

Nature Day Camp Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register for Nature Day Camp?

Registration can be done by mail (400 S. Badour Road, Midland, MI 48640), in person (at the Visitor Center Trailer), by fax (989-631-7070) or over the phone (989-631-0830). Registration for 2010 begins Tuesday, April 6th at 8am. Please be sure you have all of your information available when you call. Payment is expected at the time of registration. Registration forms are available in the printed brochure or online at www.chippewanaturecenter.org/kidventures.

My child has special needs, can s/he attend Nature Day Camp?

We are able to accommodate some children with some special needs. Our ability to accommodate children depends on their needs, our staff availability, and the program the child is interested in attending. We strive to give each child an excellent outdoor experience, so please contact Jenn Kirts, Day Camp Director, prior to registering to discuss the needs of your child. She will be happy to work with you to determine if the Nature Day Camp staff can provide a quality experience for your child.

Our grandchildren would like to attend camp and we are members, can we pay the member rate for their registrations?

In order for children to receive the member rate for Nature Day Camp registration either the child must have an individual membership in their own name, or a family membership must be held by the household in which they reside. So, if your grandchildren live with you and you have a family membership, then you may register them at the member rate. If your grandchildren do not live with you, then your Senior Family membership does not cover their day camp registration, but you may purchase an individual or family membership for them.

My child would like to attend with a friend, is there a way to ensure they will be together?

If your child would like to attend with a friend, they must register for the same session. At registration or on their health form, they should request being in the same group as their friend. Requests must be mutual in order to be honored.

What training do the counselors have?

All Nature Day Camp counselors participate in a week-long training at Chippewa Nature Center prior to the start of camp. Over the course of the summer, counselors are mentored, advised, and trained by the Program Coordinator and Camp Director on a regular basis. All counselors have graduated high school and some have completed their undergraduate degrees. All staff are certified in First Aid and CPR through the American Red Cross. Many of our staff have grown up attending Nature Day Camp and others come to us from area colleges and universities and where they are majoring in education, outdoor recreation, biology, or wildlife.

Who attends overnights with the campers?

Either the Day Camp Director, Jenn Kirts, or Program Coordinator, Steve Frisbee attend Day Camp overnights along with the campers' counselor and often a junior counselor. Adventure trips are supervised by two Adventure Trip Leaders who are certified in First Aid and CPR and one of them is a certified Wilderness First Responder. We do not permit parents to attend overnight camps. If you have specific concerns about a campout, please feel free to talk to Jenn or Steve.

How do I contact the Camp Director?

Jenn Kirts, Day Camp Director, can be reached the following ways:

By phone –

Mid-August through May call the Visitor Center at 989-631-0830.

June through mid-August call the Nature Study Building at 989-835-9661.

By e-mail – jkirts@chippewanaturecenter.org

During day camp, e-mail is only checked once a day; during the rest of the year, e-mail is checked regularly.

By mail –

Chippewa Nature Center
400 S. Badour Road
Midland, MI 48640

In person –

Jenn is present at drop off and pick up from Nature Day Camp daily. Any staff member will be happy to point her out. During the off season, you can stop by the Visitor Center and they will see if she is available or you can call to make an appointment.

Are scholarships available for Nature Day Camp?

Our scholarships are administered through the schools in Midland County. Each school is offered a scholarship for a specific session of camp and school staff select a student based on need and other criteria. We offer over 60 scholarships each year, allowing many children who would not otherwise be able to attend camp to enjoy the experience. Scholarships are funded through donations to the Dorothy Dow Arbury Educational Fund here at the Chippewa Nature Center. At this time we are not able to offer scholarships outside of those offered through the schools.