

NEARBY NATURE SUMMER DAYCAMPS FAQs



1. THE BASICS

Who runs your camps and what is your philosophy? Our camps are hosted by the staff and volunteers of Nearby Nature, a non-profit education organization founded in 1992 and based in Eugene's Alton Baker Park. We believe people of all ages and backgrounds, from the tiniest tots to the wisest elders, thrive when they connect personally with nature nearby. We believe time outside in nature is especially important for children, and contributes significantly to their well-being. Last year, campers in our programs spent 16,000+ healthy and happy hours outside!

Where are your camps located? Almost all of our camps are held in Eugene's Alton Baker Park and based in Nearby Nature's amazing Learnscape Garden and Outdoor Classroom (next to the City's Community Garden). Campers spend all of their time outside, both in the Learnscape and out in the park. We also have one camp based at the Cascades Raptor Center, four at Mount Pisgah Arboretum, and several camps with special field trips that have alternative drop-off and/or pick up locations. See individual camp descriptions for details.

What are your camp hours? Camps run between 9 am and 4 pm. Some are half day (9 am-noon or 1-4 pm) and some are full day (9 am-4 pm). Camps for kids aged five and younger are all half day, but on some weeks we have both morning and afternoon sessions for 4-5 year olds, which allows for all day attendance. Pre-camp care is available from 8:30-9 am for all camps except Raptors and the Ridgeline, lunch care is available from 12-1 pm, and after-camp care is available from 4-5 pm for camps in Alton Baker Park (each for a small additional charge).

What ages do you serve? We have camps for kids ages 3-13: Minnows (ages 3-4), Dragonflies (ages 4-5), Tree Frogs (ages 6-8), Blue Herons (ages 8-11), and Owls (ages 11-13). Note: Children in Minnows camps must be potty-trained.

How many children and instructors are in a group? We limit our camp groups to 12 participants. Each group has a paid lead instructor plus one-two trained assistants (most often an adult volunteer and a teen Outdoor Leader).

Who are your camp instructors and volunteers? Each Nearby Nature lead instructor is an experienced outdoor educator. All lead instructors are certified in First Aid and CPR and have passed background checks. Short biographies are posted on our website at nearbynature.org/about-us/staff. Our adult volunteers and teen Outdoor Leaders are trained assistants from all walks of life. Many of our volunteers also work with our school programs and some of our teen assistants were once campers themselves!

2. COSTS and SCHOLARSHIPS

What do your camps cost? Half day camps cost \$120-\$130/week for members and \$140-\$150/week for non-members. Full day camps cost \$240-\$255/ week for members and \$280-\$295/ week for non-members. Camps with slightly higher fees include special locations, visitors, or field trips.

How do I become a member and get camp discounts? You can sign up for a \$55/year membership online when you register for camps. This membership will qualify you for camp discounts as well as free entry into lots of programs throughout the year.

How much does care outside of camp hours cost? Pre-camp care from 8:30-9 am costs \$25/week (\$5/day drop-in). Lunch care from 12-1 pm costs \$35/week (\$7 day drop-in). After-care for camps in Alton Baker Park from 4-5 pm costs \$35/week (\$7/day drop-in). You can sign up in advance for a whole week online or pay a daily drop-in fee. Note: Lunch care is free on weeks when kids are signed up for both a morning and an afternoon half day camp.

Do you have scholarships and how do I apply? Nearby Nature believes all children should have access to affordable outdoor adventures in nature nearby. Camp scholarship assistance is available thanks to the Nearby Nature's Youth Scholarship Fund. To apply, fill out the Scholarship section in your registration form online.

Can I make a donation to the Youth Scholarship Fund? Yes! If your family has the means to help us make our camps accessible to all children, we will happily accept your donation. You can make your donation online when you register for camps.

What is your cancellation policy? Cancellation before 6 pm on Monday two weeks before your camp starts qualifies you for a full refund minus the non-refundable \$35 deposit (\$10 for scholarship recipients). Cancellation by 6 pm on Monday one week before your camp starts qualifies you for a 50% refund of camp tuition. No refunds can be made for cancellations after 6 pm on Monday one week before camp starts. Cancellation by us may happen if there is insufficient enrollment seven days prior to a camp. You will be notified promptly and your full payment refunded.

3. REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

How do I register? Register on-line at campscui.active.com/orgs/NearbyNature. For a paper copy of our form or Spanish language assistance with registration, email info@nearbynature.org or call 541-687-9699.

What should I do if I think my child would do better in an age group other than their own? Our policy is to keep children together with their age level peers, however, we are willing to consider your request. Please contact our Daycamps Coordinator at 541-687-9699 to discuss your child's situation. Exceptions to this policy are made on a case by case basis.

What if my child wants to attend camp with a friend? As long as the campers are in the same age group, this is fine. Please note the friend's name on your child's registration form and we will be sure to keep the kids together.

4. CAMP LOGISTICS

Where should I park to drop off my child for camp? For camps in Alton Baker Park, please park in front of the Community Gardens and follow the path to the left to Nearby Nature's entry gate. The registration table, where you will sign in on the first day of camp, will be right outside

the gate. For Google maps, our street address is 622 Day Island Road, Eugene, OR 97401. (Note this is NOT our mailing address. Our mailing address is PO Box 3678, Eugene, OR 97403.) For detailed directions, see nearbynature.org/about-us/directions. For offsite camps, directions will be provided in the camp's parent/guardian letter.

If we are biking to camp, is there a safe place for my child and/or me to lock up a bike?

There is a covered bike rack just outside of our Yurt (on the road to the left of the blue Park Host House on our site). Be sure to bring a secure lock.

What should my child bring to camp? Whatever your child brings should fit in a youth-sized backpack. For half day camps, send a water bottle and a substantial snack. If your child is enrolled in lunch care, please send a lunch. For full day camps, send two snacks plus a lunch. Also send a hat, jacket, and extra clothing as needed. Campers should wear close-toed shoes and dress in layers. You may apply sunscreen before camp or send it with your kids if they are allowed to apply it themselves. Please DO NOT send toys or electronics. If your child brings a cell phone for photos or communication, your child must take full responsibility for the phone and should not use it unless it is needed for a special activity.

Do you provide food for my child? We do not provide regular snacks or lunches for our campers. We also have a "no food sharing" policy due to allergies and diet preferences. We do, however, occasionally provide food for special camp activities like solar cooking, bike smoothies, or ice cream making. We also regularly allow staff and students to harvest fruits and vegetables in our Learnscape Garden to sample or use for food-related activities. If there is *anything* your child cannot eat for any reason, please let us know on your registration form.

What happens in case of bad weather or poor air quality? While we plan to go out rain or shine, our covered Discovery Lab and Star Stage, handy pop-up tents, and Yurt can provide shelter if it ever gets really wet. In extremely hot weather we spend lots of our time in shady places, wading in the river, or playing in our Learnscape sprinklers. In case of poor air quality, we have access to indoor space at the Park Maintenance Facility next to our site in Alton Baker Park for fresh air breaks and games, art, and storytelling activities. You are always welcome to keep your child at home if the weather is inclement or the air quality is poor, but refunds will not be made for circumstances beyond our control.

May I visit my child at camp? Parents are always welcome, but please let the instructor know in advance that you plan to visit. Visits are best at the beginning of the day since we often take children out to explore in the park during camp and the group may not be on site if you arrive partway through a class.

What is your behavior policy? In our experience, when kids are outside, and engaged in activities that allow them to move their bodies, use their voices, and exercise their minds, behavior challenges often disappear. We also believe that inappropriate behavior can be minimized with clear expectations. We have a few simple but firm behavior guidelines that we discuss with the kids on their first day of camp, as well as a clear set of consequences for not following these guidelines. You will be asked to review these policies with your child when you register for a camp. If your child has identified behavior challenges, please alert us so that we

are prepared to address them appropriately and know how to best support your child and/or call on you for additional support as needed.

What happens if my child gets sick or injured at camp? Depending on the level of sickness or injury, we will contact you (or your emergency contact if you cannot be reached). In the event of a serious incident we'll call emergency services and then contact you. Our instructors all have First Aid and CPR certification and are trained to evaluate illness and injury.

What if we need to arrive late or leave early? Please be sure to let your child's instructor know in advance if your plans require a late arrival or early departure. Our campers frequently hike out into the park where their camps are based on adventures, so the instructor will let you know if the group will be at the Learnscape (or morning meeting place if the camp is off site) or elsewhere in the park so you can hike to find them when you arrive/need to pick up your child. On days where we have field trips or other off-site special activities, such as canoeing, we will not be able to accommodate special schedules.

What if I'm late picking up my child? Your child's safety is a priority and we will never leave a camper unattended. Please arrive on time, however, because our instructors work hard and need their evening breaks. If you are more than 10 minutes late and we haven't been able to contact you, we will call the authorized pick up and/or emergency contact numbers listed on your registration form to make arrangements with one of them to pick up your child. If you are 10+ minutes late more than once, we reserve the right to charge a late fee to help pay for the additional staffing required to supervise your child.

If I need to get in touch with someone at Nearby Nature during camp, what number should I call? Please call the office at 541-687-9699. If our staff is outside, and no one answers, please leave a message for our Camp Coordinator. We will check for messages periodically during the day. If you have an emergency and need to speak with someone immediately, call the Camp Coordinator's cell, which will be included in your camp details letter.

Updated 2-13-20