



Wild Encounters Junior Summer Nature Day Camp

Saugeen Conservation, in partnership with the Town of Hanover's Parks and Recreation Department has offered a week-long Wild Encounters Nature Day Camp as a specialty camp for over 25 years. This camp is limited to youth aged 7 to 12 due to the nature of its content/curriculum. This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions limiting the number of participants we will be offering two of these camps, one in July and one in August.

After considerable interest expressed over the cancellation of Professional Development days and the Spring Outdoor School (due to Covid-19 lockdowns), Saugeen Conservation will be offering a separate new summer nature day camp aimed at a younger group, for ages 5 to 8. Two-day sessions, offered Wednesdays and Fridays or a single, one day program offered on a Friday allow young people time to rest up between long days spent outside hiking and exploring with the camp.

Wild Encounters Nature Day Camps are designed to enhance your child's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet! This fun and educational program focuses on hands-on activities in which young explorers discover the variety of species and spaces at our 200+ acre Sulphur Spring Conservation Area.

Registration is now open!

To register, call Saugeen Conservation's administration office at 519-367-3040 and dial '0'. If no one is available, please leave a message and someone will get back to you shortly. Or, email publicinfo@svca.on.ca with your name and contact info. We can take credit card, cheque or cash.

Schedule

Reserve a spot for your child(ren) in a session that works best for your family. All programs will have a maximum of 10 campers per group, facilitated by 2 environmental educators. See below for drop off/pick up times.

All day programs (Wednesdays and Fridays)

Session 1: July 14 & 16, 2021

Session 2: July 28 & 30, 2021

Session 3: August 11 & 13, 2021

Single day: Friday, August 6, 2021

Activities

Adopted from our traditional summer day camp program, this special edition of Wild Encounters Day Camp encourages outdoor exploration, guided excursions in the field and forest fueled by participant's interests. Every day will be guided by participant inquiry, seasonal changes, and weather and program availability. Things we will be doing at camp include hiking, critter catching, nature games, crafts, and exploring/investigating wildlife.

Why attend Wild Encounters?

If you're worried about sending your child to Wild Encounters because of COVID-19, here are some facts that mention nature is one of the safest places to be during the pandemic:

Did you know doctors have been prescribing hikes? Stepping into nature has been proven to provide health benefits such as: increased energy and immunity, increased weight loss and fitness, increased Vitamin D production, and reduced risk of diabetes, heart attacks, and cancer. Source: [Conservation Ontario](#)

The outdoor environment allows for proper distancing and ample ventilation. In the outdoor environment, virus in droplets or on surfaces may also be exposed to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. A recent experimental study of simulated sunlight on COVID-19 virus in simulated saliva droplets found 90% reduction in virus after as little as 7 minutes of exposure. In the real world, the level of inactivation would depend on intensity of radiation, duration of exposure, cloud cover, and available UV (which varies by geographic location). Source: [Simulated Sunlight Rapidly Inactivates SARS-CoV-2 on Surfaces](#)

What to Bring

- Appropriate clothing—suitable for outdoor activity & weather conditions. Closed-toe shoes or hiking boots please, no open toed sandals or flip flops as we will be running and hiking, off trail at times.
- Boots and rain gear as weather and program plans dictate.
- A hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Lunch with extra drinks and healthy snacks (all nut free please).
- Filled water bottle.
- Signed code of conduct and waiver for the session. Signed Covid-19 Questionnaire for each day.
- A re-useable cloth face mask, with a spare in case one gets lost.

Please remember to Label all Items

To help us get all your child's belongings home at the end of the day, make sure their names are on all personal items.

Leave Valuables at Home

Leave cell phones and other valuables at home. These have a habit of falling out of pockets and getting lost in the woods! If campers do bring valuables, we are not responsible for them.

Drop off / Pick up

All day programs (Wednesdays and Fridays): 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Arrival

Campers and parents/guardians will be screened and must pass the health check upon arrival at the drop off area at the Resource Centre, Sulphur Spring C.A.. Campers will not participate in the program that day upon failure of the screening.

After the screening, campers who do not exhibit symptoms may proceed to the Resource Centre. At this time, parents/guardians must stay with their vehicle when dropping off and picking up children at the designated areas.

Drop-off/pick-up times are extended to allow for staggered pick-up and drop-off. Please feel free to drop-off 15 minutes early so that programming can start on-time. Pick-up is extended for 15 minutes after the program.

Refunds and cancellation

Please note that the program may be cancelled at any time due to Covid-19 restrictions. If programming is already underway, there will not be a refund for the day. If the cancellation occurs the day before programming, or with longer notice, a refund will be issued.

COVID-19 Restrictions and Safety Precautions

Screening

Campers and parents/guardians will be screened and must pass the health check (Covid-19 School and Child Care Screening Questionnaire and temperature check) upon arrival at the Resource Centre drop off area. Campers will not participate in the program upon failure of the screening/and or temperature check. Educators will be using a list of questions developed by the Ontario Ministry of Health (Version 2) and a touchless thermometer for screening purposes.

Equipment and cleaning

At Wild Encounters, campers will be spending the majority of their time outdoors so everyone will have room to properly social distance. To limit transmission of the COVID-19 virus, shared objects will be limited, and if shared they will be disinfected between uses with Pine Sol All-Purpose Cleaner Disinfectant. The facilities and frequently touched surfaces will also be disinfected twice daily at minimum.

Other equipment used during camp will be limited to individual use items such as magnifying glasses, insect nets, and natural materials for loose parts play.

Masks

To protect each other, everyone will be asked to wear a mask while inside. If physical distancing is not possible when the program is outside, then everyone will be asked to wear a mask outside as well.

The following individuals do not have to wear a face covering in indoor public spaces:

- Individuals with medical conditions rendering them unable to safely wear a mask, including those with breathing difficulties or cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or processing information.
- Anyone who is unable to remove the mask without help.
- Anyone wearing a face covering that would inhibit the ability to breathe in any way such as, but not limited to, during moderate to intense physical activity (such as running) or activity that would preclude its use (such as swimming).
- Individuals who cannot wear face coverings for any religious reasons.

Educators will also be wearing a mask indoors and also outdoors when physical distancing with group members is not possible.

Symptoms during camp

If after a child has been dropped off, they begin to exhibit symptoms, back up Education staff will remove that child from the group. The child's parent or guardian will be asked to pick the child up asap. Ideally, we can wait for parents to pick them up outside, but should symptoms be more severe, we do have a secluded location in the basement of the building if needed.

Staff to camper ratios

Saugeen Conservation's outdoor education programs will follow the Grey Bruce Health Unit's recommendations for educational programming which states that 'in-person teaching and instruction must be operated to enable proper physical distancing'. While most of the Wild Encounters Camp will take place outside, home base will be operated out of our Resource Centre, we will only take 10 campers for each program to allow for indoor spacing. This provides a 1/5 ratio for each group comprised of one educator and five children. At this time, we are only able to host 2 groups.

Any questions regarding the program can be directed to Nancy Griffin, Conservation Education Coordinator at n.griffin@svca.on.ca or call (519) 369-4706 (cell).