature-based skills, explore the forests of the CNC, and let your curiosity run wild! Campers must bring their own snack and lunch.

Week	Dates	Camp Name
WEEK 3	July 22-26 	Survivor
WEEK 4	July 29-August 2 	Archaeology Adventures
WEEK 7	August 19-23 	Survivor

## DESCRIPTIONS (AGES 12–15)

### SURVIVOR

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


Head outdoors and discover what it's like to work in the fascinating field of archeology. 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 archeological 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!

*\*Camp on Wednesday will take place at the RMSC in Rochester. Transportation will not be provided.*

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## AGES 14-18

The Walden Summer Experience offers campers the opportunity to experience a week of The Walden Project, an innovative outdoor high school program based at Cumming Nature Center.

Week	Dates	Camp Name
WEEK 3	July 15-19 	Walden Summer Experience

### WALDEN SUMMER EXPERIENCE

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!

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