



Camp Wonder

Where FUN is in our NATURE!

howellnaturecenter.org



Howell Nature Center

Heal. Grow. Be Wild!

Camp Wonder

Philosophy, Safety, and Stellar Staff

Heal.

Our camps provide a restorative environment for children by replacing excessive screen time with the healing impact of nature.

Grow.

Our camps foster new skills that build confidence and emotional growth, while providing opportunities for kids to meet other campers outside their normal social circle.

Be Wild!

Our program provides campers an opportunity to JUST BE KIDS! We give kids a safe space to make their own risk assessments, developing a critical skill needed later in life.



Health & Safety at Camp

At Camp Wonder, we are always thinking safety first. We have certified health officers available 24 hours a day to campers. These health officers operate under the watchful consultation of a local doctor, and we are always reviewing our safety policies and procedures through this partnership.

Outstanding Staff

Camp Wonder at the Howell Nature Center understands the importance of positive role models for today's youth. When people ask what differentiates Camp Wonder from other camps, we say with pride that it's the people. Each summer, over 60 enthusiastic and caring staff come to the nature center to shape and impact campers' lives.

All staff members undergo background checks and a stringent training program. We stand dedicated to providing a safe and fun experience for your child. Camp leaders are Red Cross First Aid and CPR certified, and all aquatic and adventure-based programs are operated by qualified, certified, and caring staff. In addition, our camp is licensed by the State of Michigan and accredited by the American Camp Association.

Camp Wonder

at the Howell Nature Center

Camp Wonder offers unique Summer Day, Overnight, and Excursion Camps designed intentionally to help children enjoy and connect with nature, while teaching many classic camp traditions, new skills, and life lessons.

We offer two-, three-, and five-day Summer Day Camps and six-day Overnight and Excursion Camps.

Our intent is to provide your child(ren) with a fun, safe, and enriching camp experience, while teaching them to be faithful caretakers of one another and the natural world around us.



THE GREAT EIGHT

OUR CORE VALUES

Nature

Building a lasting connection with the natural world.

Growth

Learning new skills, growing personally, and achieving full potential.

Kindness

Fostering simple acts of kindness resulting in a ripple effect.

Respect

Teaching children to value themselves and others.

Friendship

Increasing a sense of belonging, confidence, and self-worth.

Teamwork

Strengthening communication, collaboration, and social skills.

Stewardship

Empowering kids to make the world greener and healthier.

Leadership

Emboldening kids to become leaders and make a difference!

Classic Day Camps

(2-DAY, 3-DAY, AND 5-DAY OPTIONS)

Day Camp represents a progressive format designed for children to grow through the ages in learning new skills, building lasting friendships, and gaining confidence and self-esteem.

Pups

Entering Kindergarten

A perfect opportunity for the first-time camper experience, Pups explore and learn about nature in a nurturing environment. Our positive role models create a safe and fun experience that will enrich your child's summer.

Cubs

Entering Grades 1 – 2

Cubs answers a child's yearning for discovery and making new friends. Designed for small group participation, campers are geared up for new adventures, all while developing a love of nature and playing outside.

Pack

Entering Grades 3 – 4

Designed for an age group that loves exploring more challenging activities and has no problem getting messy, the Pack will gain an appreciation for the outdoors while jumping into exciting adventures and new skill development daily.

Crew

Entering Grades 5 – 6

Summer days are filled with camp favorites and "Camper's Choice" activities, putting the Crew behind the wheel of their own experience. The Crew builds friendships, gains confidence, and learns skills through an array of fun challenges.

Rangers

Entering Grades 7 – 8

Aimed for our oldest day campers, Rangers expand their horizons while experiencing adventures with new and old friends. Rangers help design their camp experience for the week, choosing activities that ignite their passions.



2022 Dates & Themes

- 📍 Week 1: June 6 – 10
Jurassic Quest
- 📍 Week 2: June 13 – 17
Safari Trek
- 📍 Week 3: June 20 – 24
Superheroes vs. Villains
- 📍 Week 4: June 27 – July 1
Under the Sea
- 📍 Week 5: July 4 – 8
Stars & Stripes Olympics
- 📍 Week 6: July 11 – 15
Pirates of Pleasant Lake
- 📍 Week 7: July 18 – 22
Space Shenanigans
- 📍 Week 8: July 25 – 29
Wizarding World
- 📍 Week 9: August 1 – 5
Movie Magic
- 📍 Week 10: August 8 – 12
The Wild West
- 📍 Week 11: August 15 – 19
Medieval Adventures

Weekly Themes

Weekly themes tap into a child's imagination and appeal to their sense of adventure. Daily storylines are interwoven into the morning program and culminate into "Theme Thursday" involving an all-camp event full of adventure and fun!



Classic Day Camp

Overnight Options (\$40 Additional Fee)

Day Campers interested in trying an Overnight Camp experience can choose from four dates this summer.

- 📍 Week 2: Thursday, June 16 (1-night)
- 📍 Week 5: Thursday, July 7 (1-night)
- 📍 Week 7: Thursday, July 21 (1-night)
- 📍 Week 9: Thursday, August 4 (1-night)

Specialty Day Camps

(5-DAY OPTIONS)

Specialty Day Camps offer a perfect mix of specialized programming for half of each camp day and classic camp fun for the other half. Specialty Day Camps differ from our Classic Day Camps in that each session is offered only as a full-week option. Specialty Camps are uniquely catered to specific ages and interests.

Grades 1-2

Lil' Zookeepers

Week 4: June 27 – July 1

Kids who love animals will not want to miss this program! Campers experience basics of animal care, while learning about our wildlife ambassadors through live presentations and unique wildlife education and enrichment activities.

Fish, Frogs, and Forts

Week 9: August 1 – 5, Week 10: August 8 – 12

"Nature Nuts" will explore a variety of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, bugs, birds, and plants. Kids will enjoy being inquisitive as they learn how to fish, investigate animal tracks, and build secret forts, while searching for the largest bullfrog on site!

Grades 3-4

Junior Rods & Reels

Week 2: June 13 – 17

Introduce your little guppy to the world of fishing in this beginner's camp. Campers will spend the week exploring this popular outdoor recreational activity as they're introduced to the basics of fishing while learning about common Michigan lake fish.

Critter Keepers

Week 3: June 20 – 24

Critter Keepers introduces your junior zookeeper to wildlife and the interesting aspects of animal care. Campers work with zookeepers while exploring all types of wildlife as they enjoy learning about their health, behavior, nutrition, and welfare.

Junior Bushcrafters

Week 5: July 4 – 8

Campers will be introduced to the world of outdoor survival, learning basic bushcraft skills necessary to live off the land and survive in the wild. They'll be introduced to real bushcraft tools (always under adult supervision), and the importance of respecting and maintaining these tools. Your child will leave feeling connected to the land and confident in their abilities!

Grades 5-6

Bushcraft Survival

Week 3: June 20 – 24

Give your adventurer a week of outdoor survival fun! Campers will learn bushcraft skills such as basic orienteering, building a shelter, tracking animals, and more!

Rods & Reels

Week 6: July 11 – 15

Young anglers venture out on a daily quest to catch "Big Charlie!" Campers learn fundamental fishing skills, such as baiting, casting, tracking, and catch and release, all while enjoying the serenity of beautiful Pleasant Lake.

WILD About Wildlife

Week 8: July 25 – 29

Campers will go behind-the-scenes in our wildlife park where they will learn how to care for animals from real zookeepers! They will assist the wildlife care team with all aspects of animal husbandry, including cleaning, feeding, observing, and giving enrichment.

Grades 7-8

Zoomasters

Week 7: July 18 – 22

Budding zookeepers will participate in advanced workshops and experiences, working side-by-side with our Wildlife Park experts and veterinarian interns. Children will help care for and enrich our wildlife ambassadors.

REEL Pros

Week 8: July 25 – 29

Let us teach your pro angler how to catch the BIG one! Campers will learn how to select, care for, and maintain equipment, as well as how to better understand fish behavior. Will they be able to outsmart "Big Charlie"?

X-treme Survivors

Week 10: August 8 – 12

Campers will enhance their survival skills with activities such as shelter building, cooking food on a fire, foraging for wild plants, and more!

Grades 9-10

Leaders in Training

Week 5: July 4 – 8

Leaders in Training (LIT) blends camp favorites with team challenges designed to develop compassionate, confident leaders. LITs work side-by-side with counselors planning and leading Thursday's theme event. A perfect step in becoming a Counselor in Training.

REGISTER EARLY FOR THE BEST RATES.
See the pricing page for details.

Classic Overnight Camps

Overnight camp offers the opportunity for children to unplug from technology, make lasting friendships, and connect with nature in a unique and transformative overnight experience!

Explorers

Entering Grades 3 – 4 • July 10 – 15, July 17 – 22, July 31 – August 5, August 7 – 12

Campers explore nature's wonder through a combination of exciting experiential-based activities, along with fun and traditional camp favorites. Campers develop lasting friendships, a sense of belonging, and a connection to nature.

Adventurers

Entering Grades 5 – 6 • July 10 – 15, July 17 – 22, July 31 – August 5, August 7 – 12

Adventurers choose much of their own camp experience, while growing in a challenging and supportive atmosphere. Through inquiry-based programming and adventurous fun, campers develop skills, establish friendships, and build confidence.

'Trailblazers

Entering Grades 7 – 8 • July 10 – 15, July 17 – 22, July 31 – August 5, August 7 – 12

Unique to this age group, campers blaze their own trail of adventure! Trailblazers broaden their horizons and expand comfort zones, while learning the joy of exploration in the out-of-doors and challenging them to grow as individuals.

Specialty Overnight Camps

Our specialty overnight camps are truly unique in that they offer a well-rounded, traditional summer camp experience mixed with specialized programming related to nature and animals. Specialty Overnight Camps differ from our Classic Overnight Camps in that each session is offered only as one full-week option.

Junior Zookeepers

Entering Grades 5 – 6
July 24 – 29

Junior Zookeepers will teach your wildlife lover about what it takes to care for animals, including observing animal behavior, exhibit design, zookeeper games, diet preparation, feeding, and much more.



Naturalist in Training

Entering Grades 7 – 8 • July 24 – 29

For nature-lovers who want an in-depth nature experience, we collaborate with our naturalists to provide great outdoor, hands-on FUN! Unique programs include stargazing, owl feeding and calling, a service project in the Wildlife Park, zoo enrichment, and much more.



Spirit of Alexandria Foundation SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Spirit of Alexandria Foundation (SOA) was created in honor of the legacy of Alexandria Bennett, a little girl who was passionate about exploring the mysteries of the natural world and selflessly sharing those wonders with others.

Through her inspiration, the SOA Foundation was formed with the simple goal of connecting thousands of children to nature.

The SOA Foundation offers Sponsorships on a first come basis. Campers must submit a short essay describing why they are interested in attending camp. SOA Sponsorship Applications can be accessed online during the camp registration process.

Find camp registration at www.howellnaturecenter.org

Teen Overnight Camps

In addition to SOA sponsored camps, Camp Wonder at the Howell Nature Center offers specialized overnight and excursion camp experiences for teenage campers, both onsite and off. Whether heading out on an excursion or learning the skills to become a counselor, teens will get in-depth experiences, have a BLAST with their peers, and grow as leaders. Please Note: The SOA Sponsorship Program does not apply for the Counselor In Training and Excursion Camp programs.



BE WILD Project

Entering Grades 9 – 12 • July 10 – 15

Days are spent being “WILD” experiencing incredible behind-the-scenes tours of nature centers and zoos that excel in conservation education and animal care. Evenings are spent enjoying nature and evening campfires at beautiful campsites around Michigan. Campers explore the challenges involved with captive animal care and apply their learnings by returning to Howell Nature Center at the end of the week and working with our dedicated staff to create their own contribution to HNC’s conservation and education mission.

Counselor In Training

Entering Grades 9 – 12 • July 17 – 22, July 31 – August 5

Counselor In Training (CIT) is a perfect introduction to camp counseling. CITs enjoy classic activities, while learning valuable skills. CITs are then paired with counselors and learn how to be a role model in an overnight camp setting.

South Manitou Island

Entering Grades 9 – 12 • July 24 – 29

South Manitou Island and the Sleeping Bear Dune National Lakeshore provide the perfect backdrop for exploration and discovery in this six-day backpacking adventure. Campers will start their first night at a campground bonding with one another, packing their backpacks, and getting comfortable with their gear. The next day, campers will ride the Manitou Island Transit ferry to embark on their adventure. With a shipwreck, the “Valley of the Giants” grove of cedars, expansive dunes, and beachfront to explore. Whether your camper has been backpacking before or not, our Manitou Island excursion is inclusive of all abilities and expertise!

Mighty Mackinaw

Entering Grades 9 – 12 • August 7 – 12

Campers head to the Mackinac Straits to hike, swim, and explore the region’s state parks and beaches. The adventure begins with a rafting trip down the Sturgeon River and stargazing at the International Dark Sky Park. Campers explore Mackinac Island, gather with friends around the campfire, and create memories to last a lifetime.

REGISTER EARLY FOR THE BEST RATES.
See the pricing page details.

Camp 'Tall 'Tree

DREAM BIG. STAND TALL. BRANCH OUT. TAKE ROOT.

August 7 – 12

Main Camp

Designed for campers 7-17 years old with Autism, Camp Tall Tree offers a six-day camp session with programs that have been designed to meet a wide range of emotional, behavioral, and cognitive needs because we believe that summer camp is a valuable experience for everyone. We appreciate the diversity of background, ability, health needs, and home lives of our campers and our staff strive every day to make camp a safe environment in which our campers can laugh, learn, and play. During Camp Tall Tree, we offer a traditional summer camp experience, and understand that each camper needs unique support in order to access our program, so we offer extensive staff training, flexible programming, and a 24-hour medical team. Our program is designed to offer many choices throughout the day, and we provide enough structure so kids feel safe and secure. We believe that all kids stand taller when they build lasting friendships and feel like they belong to a community that sees them as more than the challenges they face.

Siblings Camp

Siblings of people with special needs have an exceptional perspective on life. They often have big hearts and open minds, but sometimes they can be confused about where they fit in. They might feel somewhat isolated, because they have such a unique family situation. At Camp Tall Tree, all of that is different! We are positioned perfectly to support siblings, because we understand a lot about special needs. We feel that siblings benefit from getting to know other siblings, taking in some information, being able to ask questions, and sharing their experience. We have created an intentional program, specifically for siblings, with these ideas in mind. With a low ratio and all the fun of summer camp, kids that have siblings with special needs can spend a week being the center of attention in an environment where everyone gets it. We are delighted to be able to offer parents a week of true respite, and their children a week of adventure and joy.



School Break Options



Spring Break Day Camp

Entering Grades K – 8 • March 28 – April 1

Campers will gear up early for the summer during this exciting week of outdoor FUN and imaginative adventures. After a long winter season, campers will be eager to join us for a week designed with a “Camper’s Choice” format where campers can tailor their week to their interests. Whether it’s archery, Ga Ga Ball, arts and crafts, crazy games, zip line, wildlife programs, or many more exciting activities, this is a week not to be missed!



Camp Frosty Day Camp

Entering Grades K – 8 • December 19 – 23, 26 – 30

Campers will enjoy the “magic” of summer day camp over winter break! Camp Frosty Day Camp will get kids outside to enjoy winter activities such as cross-country skiing, broomball, snow games, and sledding (weather permitting). Following the “Camper’s Choice” format, campers enjoy customizing much of their winter day camp experience, while also enjoying a special theme activity each day.



Camp Pricing

Day Camp Pricing

	Dec 15 – Feb 13	Feb 14 – Apr 10	Apr 11 – Jun 5	After Jun 6
5-Day: Monday – Friday (Entering Grades K – 8)	\$220	\$235	\$250	\$265
5-Day: Monday – Friday (2nd Sibling)	\$190	\$205	\$220	\$235
3-Day: Wednesday – Friday (Entering Grades K – 8)	\$160	\$175	\$190	\$205
3-Day: Wednesday – Friday (2nd Sibling)	\$130	\$145	\$160	\$175
2-Day: Monday – Tuesday (Entering Grades K – 8)	\$110	\$120	\$130	\$140
2-Day: Monday – Tuesday (2nd Sibling)	\$80	\$90	\$100	\$110
5-Day Specialty Day Camps (Entering Grades 1 – 12)	\$240	\$255	\$270	\$285
5-Day Specialty Day Camps (2nd Sibling)	\$210	\$225	\$240	\$255

Overnight, Leadership and Excursion Camp Pricing

	Dec 15 – Feb 13	Feb 14 – Apr 10	Apr 11 – Jun 5	After Jun 6
6-Day: SOA Explorers/Adventurers/Trailblazers (Entering Grades 3 – 8)	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$650
6-Day: SOA Explorers/Adventurers/Trailblazers (2nd Sibling)	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
6-Day: SOA Junior Zookeepers (Entering Grades 5 – 6)	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$650
6-Day: SOA Junior Zookeepers (2nd Sibling)	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
6-Day: SOA Naturalist In Training (Entering Grades 7 – 8)	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$650
6-Day: SOA Naturalist In Training (2nd Sibling)	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
6-Day: Excursion Camps (Entering Grades 9 – 12)	\$800	\$850	\$900	\$950
6-Day: Excursion Camps (2nd Sibling)	\$750	\$800	\$850	\$900
6-Day: Counselor In Training (Entering Grades 9 – 12)	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$650

Camp 'Tall Tree

	Entire Session
6-Day: Camp Tall Tree (Ages 7 – 17)	\$1250
6-Day: Siblings Camp (Ages 7 – 13)	\$650

Spring Break and Camp Frosty Pricing

	Per Day	Entire Session
5-Day Spring Break Day Camp	\$45	\$200
10-Day Camp Frosty Day Camp	\$45	\$400

Through our partnership with the Spirit of Alexandra Foundation, camp sponsorships for camps labeled SOA are available. Applications can be found at howellnaturecenter.org/soa/overnight-camps.



Day Camp Check-In/Check-Out

Before Care (\$10/Day) 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
 Check-In 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
 Check-Out 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 After Care (\$10/Day) 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Overnight Camp Check-In/Check-Out

Check-In Sun 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Closing Ceremony Fri 2:30 p.m.
 (Check-Out to Follow)

For day and overnight camps not sponsored by SOA, financial assistance is available through our Campership Program based solely on financial need. Auto-payment plans are available. For campership applications or to register, go to howellnaturecenter.org. Or, for questions, call our main office at (517) 546-0249.

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New
Skills**



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Howell Nature Center

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1005 Triangle Lake Road

Howell, MI 48843

(517) 546-0249

www.howellnaturecenter.org



Memberships

We welcome you to become a member of the Howell Nature Center. Through our unique setting where people, nature, and wildlife flourish together, our members enjoy the 230 rich acres of rolling hills, hiking trails, and lush gardens. Members love our family focused “Aquamania” days on Pleasant Lake, as well as the Wild Wonders Wildlife Park, Alexandria’s NatureScape and Glacier Valley Zip Tour experiences. An Annual Membership offers year-round admission to the Howell Nature Center, special membership pricing and gift shop discounts, as well as FREE admittance to over 180 nature centers in the U.S. and Canada. Furthermore, HNC members are always offered 5% off their camp fee regardless of the time of year.

For more information on membership opportunities, visit us at howellnaturecenter.org or give our Welcome Center a call at (517) 546-0249.

Summer Camp Previews

April 24, May 15, 2 – 5 p.m.

Camp Wonder at the Howell Nature Center invites new and returning summer campers to preview our 2022 Summer Camp Programs. Bring your friends and family for an afternoon “camper sampler” of exciting summer programs and activities. Meet the staff, tour the facility, and have all your questions about our summer programs answered!

Advanced registration required. Sign up online to hold your spot at www.howellnaturecenter.org