



Briar Bush

NATURE CENTER



WELCOME

Our Summer Camp Program

Summer is a time when learning and play go hand-in-hand. Briar Bush Summer Camps give your child the opportunity to experience the wonders of nature through scientific discovery, interpretive hikes, live animal encounters, games, crafts, nature play, and more.

For campers ages 4-12, our 12.5 acres of forest serve as a rich oasis and perfect summer camp setting in the middle of the suburbs. We also provide campers ages 8-12 with the opportunity to explore outside of the Briar Bush forest through regional day trips. Campers ages 11-15 are able to join us for Overnight Camp to Ricketts Glen State Park. We look forward to providing your child with memories full of excitement, new experiences, nature exploration, and all-around fun in the outdoors.

Our Summer Camp Staff

We are very fortunate to have highly experienced educators who love what they do. Our camp staff pass a rigorous battery of clearances, complete relevant trainings and certifications, and care about the health and safety of our campers. Staff members recognize that summer camp is a unique experience in a child's life and are dedicated to providing an exceptional experience for each child.



Year-round staff members lead Full-Day Travel Camps for Ages 8-9 and Full-Day Travel Camps for Ages 10-12 while seasonal counselors lead Seedlings Half-Day Camps for Ages 4-6 and Saplings Full-Day Camps for Ages 6-7. Our seasonal camp counselors are typically college students or recent college graduates who are carefully selected after an extensive interview process is completed and all clearances have been passed. Their skills, character, experiences, and leadership add to the success of our summer camp program.

Camp Aides, teenage summer camp volunteers, accompany and assist counselors throughout the summer. Their dedication to our camp program, love of nature, and joy of working with children make all the difference in our summer camp program and in the life of each camper.

If you have any questions regarding Summer Camp, please call (215) 887-6603 to speak with Melissa Eldridge, Director of Public Programs.

GENERAL CAMP INFORMATION



Registration

Members-Only Registration begins at 7:00am on Monday, January 30, 2023 for Friends of Briar Bush Members at the Household Level or above.

Registration opens to the public at 12:00pm on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

To register, please visit our website at www.briarbush.org or call (215) 887-6603. Payment is due in full at the time of registration.

Discounts

Friends of Briar Bush Members at the Household Level or above receive a 20% discount on our summer camp programs. You may purchase a membership at the time of registration to take advantage of early enrollment and discounted fees.

Abington Township residents, who do not hold a current FOBB Household Membership, receive a 10% discount. Be sure to register your residency on your account to activate the discount on your order.

Discounts apply to camp fees only; extended care is not discounted.

Scholarships

At Briar Bush Nature Center, we believe nature is for everyone. To apply for a scholarship, submit an application and required materials as outlined on our website or call for a paper application.

The deadline for applications is Friday, March 31, 2023.

Scholarships are determined on a rolling, first-come-first-served basis.

Refunds and Cancellations

If you cancel the program 14 days or more before its start date, you will receive an 80% refund (20% service fee). No refunds will be issued within 14 days of the program start date.

Before Care

Half/Full-Day Campers

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

\$30/week

After Care

Half/Full-Day Campers

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

\$45/week



SEEDLINGS HALF-DAY CAMPS FOR AGES 4-6

AM SESSION: 9:30AM - 12:00PM; PM SESSION: 1:30PM - 4:00PM

DATE* = FOUR-DAY CAMP WEEK

The five camp themes below repeat two to three times throughout the summer. Campers cannot be registered for the same theme more than once. Campers registered for more than one week per theme will be removed.

Pond Explorers

Instructor: Seasonal Staff

June 12-16	\$260.00	Res: \$234.00	Mem: \$208.00
July 17-21	\$260.00	Res: \$234.00	Mem: \$208.00
August 21-25	\$260.00	Res: \$234.00	Mem: \$208.00

Let's catch frogs and tadpoles, take a closer look at insects that live in the pond, make stream boats, and meet our aquatic turtles.

Come join us at our pond and make a splash!

Bugs and Slugs

Instructor: Seasonal Staff

June 20-23*	\$235.00	Res: \$211.50	Mem: \$188.00
July 24-28	\$260.00	Res: \$234.00	Mem: \$208.00
August 28-September 1	\$260.00	Res: \$234.00	Mem: \$208.00

During the summer months, Briar Bush is a paradise for creepy-crawlies. With magnifiers, microscopes, and our eyes, we'll stop and take a closer look at these amazing, tiny creatures found on the trails.

Naturally Artistic

Instructor: Seasonal Staff

June 26-30	\$260.00	Res: \$234.00	Mem: \$208.00
July 31-August 4	\$260.00	Res: \$234.00	Mem: \$208.00

Nature will be our inspiration this week as we create music and artwork reflecting the natural world and its inhabitants. Be sure to pack your creativity and imagination!

Animal Superpowers

Instructor: Seasonal Staff

July 3, 5-7*	\$235.00	Res: \$211.50	Mem: \$188.00
August 7-11	\$260.00	Res: \$234.00	Mem: \$208.00

From birds to mammals to reptiles and more, Briar Bush is home to a variety of animals equipped with their own special superpowers. Come explore amazing animal adaptations through live animal encounters, outdoor exploration, and games galore!

Sensing Nature

Instructor: Seasonal Staff

July 10-14	\$260.00	Res: \$234.00	Mem: \$208.00
August 14-18	\$260.00	Res: \$234.00	Mem: \$208.00

Come and smell the flowers, see animals in their habitat, hear robins sing their songs, feel the soft fur and the rough scales of our animal friends, and taste sweet local honey. Your senses are your tools this week as you explore the wonders of nature at Briar Bush!



SAPLINGS FULL-DAY CAMPS FOR AGES 6-7

9:30AM - 4:00PM

DATE* = FOUR-DAY CAMP WEEK

The five camp themes below repeat two to three times throughout the summer. Campers cannot be registered for the same theme more than once. Campers registered for more than one week per theme will be removed.

Junior Naturalists

Instructor: Seasonal Staff

June 20-23* \$355.00 | Res: \$319.50 | **Mem: \$284.00**

July 24-28 \$380.00 | Res: \$342.00 | **Mem: \$304.00**

August 28-September 1 \$380.00 | Res: \$342.00 | **Mem: \$304.00**

Join us on a journey of exploration and education and become a Junior Naturalist through hands-on discovery, nature journaling, animal encounters, and more!

Our Microscopic World

Instructor: Seasonal Staff

June 26-30 \$380.00 | Res: \$342.00 | **Mem: \$304.00**

July 31-August 4 \$380.00 | Res: \$342.00 | **Mem: \$304.00**

Dig for and discover the creatures that inhabit the soil, use a microscope to examine macroinvertebrates from our pond, and grab a magnifying glass and explore the tiny parts that make up a flower. Let's take a closer look at our microscopic world!

Solving Nature's Mysteries

Instructor: Seasonal Staff

July 3, 5-7* \$355.00 | Res: \$319.50 | **Mem: \$284.00**

August 7-11 \$380.00 | Res: \$342.00 | **Mem: \$304.00**

This week, we'll follow tracks, dig up bones, and study nests and other animal homes as we investigate, collect, and analyze evidence to help solve mysteries and become Nature Detectives!

Where the Wild Things Wander

Instructor: Seasonal Staff

July 10-14 \$380.00 | Res: \$342.00 | **Mem: \$304.00**

August 14-18 \$380.00 | Res: \$342.00 | **Mem: \$304.00**

Get ready to explore the captive and wild animals at Briar Bush while learning about why their habitat is a suitable place to live. Together, we'll discover where the wild things wander!

Earth Keepers

Instructor: Seasonal Staff

July 17-21 \$380.00 | Res: \$342.00 | **Mem: \$304.00**

August 21-25 \$380.00 | Res: \$342.00 | **Mem: \$304.00**

The Earth provides us with many opportunities to explore, discover, and get our hands dirty! This week, we'll be out in nature finding wild plants and animals and learning to appreciate all of Earth's wonders.



FULL-DAY TRAVEL CAMPS FOR AGES 8-9



9:30AM - 4:00PM | DATE* = FOUR-DAY CAMP WEEK

FEES FOR REGIONAL FIELD TRIPS ARE INCLUDED IN CAMP COST. SEE FAQs.

The five camp themes below repeat twice throughout the summer. Campers cannot be registered for the same theme more than once. Campers registered for more than one week per theme will be removed.

Nature Explorers II

Instructor: Heidi Malizia

June 20-23* \$440.00 | Res: \$396.00 | **Mem: \$352.00**

July 31-August 4 \$465.00 | Res: \$418.50 | **Mem: \$372.00**

Discover the wonders of nature in this adventure-based camp. Look forward to kayaking at Giving Pond, indoor rock climbing, hiking to some local waterways, and hitting the bullseye during archery at Alverthorpe Park!

Animals All Around II

Instructor: Katie Fisk

June 26-30 \$435.00 | Res: \$391.50 | **Mem: \$348.00**

August 7-11 \$435.00 | Res: \$391.50 | **Mem: \$348.00**

For this second edition, we'll learn about working animals at Milky Way Farm, as well as wild-life rehabilitation and proper pet care. We'll spend time with our animal ambassadors, aiding in their care, learning about enrichment, and getting some hands-on time with them, too!

Backyard Builders

Instructor: Briar Bush Educator

July 3, 5-7* \$380.00 | Res: \$342.00 | **Mem: \$304.00**

August 14-18 \$405.00 | Res: \$364.50 | **Mem: \$324.00**

Calling all budding engineers, artists, and nature-lovers! Nature provides an endless supply of "loose parts" for creative invention. This week, we'll use natural and recycled materials to create forts, toys, games, and more. We'll also create brick-tacular structures at LEGOLAND!

Primitive Skills

Instructor: Ehren Gross

July 10-14 \$405.00 | Res: \$364.50 | **Mem: \$324.00**

August 21-25 \$405.00 | Res: \$364.50 | **Mem: \$324.00**

Look forward to developing the skills of fire-making, shelter-building, and tool-making without the use of modern machinery. We'll take trips to local greenspaces, as well as Churchville Nature Center's Lenape Village, where we'll learn more and improve these primitive skills.

Wild Waterways

Instructor: Briar Bush Educator

July 17-21 \$405.00 | Res: \$364.50 | **Mem: \$324.00**

August 28-September 1 \$405.00 | Res: \$364.50 | **Mem: \$324.00**

The heat of the summer is the perfect time to explore local waterways. Come spray, splatter, wade, and wallow while we learn about the importance of water and the creatures that live in it! We'll even visit Tulpehaking Nature Center to determine the health of the local watershed.

FULL-DAY TRAVEL CAMPS FOR AGES 10-12

9:30AM - 4:00PM | DATE* = FOUR-DAY CAMP WEEK

FEES FOR REGIONAL FIELD TRIPS ARE INCLUDED IN CAMP COST. SEE FAQs.

The five camp themes below repeat twice throughout the summer. Campers cannot be registered for the same theme more than once. Campers registered for more than one week per theme will be removed.

Forces of Nature

Instructor: Ehren Gross

June 20-23* \$380.00 | Res: \$342.00 | **Mem: \$304.00**

July 31-August 4 \$405.00 | Res: \$364.50 | **Mem: \$324.00**

This week, young apprentices will train in all terrains to master nature's forces of water, earth, wind, and fire. Apprentices will create sabers, complete training trials, battle evil forces, and return balance to the universe!

Aquatic Adventures

Instructor: Briar Bush Educator

June 26-30 \$435.00 | Res: \$391.50 | **Mem: \$348.00**

August 7-11 \$435.00 | Res: \$391.50 | **Mem: \$348.00**

Let's get wet and wild as we explore local waterways and aquatic ecosystems! We'll spend the week collecting macroinvertebrates and practicing fishing at Briar Bush, Alverthorpe Park, and other waterways. We'll even have a guided tour at another local nature center's waterway!

Outdoor Adventure II

Instructor: Heidi Malizia

July 3, 5-7* \$440.00 | Res: \$396.00 | **Mem: \$352.00**

August 14-18 \$465.00 | Res: \$418.50 | **Mem: \$372.00**

Looking for an adrenaline rush? Look no further! This year, we'll step it up a notch with outdoor rock climbing at Ralph Stover, paddling local waterways, exploring treetop obstacles and zip-lines at TreeTrails Adventures, stream-stomping, hiking, and taking aim with archery.

Daring Camp for Girls

Instructor: Katie Fisk

July 10-14 \$465.00 | Res: \$418.50 | **Mem: \$372.00**

August 21-25 \$465.00 | Res: \$418.50 | **Mem: \$372.00**

Inspired by *The Daring Book for Girls* by Miriam Peskowitz, this camp is for those who identify as girls and have a spirit for adventure. Our daring girls will get outside building fires, exploring a cave, learning archery, using power tools, and just being themselves!

Outdoor Survival II

Instructor: Briar Bush Educator

July 17-21 \$405.00 | Res: \$364.50 | **Mem: \$324.00**

August 28-September 1 \$405.00 | Res: \$364.50 | **Mem: \$324.00**

The most important tool in a survival situation is your brain and this camp is designed to put it to the test! Can you solve problems using only the clothes on your back, catch a fish with only a hook and piece of fishing line, or start a fire without matches? Both veterans and first-time Outdoor Survival campers will find this week both fun and challenging!



OVERNIGHT CAMP FOR AGES 11-15

MONDAY: 9:30AM - 4:00PM; TUESDAY-FRIDAY: OVERNIGHT; FRIDAY: PICK-UP AT BBNC AT 4:00PM
FEES FOR REGIONAL FIELD TRIPS ARE INCLUDED IN CAMP COST. SEE FAQs.

Overnight Camp

Instructor: Mark Fallon and Seasonal Staff

July 24-28

\$560.00 | Res: \$504.00 | **Mem: \$448.00**

Join us for a memorable camping adventure at Ricketts Glen State Park! Campers come to Briar Bush on Monday, sleep at home, then stay overnight Tuesday-Friday. There's so much to do, we can't list it all: safe camping skills, night hikes, creek walks, waterfalls, swimming, songs, s'mores around the campfire, and more. Look forward to a week immersed in nature, teamwork, and self-reliance!

*Overnight Camp was originally advertised as taking place at Hickory Run State Park. However, due to scheduled construction at the Organized Group Tenting Area, Overnight Camp will now be taking place at Ricketts Glen State Park.



CAMP AIDE PROGRAM FOR AGES 13+

Our Camp Aide Program

Camp Aides are an important aspect of Briar Bush Nature Center's Summer Camp program. Our Camp Aide Program is designed to give teens the opportunity to serve alongside summer camp staff while gaining naturalist, leadership, education, and communication skills; earning community service hours; building resume experience; and having a fun-filled summer.

Camp Aides will assist the counselors with camp preparation, group management, daily activities, preparing snack, camp cleanup, and more. Camp Aides are expected to model appropriate behavior and actively participate in games and activities, nature exploration, and camper support.

Requirements and Application

Briar Bush Nature Center seeks hard-working, patient, fun-loving, and energetic teens to volunteer for our Camp Aide Program. Camp Aides must be 13+ years of age and volunteer for a minimum of two full weeks of summer camp.

Interested? Complete the application found on our website, www.briarbush.org, for consideration.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How many campers are within each camp group?

The Seedlings Half-Day Camps for Ages 4-6 have a total of six campers per AM and PM Session. The Saplings Full-Day Camps for Ages 6-7, Full-Day Travel Camps for Ages 8-9, and Full-Day Travel Camps for Ages 10-12 each have a total of twelve campers per session. Overnight Camp for Ages 11-15 has a total of 10 campers.

Who will be overseeing my child's camp group?

Each camp group is lead by a year-round or seasonal adult counselor. Two to three teenage volunteer camp aides are scheduled to assist the counselor.

What activities occur during the week? Will my child travel offsite?

Children in the Seedlings Half-Day Camps for Ages 4-6 will participate in activities onsite at Briar Bush Nature Center. Children in the Saplings Full-Day Camps for Ages 6-7 will participate in activities onsite, but will also walk to Highland Elementary School to utilize the playground and field. Most activities will relate to the camp theme, but campers can always look forward to live animal encounters, guided hikes, pond exploration, and visiting the Griscom Bird Observatory regardless of the theme.

Children in the Full-Day Travel Camps for Ages 8-9 and Full-Day Travel Camps for Ages 10-12 will participate in some activities at Briar Bush Nature Center, but will mostly travel to regional places of interest relating to the camp theme to participate in activities such as kayaking, tree-climbing, hiking, creek-walking, farm tours, and more. These camps will utilize the Briar Bush vans in which all passengers must wear seat belts. If your child requires a booster seat, note this on the medical form. Review the camp descriptions for more information. Be sure to assess your child's interests and abilities before registering as your child may not have the opportunity to sit out of certain activities.

Can I register my child for multiple weeks of the same theme?

No, children cannot be registered for the same theme more than once. Children registered for more than one week per theme will be removed from the week of your choice and refunded.

How can I best prepare for Summer Camp Registration?

In order to best prepare for Summer Camp Registration, be sure to fully review the offerings and have your camp choices ready to go.

As most camps fill at the opening of Members-Only Registration, it may be in your best interest to purchase a FOBB Membership at the Household Level or above to have access to Summer Camp Registration before the general public. It is recommended to purchase the membership in advance of registration so you will just need to select camps.

If you do not already have an account with our online registration system, create an account, purchase or renew your membership, and practice navigating the system so you are prepared for registration. However, please be aware that our camps fill VERY quickly and you may not be able to secure a spot, even if you've purchased a membership and prepared in advance. If this is the case, please call to be added to the waiting list.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONT.



Will I receive additional information about my child's camp(s)?



Yes, after camp registration, you will receive a confirmation email with your receipt of the order and the Camp Handbook attached. Approximately two to three weeks before your child's scheduled camp week, you will receive a Camp Itinerary via email that outlines general camp activities as well as some friendly reminders.

Do I need to complete a medical form?

Yes, you must complete a medical form after camp registration. In the confirmation email, you will find a link to our electronic medical form in the highlighted section. We must have this form completed at least three weeks before your child's scheduled camp week in order to participate. This medical form also includes a pick-up authorization section, as we check IDs at pick-up. Only one form is required for the camp season.

How do I drop-off and pick-up for camp?

We implement a carline for drop-off and pick-up. Drive down the one-way parking lot and stop at the garage to check-in with camp staff. It is policy for our staff to check photo IDs at pickup. If you need to pick-up early or have another adult pick-up who is not on the authorization list, please contact the Director of Public Programs.

What should my child wear to camp?

Your child should dress for outdoor play - it's nature camp and we're gonna get wet and dirty! Your child should wear shorts/pants, a t-shirt, and closed-toed shoes or sandals. Flip-flops and other open-toed shoes are not allowed.

What should my child bring to camp?

Your child should come to camp with a backpack complete with a filled reusable water bottle between 20oz-32oz, snacks, lunch (Full-Day Campers), a full set of extra clothes, a pair of water-only closed-toed shoes/sandals, rain jacket, a plastic bag for wet/dirty clothing, insect repellent, and sunscreen. Personal items such as toys, games, stuffed animals, etc. should be left at home.

What if it rains?

In the case of rain, campers will put on their rain gear and keep exploring! We seek shelter in heavy rain, thunderstorms, and excessive heat. We will contact families in the event of cancellation or early dismissal due to extreme weather conditions.

What if my child is sick?

If your child isn't feeling well, please stay home and report the absence. If your child isn't feeling well at camp, we will notify you and early pick-up may be necessary.

Should I be concerned about poison ivy or ticks?

Our camp staff is trained to identify and avoid hazards like poison ivy and ticks, and they teach the campers these skills as well. However, be sure to check your child for ticks after each camp day.



Briar Bush

NATURE CENTER

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Abington, PA 19001

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