
2024 Summer Camp Guide

Tanglewood Nature Center and Museum
An opportunity to play, explore, & discover the great outdoors!



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Note from the Camp Directors:

Thank you for your interest in our summer camps! We are thrilled to be able to provide such a unique and exciting opportunity for your children to learn about their relationship to the natural world while supporting their physical, social, and intellectual growth.

It is our goal to get your children outdoors to explore and enjoy what Tanglewood has to offer. With our 9+ miles of hiking trails, 300+ acres, live animals, nature museum, and the solar-powered lodge there is plenty to explore!

Sincerely,
Maggie Groce, Camp Director
Ryan Donnelly, Camp Assistant Director

Summer Camps at a Glance

All summer camps for 2024 will be in the Lodge.

We will be following New York State Health Department guidelines that are in place at the time of summer camp.

Week:	Completed Grades:	Camp Theme:
July 1 st – July 3 rd <i>No camp on Thursday 7/4 and Friday 7/5!</i>	K-2 nd grade 3 rd - 5 th grade	Winged Wonders Nature of STEM
July 8 th – July 12 th	K-2 nd grade 3 rd - 5 th grade	Camp Yucky Forest Investigators
July 15 th – July 19 th	K-2 nd grade 3 rd - 5 th grade	Pond and Beyond Kid vs Wild
July 22 nd – July 26 th	K-2 nd grade 3 rd - 5 th grade	Planet Protectors Game On!
July 29 th – Aug 2 nd	K-2 nd grade 3 rd - 5 th grade	Dino Discovery Nature's Canvas
Aug 5 th – Aug 9 th	K-2 nd grade 3 rd - 5 th grade	Critter Care Animal Pawsibilities
Aug 12 th – Aug 16 th	K-2 nd grade 3 rd - 5 th grade	Go Wild! Go Wild!
Aug 19 th – Aug 23 rd	K-5 th grade	Fort 'n' Forests

Your child must have *completed* at least the earliest grade in the session to register – for example, your child must have finished Kindergarten to enroll in a K-2nd session.

Summer Camp Highlights:

Winged Wonders (K-2)

July 1st-July 3rd (no camp Thursday and Friday!)

- Explore the science of flight, wings, and the animals who use them.
- Learn about how flying works with activities like parachute games, paper airplanes, and our own squeeze bottle rockets!
- Get up close with our winged animal ambassadors like owls and insects.
- This camp is ideal for any aviators in training looking to have some hands-on fun.

Nature of STEM (3-5)

July 1st-July 3rd (no camp Thursday and Friday!)

- Spend the week outside and in the museum getting a hands-on experience with the world of science.
- Learn about topics like the 4 elements (earth, air, water, and fire) and chemistry while taking part in engaging science experiments.
- Create a memory book by practicing your photography skills out on the trails.
- This camp is ideal for creative, inquisitive minds that enjoy being outdoors and creating experiments.

Camp Yucky (K-2)

July 8th-July 12th

- Explore the muddy, slimy, oozy, and sometimes yucky side of science by playing games and creating arts and crafts.
- Dissect an owl pellet while learning about digestion.
- Meet Tanglewood's collection of creepy crawlies.
- This camp is ideal for kids who don't mind getting a little messy and are ready for hands-on nature adventures!
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Forest Investigators (3-5)

July 8th-July 12th

- Play games in the woods that will fine tune your senses.
- Explore creeks, ponds and trees to find camouflaged creatures and hidden secrets of the woods.
- Find fossils and rearrange owl pellet bones to piece together mysteries of the past.
- Take part in various science experiments and games inspired by nature.
- This camp is ideal for inquisitive minds that enjoy being outdoors.

Pond and Beyond (K-2)

July 15th - July 19th

- Spend the week learning about amphibians and what makes them unique.
- Go frog catching in our ponds and hunt for toads on the trails.
- Explore the pond in all aspects: water, mud, and muck to see what makes up a pond habitat.
- This camp is ideal for any kids who loves frogs, toads, and all amphibians and won't mind spending the day getting messy.

Kid vs Wild (3-5)

July 15th-July 19th

- This camp will put your outdoor skills to the test (in a fun way).
- Learn how to use a compass, read a map, and other easy orienteering skills.
- Practice survival skills like plant and berry identification, animal identification and tracking, lean-to construction, fishing, and fire starting all in a safe environment.
- This camp will consist of various hikes on our trails so be prepared for plenty of outdoor time!
- This camp is ideal for kids who would like being outside for most of the day and would like to learn new camping and hiking skills.

Planet Protectors (K-2)

July 22nd-July 26th

- Explore how animal adaptations are nature's true superpowers and how to become a superhero for the environment.
- Learn about different ways you can help the environment everyday while exploring our trails and meeting animals like Sophie the Owl and Pedro the Bearded Dragon.
- Test your superpowers learning about the different senses and completing an obstacle course.
- This camp is ideal for any superhero in training who wants to protect our habitats and animals that inhabit them.



Game On! (3-5)

July 22nd-July 26th

- Learn about outdoor skills inspired from video games like Minecraft, Pokemon, Animal Crossing, Zelda and others!
- Get creative and build your own forts and crafts using resources around you.
- Learn about how tools from video games like drones can be used to help the environment.
- Explore our woods with guided hikes and a campfire at the end of the week.
- This camp is ideal for kids who want to put their video game skills to the test in real world.

Dino Discovery (K-2)

July 29th-Aug 2nd

- Explore the woods on our trails to find your very own fossils.
- Get up close and personal with the dinosaur descendants that we have here at Tanglewood like Hank the hawk, Fluffy the snake, and Pedro the bearded dragon.
- Hatch a dinosaur egg.
- This camp is ideal for any dinosaur, reptile, or nature lover.

Nature's Canvas (3-5)

July 29th-August 2nd

- Nature is filled with art, so spend the week creating your own!
- Bring out your creativity by using a multitude of media including photography, paint, clay and recycled materials.
- Learn how scientists and researchers use art on a daily bases by creating your own nature journal and field guide during camp.
- Finish out the week by creating an art museum in the lodge for your family to see.
- This camp is ideal for any creative kids with big imaginations who like being out in nature.

Critter Care (K-2)

August 5th - August 9th

- Learn how we care for over 40 different types of animals at Tanglewood.
- Discover the tricks of training animals with positive reinforcement – working with animals like mammals, birds, and more!
- Personally meet each major animal group and care for our critters from

tooth to toe!

- This camp is ideal for kids who love animals, want to learn how Tanglewood cares for the animals that call us home, and don't mind getting a little messy.

Animal Pawsibilities (3-5)

August 5th - August 9th

- Discover what amazing opportunities there are to work with animals!
- Care for some of animals that call Tanglewood home.
- Uncover the basics of animal training when working with animals like birds and mammals.
- Put your skills to the test with practice "X-rays" and pet exams.
- This camp is ideal for kids who want to work with animals when they grow up and are ready for hands-on animal fun!

Go Wild! (K-2)

August 12th-August 16th

- Go home laughing and grass-stained after a day of playing games.
- Sculpt mud pies and meet some muddy animals.
- Perform science experiments like making your own lava lamp.
- This camp is ideal for kids who enjoy being outdoors and don't mind getting a bit messy!

Go Wild! (3-5)

August 12th-August 16th

- Go home laughing and grass-stained after a day of playing games
- Sculpt mud pies and make fossil prints
- Create works of art with natural items found in the woods
- Work together as we play cooperative and team building games
- This camp is ideal for kids who enjoy being outdoors and don't mind getting a bit messy!

Forts and Forests (K-5)

August 19th – August 23rd

- A week full of fun outdoors!
- Go on a wilderness adventure and build a fort with your friends.
- Make crafts using natural materials.
- Play and explore in the woods and discover who or what might be living there.
- This camp is ideal for kids who love being outdoors and don't mind getting a bit messy!

Daily Schedule

Arrival and dismissal times

Arrival time for regular camp day is 10:00 am. Pick-up is at 3:00 pm. Campers must be signed in upon arrival and signed out by an approved adult with photo I.D. at dismissal. If you require an earlier arrival or later pick-up time, extended days (8:00am-10:00am morning care or 3:00PM-5:00PM afternoon care) are available for an additional fee. *Extended day is relaxed child care and socialization – not the action-packed educational adventure of the regular camp day!*

10:00-10:15 Check-in

10:15-11:30 Morning activity (Mondays- safety review and icebreakers, then fun!)

11:30-12:00 Lunch

12:00-12:30 Free play, games and outside play

12:30-1:45 Afternoon activity

1:45-2:00 Snack

2:00-2:45 Craft

2:45-3:00 Clean-up and recap of the day

What to Bring

Campers should bring a lunch, reusable LARGE water bottle, sunscreen, a hat, bug spray, and a smile! **(No phones, electronics, or personal toys/games)**

Camp Attire

Campers should dress for the weather, rain or shine, and wear comfortable close-toed shoes. Keep in mind that we will be exploring the woods, meadows, and ponds – clothes will get wet or dirty! Bringing rubber boots, water shoes, or an extra pair of socks and sneakers is a good idea.



Staff and Counselors

All staff, volunteers, and counselors undergo a state-mandated background check and training.

Camp Directors

Maggie Groce, Director (volunteer.tanglewood@gmail.com)

Ryan Donnelly, Assistant Director (marketing.tanglewood@gmail.com)

Counselors

Your children's safety is our top priority at Tanglewood Nature Center. Each camp has at least one counselor for every 12 students as mandated by the NYS Health Department. All regular Tanglewood staff are certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR and a staff member will travel with campers on remote hikes. We require that each counselor receives proper training in all safety protocols and emergency procedures. To ensure that all campers and CITs understand our camp rules and regulations, each Monday we spend 15-20 minutes introducing ourselves, doing a practice fire drill, and going over the buddy system.

Counselors in Training (CITs)

Youth volunteers ages 15+ that will assist camp counselors.

Counselors-in-Training for Ages 15+

Becoming a Counselor in Training is a great way to gain leadership experience while working in nature!

Counselors-in-Training (CITs) are youth leaders aged 15+ who assist the camp counselors in providing a safe and fun camp experience at Tanglewood. They will help lead environmental education activities, games, crafts, songs, stories, hikes, and more. Our CITs will also assist with camp preparation, check-in and check-out, and will serve as a positive role model for children in camp. This is an educational position that will involve being placed with two counselors each session for mentoring. Each CIT commits to a minimum of three weeks over the summer.

CIT applications can be found on our website and are due by May 10th to the Camp Co-Director, Maggie Groce (volunteer.tanglewood@gmail.com).

Registration and Cancellation Policies

Pricing and Hours:

- Regular Day 10am-3pm - \$190
- Extended Day 9am-4pm - \$240
- Extended Day 8am-5pm - \$290
- More options available online

Registration:

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. You must be a member of Tanglewood to register a child for camp – **membership fees are not included in the camp registration price**. Registrations can be done *online only* at www.tanglewoodnaturecenter.com. For more information, contact Deanna at (607) 732-6060 ext.100.

Applications:

Applications for camp registration will only be accepted for review upon completion of all application components. Applications that are not complete will not be considered for registration and will not secure placement for camp(s) in any capacity. Upon receiving all components (**camp registration forms, immunization records, and payment**) applications will be considered complete, and enrollment will be secured.

Immunization Records:

Immunization records must be sent in every year, as required by the Health Department. Due to the increasing numbers of people infected with dangerous communicable diseases in the US, we are **only allowing Medical Exemptions for vaccinations**. Please see our website or contact Deanna at 607-732-6060 for the Medical Exemption Form. Thank you for helping us keep the camp children and staff healthy.

Membership:

Membership is crucial to Tanglewood Nature Center's existence. Your support enables Tanglewood to maintain the high standards in nature education we have established over the years, and helps us continue to grow and improve. Our animals, our preservation of 300 acres of field and forest, and our educational outreach is only possible with your help. With help from your membership, we reached 30,000 children in 2023! Being a member, you also receive benefits listed on our website at: www.tanglewoodnaturecenter.com/membershipbenefits Thank you.

Waiting Lists:

If you would like to put your child on a waiting list, please register on our website. Campers registered for the waiting list will be contacted in the order their registration was received. If a response is not received by 12 pm the following day, the next camper on the list will be contacted.

Cancellations:

All cancellations and transfers are subject to a \$25 administrative fee per request. Cancellations made with *more than 2 weeks' notice* will receive a refund less a \$25 administrative fee per request. Cancellations made with *less than 2 weeks' notice* may receive a refund less a \$25 administrative fee, but only if another camper fills the available space. No refunds will be issued if a replacement is not found by 12 pm Wednesday prior to the start of camp.

Camp Transfers and Refunds:

Transfers from one camp into another are considered a cancellation and are subject to a \$25 administrative fee. It is the registrant's responsibility to re-register the camper online. Refunds are only for camp fees. Membership fees are non-refundable.

Illness:

If a camper misses over half a week of camp due to illness, 50% of the camp fee will be refunded. If a camper is unable to attend the entire week, a full refund will be provided. Tanglewood must be notified within 24 hours of illness and a dated doctor's note must be provided within one week for refund.



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I drop my child off in the parking lot?

No. For the safety of all campers, we will be doing a drive up drop-off and pick-up in the lower parking lot by the lodge. Parents and campers will remain in their cars until they are approached by camp staff for daily check-in/ checkout.

What is Tanglewood's discipline policy?

We have a three strike policy. Strike one will be a time out with one of the counselors when a camp rule is broken. Strike two is a time out and a conversation with the Camp Director. Strike three will result in a time out and a conversation with our Executive Director, and parents will be called and asked to pick up their child. Usually, after a time out, children can get back on track and enjoy the day. There is also a no-tolerance policy for bullying and behavior such as punching, hitting, or kicking. Your child may also be sent home if his/her behavior is negatively impacting the other campers.

What if my child takes medications?

Please contact the Camp Director so that we can create a health plan for your child. We cannot administer any medications directly. Children must be able to self-administer their medications, and all medication usage will be supervised.

What about safety?

All permanent staff at Tanglewood are certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR, and seasonal staff are encouraged to become certified as well. This means all staff is equipped to handle safety issues on the trails. However, nature is unpredictable and accidents happen: bee stings, falls, tripping on the trails and other minor injuries can happen. We do ask that campers be active participants in their own safety by asking for clarification if they don't understand, not wandering off, and responding quickly to instructions. If you feel that your child cannot handle these situations, please think twice before sending them to a nature-focused camp.

What if my child has special needs?

Our primary goals are safety and a positive camp experience for all. We're a little different than school – we don't have one-on-one staff, we embrace spontaneity instead of following a strict schedule, and we emphasize teamwork and like to encourage kids to care for their belongings and be self-sufficient. Please understand that our camps are very active with multiple transitions and sensory changes throughout the day. There are times where kids play in mild physical discomfort (like mud, soggy socks from the pond, getting sweaty). If you have questions about whether this camp environment is a good match for your child, please contact the Camp Directors so that we can plan ahead for your child so they are supported and safe at camp.

What is Tanglewood's weather policy?

Camps will not be cancelled due to inclement weather. Campers should come prepared to be outside, so bring rain gear on wet days and jackets on cool days! Refunds for activity cancellations that are weather-related cannot be provided. On extremely hot days we may have to take breaks inside for air-conditioned nature games. We have indoor games and crafts in case of thunder and lightning.