




CAMP WONDER

Where **FUN** is in our **NATURE!**

   howellnaturecenter.org



CAMP WONDER

Philosophy, Safety, and Stellar Staff

Fun is in our nature – our programs are based on this simple slogan. We believe time spent in nature is time well spent. Research has proven that children benefit greatly and grow from valuable time in the outdoors, especially while experiencing new adventures and making new friends.

Our Philosophy For ALL Programs is Based on Building a Greater Connection with Nature!

We partner with the Spirit of Alexandria Foundation (spiritofalexandria.org) whose mission is to connect children with nature. Through this partnership, our Camp Wonder philosophy is based on a perfect combination of nature-based and wildlife programming, and age-appropriate adventures in the outdoors like swimming, kayaking, paddleboarding, ziplining, archery, and so much more. At Camp Wonder, nature's wonders are interwoven through all of our summer camp offerings.



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 promote emotional growth while providing opportunities for kids to meet fellow campers outside their normal social circle.

BE WILD . Our camps provide campers an opportunity to JUST BE KIDS! We give kids a safe space to determine their own risk assessments, developing a critical skill for 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 understands the importance of positive role models for today's youth. When people ask what makes Camp Wonder different from other camps, we say with pride that it's our 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.



Welcome to Camp Wonder!

DEAR CAMPER PARENT,

We are thrilled to welcome your child to our summer camp! Whether this is your first time or you're returning, we are honored to have your family as a part of our community. We have heard incredible stories from our camp families about how their children have experienced life-changing moments at our camp. We hope to provide the same experience for your child, where they can not only develop a love for nature, but also grow as an individual. Summer camp is a magical place where children can create unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime. From making new friends to participating in fun activities, campers grow in many ways during their time at camp.

At Camp Wonder, children have the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones and try new things. They can participate in a variety of exciting activities such as swimming, archery, arts and crafts, and team sports. Through these experiences, campers learn valuable skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership. Summer camp is not just about the activities, it is also about the friendships that are formed. Campers come from all walks of life and bond over their shared experiences. They learn to appreciate each other's differences and develop a sense of empathy and understanding. These friendships often last long after the summer has ended. In today's world, children need camp more than ever.

This summer, we are committed to providing a safe and fun environment for your child. We understand that your child's safety is of utmost importance, and we are taking all necessary precautions to ensure their well-being. We are excited to share our new programming with you and create lasting memories with your child, and watch them grow throughout the summer. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's development. We look forward to seeing them soon!

Best regards,

Alaina Rabideau

Alaina Rabideau

*Director of Camp & Nature Education
Howell Nature Center*





WHAT YOUR DAY CAMPER CAN EXPECT...



We start with a camp-wide Morning Meeting where everyone sings camp songs, gets silly, and starts the day off on the right foot!



The day gets going with morning activities, ranging from arts and crafts projects and sports to playing at the NatureScape and going down our zipline. Specialty campers will spend their mornings doing activities based on their camp's topic.



After lunch, the fun continues at our state-of-the-art waterfront, experiencing watercraft activities, fishing, free swim time, or traversing the Aquatic Inflatables Park in the warm summer sun!



Theme activities will happen for all camps throughout the week. On Friday afternoon, it all comes together with one All Camp Theme Event that will be the culminating experience topping off a great week!



Supported by the Spirit of Alexandria Foundation, all day campers will experience nature-based programming within their daily schedule that will help them build a sense of stewardship and greater connection with our environment.

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. We offer three different attendance options – our **5-Day** which runs Monday-Friday, our **3-Day** which runs Wednesday-Friday, and our **2-Day** which runs Monday-Tuesday. We organize our Day Camp groups by the ages listed below (please note, these would be the grades your camper is **entering** in the Fall of 2024):

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 new age group activities. The Crew builds friendships, gains confidence and learns skills through an array of fun challenges. From thrilling scavenger hunts to friendly group competitions, we've got it all.

RANGERS

Entering Grades 7 – 8

Aimed for our oldest day campers, Rangers expand their horizons while experiencing adventures with new and old friends. With even more options than before the Rangers are sure to take the lead and have an adventurous time.

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 an all-camp event full of adventure and fun!

2024 DATES & THEMES

Week 1: June 10 – 14 Camp Safari

Week 2: June 17 – 21 Space Shenanigans

Week 3: June 24 – 28 Hollywood Stars

Week 4: July 1 – 3 Superheroes vs. Villains

Week 5: July 8 – 12 Pirates of Pleasant Lake

Week 6: July 15 – 19 Dinosaurs Return

Week 7: July 22 – 26 Wet, Wacky and Wild

Week 8: July 29 – August 2 Under the Sea Adventures

Week 9: August 5 – 9 Camp Wonder Olympics

Week 10: August 12 – 16 The Wild west



CLASSIC DAY CAMP OVERNIGHT OPTIONS

(\$50 Additional Fee)

Pack Age Group and Up

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

Week 2: Thursday, June 20 (1-night)

Week 5: Thursday, July 11 (1-night)

Week 7: Thursday, July 25 (1-night)

Week 9: Thursday, August 8 (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

FISH, FROGS, AND FORTS

Week 8: July 29 – August 2

“Nature Nuts” will venture into the great outdoors to learn all about the fascinating creatures that call it home. Kids will enjoy a variety of activities from fishing and frog watching to building forts and learning survival skills.



LIL' ZOOKEEPERS

Week 2: June 17 – 21

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.

GRADES 3–4

JUNIOR RODS & REELS*

Week 3: June 24 – 28

Introduce your little guppy to the world of fishing in this beginner's camp. Campers will spend the week exploring the basics of fishing and conservation practices while learning about common Michigan lake fish.

CRITTER KEEPERS

Week 5: July 8 – 12

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.





GRADES 5-6

RODS & REELS*

Week 6: July 15 – 19

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

WILD ABOUT WILDLIFE

Week 11: August 14 – 18

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 team with some aspects of animal care like, Enrichment, Diet prep, training and habitat design.

Please note campers will not be handling animals.



GRADES 7-8

REEL PROS

Week 10: August 12 – 16

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 finally be able to out smart “Big Charlie”?

ZOOMASTERS

Week 9: July 31 – August 4

Budding zookeepers will get to experience various parts of animal care! They will get to see real training sessions, make diets for our animals, and create enrichment items that will go right into our animals habitats! **Please note campers will not be handling animals.**

**Junior Rods & Reels, Rods & Reels, and Reel Pros Disclaimer: Your camper is more than welcome to bring their own fishing pole and/or tackle box from home. Camp Wonder will provide supplies for anyone that chooses to not bring in their own. However, please note that HNC is not responsible for any broken or stolen items.*



OVERNIGHT CAMPS

WHAT YOUR OVERNIGHT CAMPER CAN EXPECT...



Campers wake up and head to our dining hall for breakfast with their cabin group. Overnight campers eat all their meals in our dining hall and eat with their cabin.



Afternoon activities include the campers choosing their own program and spending time at the waterfront for free swim, aquatoys, or kayaking!



Mornings start off with activities to get the campers moving and exploring our grounds, such as picking up litter in Trash Wars or finding the best rock on site to paint for Kindness Rocks.



Evenings at camp are filled with goofy, fun activities like campwide capture the flag, mock rock, and a closing campfire on Thursday night.



Campers continue their day going through classic camp activities like archery, ziplining, survival, and fishing.



Supported by the Spirit of Alexandria Foundation, all overnight campers will learn about environmental stewardship and enjoy connecting with the joys of spending valuable time in nature's splendor.



After lunch, campers take a rest period to get geared up and ready for their afternoon and evening full of fun!

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 4 – 5

July 7 – 12, July 21 – 26, July 28 – August 2,
August 4 – 9, August 11 – 16

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 6 – 8

July 7 – 12, July 21 – 26, July 28 – August 2,
August 4 – 9, August 11 – 16

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.



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.

JUNIOR ZOOKEEPERS

Entering Grades 4 – 6 • June 30 – July 3

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 – 9 • June 30 – July 3

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.



TEEN OVERNIGHT CAMPS

Camp Wonder at the Howell Nature Center offers additional 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.

TRAILBLAZERS

Entering Grades 9 – 10

July 7 – 12, July 21 – 26, July 28 – August 2, August 4 – 9, August 11 – 16

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

EXCURSIONS

SOUTH MANITOU ISLAND

Entering Grades 9 – 12 • July 7 – 12

Sleeping Bear Dunes and South Manitou Island are two of the most beautiful locations in Michigan. South Manitou Island, located off the coast of Sleeping Bear Dunes, is a remote wilderness area that is perfect for camping. Campers will have the chance to explore historic buildings, hike scenic trails, and swim in the clear waters of Lake Michigan. Camping in this unique landscape offers the opportunity to climb up, or even roll down, the tallest sand dunes in the Great Lakes.

MIGHTY MACKINAW

Entering Grades 9 – 12 • August 11 – 16

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.



Supported by the Spirit of Alexandria Foundation, excursion campers will be inspired by daily adventures in some of Michigan's most pristine natural wonders, while building lasting friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.



COUNSELOR IN TRAINING

Entering Grades 11 – 12 • Two-Week Program

July 14 – 26, July 28 – August 9

Counselor In Training (CIT) is a perfect introduction to camp counseling. The program is now a **two-week experience** that includes a four-day camping trip to the Rifle River. CITs start their week on a mini-excursion where they will bond as a group, learn valuable leadership skills, and tube down the Rifle before coming back to camp. Upon their return, CITs will spend the weekend at camp and then are paired with counselors the second week to learn first-hand how to be a good role model in an overnight camp setting.



OVERNIGHT THEMES

STAR WARS WEEK

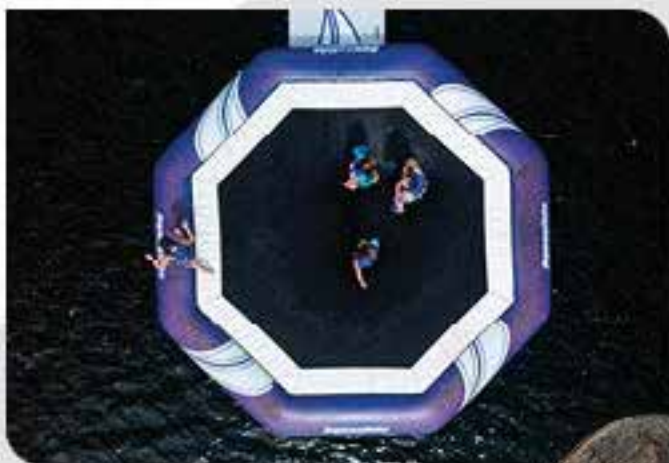
July 7 – 12

Are you a fan of Star Wars? Do you know someone who is? If so, you might be interested in attending or sending your child to a Star Wars week overnight camp! During this unique experience, campers will have the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the Star Wars universe through a variety of fun and engaging activities.

CAMP WONDER CARNIVAL

July 21 – 26

Whether your camper is a seasoned carnival game pro or a first-time player, they are sure to have a great time at the Camp Wonder carnival games. These games offer campers a chance to test their skills and win prizes while having a blast with their fellow campers.



SUPERHEROES UNITE

July 28 – August 2

During this week, campers have the opportunity to unleash their inner hero by participating in various activities and challenges that test their strength, agility, and creativity. Superhero week is also a great time for campers to learn about cooperation and teamwork. Many of the activities require campers to work together to solve problems and complete challenges. Through these activities, campers learn important life skills that will help them in the future.



CAMP WONDER OLYMPICS

August 4 – 9

This year, during the actual Olympics the day campers and overnight campers join together to race to the finish line during Olympics week. The event is filled with energy, excitement, and friendly competition. Kids from both camps will work together to complete challenges, cheer each other on, and have fun. It is a reminder that even though we may come from different backgrounds, we all have the ability to work together and achieve great things.

THE STARS OF HOLLYWOOD

August 11 – 16

During this week, campers get to experience the glitz and glamour of Hollywood by participating in activities such as a film screening and even a red carpet event where campers get to dress up and walk down the carpet while paparazzi take their pictures. This event is a fun way to wrap up the week and allows campers to feel like they are truly part of the Hollywood scene.





JR. ZOOKEEPER'S DAY CAMP

Grades 3 – 4 • February 19 (President's Day)

Our Jr. Zookeepers program introduces children to wildlife and the interesting aspects of animal care. Your child will work with our Wild Wonders Park staff while exploring different types of wildlife as they enjoy learning about their health, behavior, nutrition, and welfare. **Please note campers will not be handling animals.**

SPRING BREAK DAY CAMP

Grades K – 8 • March 25 – 28

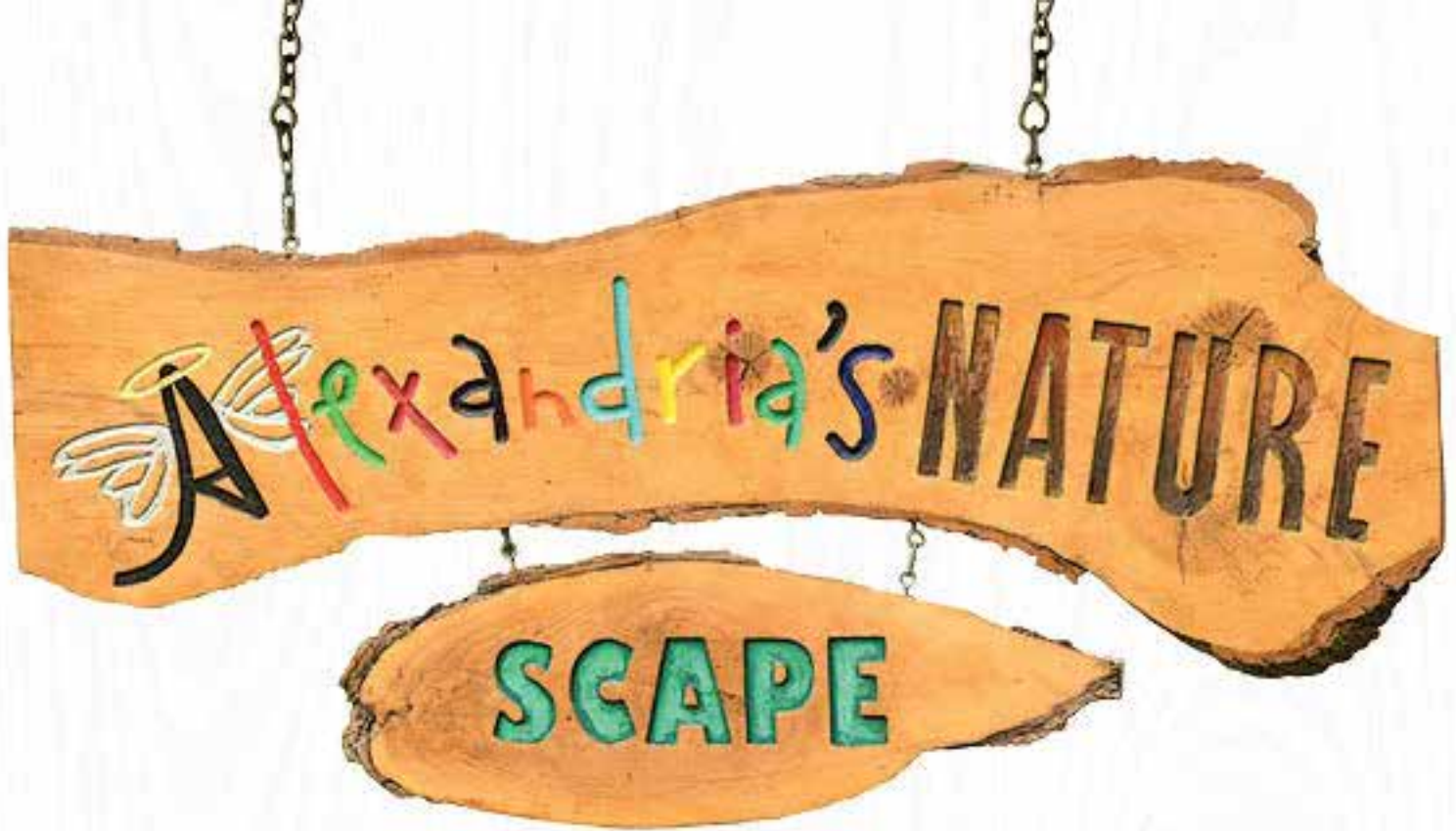
Campers will gear up early for the summer during this exciting week of outdoor FUN and imaginative adventures. After a long winter season, campers will be eager to join us for a unique week designed with fun activities like archery, GaGa Ball, arts and crafts, crazy games, zipline, wildlife programs, and many more, this is a week not to be missed!

CAMP FROSTY DAY CAMP

Grades K – 8 • December 23, December 26 – 27, December 30, January 2 – 3

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 snowshoeing, snow games, sledding (weather permitting), with a mix of our traditional activities like archery, shelter building, wildlife programming, and more!





THE SPIRIT OF ALEXANDRIA FOUNDATION

Offers Camp Scholarships!

The Spirit of Alexandria Foundation (SOA) was created in honor 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 Alexandria's inspiration, the SOA Foundation was formed with the simple goal of connecting thousands of children to nature. Awarding camp scholarships is one way they fulfill this powerful mission.

In addition to co-developing and sponsoring our nature-based program, the SOA Foundation is offering scholarships again this summer for families who qualify, on a **first-come basis**. Campers must submit a short essay describing why they are interested in attending camp to be considered. SOA Scholarship Applications are online and can be completed as part of the registration process.



CAMP PRICING

Day Camp Pricing	Dec 15 – Jan 31	Feb 1 – May 1	After May 1
5-Day: Monday – Friday (Entering Grades K – 8)	\$275	\$300	\$325
3-Day: Wednesday – Friday (Entering Grades K – 8)	\$190	\$205	\$230
2-Day: Monday – Tuesday (Entering Grades K – 8)	\$155	\$140	\$165
5-Day Specialty Day Camps (Entering Grades 1 – 12)	\$290	\$315	\$340

Overnight & Excursion Camp Pricing	Dec 15 – Jan 31	Feb 1 – May 1	After May 1
6-Day: Explorers/Adventurers/Trailblazers (Entering Grades 4 – 10)	\$700	\$750	\$800
4-Day: Junior Zookeepers (Entering Grades 4 – 6)	\$350	\$400	\$450
4-Day: Naturalist in Training (Entering Grades 7 – 10)	\$350	\$400	\$450
6-Day: Excursion Camps (Entering Grades 9 – 10; 11 – 12)	\$1,000	\$1,050	\$1,100
13-Day: Counselor in Training (Entering Grades 11 – 12)	\$900	\$950	\$1,000

Additional Add-ons	
Camper T-shirt	\$15
Day Camp Framed Group Photo (5-day options only)	\$10
Overnight Camp/CITS Framed Group Photo	\$10

School Break Camps	Per Day	Entire Session
4-Day: Spring Break Day Camp	\$50	\$200
6-Day: Camp Frosty Day Camp	\$50	\$240



Ways to Save

\$50 Sibling Discount: When two or more siblings are registered for the same week, every registration past the first will get \$50 off. The more siblings and weeks you register for, the more you save! You must register all siblings at the same time to receive the discount.

Early Registration Discount: Register early for the best rates! Prices increase on February 1 and then again on May 1. The sooner you register, the more you save! **Payment Plans:** After registering, you can pay your camp fees in full or split up the fees into smaller payments. These are set up through our online registration system with a credit or debit card. Camp fees are divided into equal payments and then automatically processed on the following dates, starting with the soonest date after registration.

- Dec. 18, 2023
- Jan. 1, 2024
- Jan. 15, 2024
- Jan. 29, 2024
- Feb. 12, 2024
- Feb. 26, 2024
- Mar. 11, 2024
- Mar. 25, 2024
- Apr. 8, 2024
- Apr. 22, 2024
- May 6, 2024
- May 20, 2024
- Jun. 3, 2024

Registration Process

- Visit us at howellnaturecenter.org and look for the **"REGISTER TODAY"** button. You will need to make an account through our system to be able to register.
- Then, add each child you are looking to register to your account. Remember to use the grade they will be going into next fall.
- Once you add all your potential campers, you will be able to see what camps are available for their grade level and what weeks still have openings.
- Add the weeks to your cart and move to the paperwork step.
- All paperwork must be completed to finish registration. A spot will not be on hold if you stop midway through registration.
- Once the deposit is made and payment is set-up, registration is done and you are all set!

Please note: There is a \$10 application fee per child. Friend requests can be made during the registration process as long as both parties are in the same age group. We will do our best to accommodate them as long as the request is mutual between both parties.



Deposits

Day Camps have a \$50 deposit per week, per child. Overnight Camps, CIT, and Excursions have a \$100 deposit per week, per child. Deposits must be made to complete registration. If you are unable to pay, please e-mail us at summercamps@howellnaturecenter.org to make arrangements. **All deposits are non-refundable.**

What to Expect

Following registration, you will receive a detailed confirmation e-mail including a parent information packet, check-in/check-out information, packing lists, and more! Please make sure to regularly check the e-mail you registered with for any updates. If you don't receive a confirmation e-mail, please check your spam folder.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

Cancellations must be submitted via e-mail to summercamps@howellnaturecenter.org. Requests made at least two weeks before a camp session's start date will get a refund of all fees, minus the deposit. Cancellations made within two weeks of a camp session's start date forfeit all fees. Day Camp operates rain or shine and we will offer activities as the weather allows. Refunds are not offered for bad weather. No shows are not permitted to switch days and are considered day-of cancellations.

Registration questions? E-mail us at:
summercamps@howellnaturecenter.org

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)





1005 Triangle Lake Road
Howell, MI 48843
(517) 546-0249
www.howellnaturecenter.org

OPEN HOUSES

April 21, May 19 • 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Camp Wonder at the Howell Nature Center invites new and returning summer campers to preview our 2024 Summer Camp Programs. Bring your friends and family for an afternoon “camp 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 howellnaturecenter.org

