



Go *wild* at River Bend's Summer Nature Camps!



Camps for Ages 4-6

- Puddle Stompers** · Explore River Bend and discover what is living in our ponds and river by netting, wading, frog catching, and fishing! Campers will also enjoy going on a canoe ride on the Root River!
- Little Naturalists** · Young naturalists will explore the woods, identify bird calls, build forts and net for frogs. Campers will discover a whole new wild world through activities, stories, and lots of time on the trails! Campers will also enjoy going on a canoe ride on the Root River!

Camps for Ages 7-9

-  **Pioneer Camp** · Ever wonder what it was like to survive as a group and settle a new town in the middle of nowhere? Campers will explore what it took to survive in a new land through fun team-building activities while building their own town in the deep woods of River Bend! Canoeing and archery are also included!
- River Week** · Water, water everywhere! Campers will learn who calls our ponds and river home and enjoy activities such as canoeing, frog-catching, fishing, netting, wading, water games and archery!
- Ranger Camp** · Adventure abounds during this camp! Campers will learn tricks and techniques to build lasting structures to hide and hang out in, as well as survival skills & woodland plant identification. Canoeing and archery rounds out this fun-filled week.
- Tenacious Trekkers** · Campers will grab a day-pack and hit the trails ready for exploration! Tracking, map-making, fort-building, wildlife identification, netting, canoeing, and archery are all part of the fun!
- Tall Oaks Camp** · Investigate how the native Potawatomi Indians used the forest, ponds, river and prairie to survive. Campers will learn about Native American culture through activities, tracking, canoeing, and archery!
- Diggers, Drillers, and Builders** · Campers will learn about animal homes found at River Bend—from spiders to birds to beavers! Canoeing and archery will fill out this week of nature discovery!
- Skulls, Skins & Scat** · Campers will explore and learn about the animals at River Bend through exploration of habitats, surveys, and the skulls, skins, and scat of more than 30 different species! Campers will also enjoy canoeing and archery!
-  **Frontier Camp** · Prepare to get dirty! Campers will learn how frontiersmen and women had to be self-reliant through exploration, map-making, identifying wildlife and wild edibles, building, shooting archery, and paddling!

Camps for Ages 10-13

- Bushcraft** · This camp's got it all! Campers will have endless options such as nature exploration, natural art, archeology, wildlife-tracking, fort-building, orienteering, survival skills, canoeing, bushcraft, archery, camp games, and team-building, just to name a few!
- Wilderness Survival** · Wilderness survival skills enhance camper's ability to feel comfortable and confident in the natural world. Activities including fire-building, shelter construction, tracking, plant and animal identification, and wilderness first-aid are highlights of this week's camp. Canoeing and archery are also included!
- Rambling Rivers** · Enjoy water in all forms as we explore the far corners of River Bend's waterways! Discover a whole new world through canoeing and kayaking trips, fishing, netting, wading, raft-building, and water games on the river! Archery and a day trip to the Horlick Park Dam are also included.
- Eco Science** · Do you like learning about how the natural world works? Campers will enjoy this ecology-themed camp identifying and surveying for organisms, carrying out ecological experiments, and monitoring our waterways using citizen science-based protocols! Campers will also enjoy canoeing, archery, and camp games!
- Survivor: River Challenge** · Get ready to get WET! Campers will learn water-related survival and canoe skills and then put them to the test! Campers will also enjoy kayaking, archery and camp games!
- Survivor: Big Woods Challenge** · Living off the land is tough! Do you have what it takes to survive the Big Woods of River Bend? Campers will learn woodland survival skills and put them to the test in team and individual challenges!

Dear Parents,

Thank you for registering your child for Summer Camp at River Bend Nature Center! The information provided in the guide will help you and your child prepare for a fun-filled experience at camp. Please make sure to read through the information in this packet carefully.

Included in this packet are the **2021 Camp Forms**. Please fill out these forms completely and return them to River Bend before your child's first day of camp.

We look forward to spending the summer exploring and learning with your children! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Parent Information for River Bend Nature Center Summer Camp

Sign In & Sign Out

Camp times for all camp sessions are:

8:00am - 1:00pm

You may arrive up to **15 minutes prior** to camp start time to sign-in.

It is our policy that each camper be signed in every morning and signed out every afternoon. Please make sure that everyone who is authorized to drop off or pick up your child is aware of the need to do this. When you drop your child off, please list any additional person/s authorized to pick up your child on the daily sign-in sheet. For safety reasons, River Bend staff may ask for identification when picking up campers.

Extended Camp Option

During after camp hours, children can participate in outdoor activities, or just relax after an active day at camp.

Cost of Extended Camp:

1:00pm – 5:30pm: \$80 per week

Or \$5.00 per hour

Camp Forms

River Bend requires medical forms for all children attending summer camp. These forms include emergency contact information, authorized adults for pick-up, and photo and emergency care permissions.

Camp Refund Policy

There will be no charge to move registration to a different session. Cancellations less than 2 weeks prior to the session will incur a \$25 fee. No refunds after the program begins. In the case of medical or family emergencies, credits will be given for future programs.

Weather Information

All camps will be held rain or shine, so please be sure your child is dressed appropriately. River Bend does not cancel camps due to inclement weather. In the event of thunder, lightning or other serious weather conditions, outdoor activities will be moved indoors for the safety of our campers. If rain is in the forecast, we recommend sending your child with a raincoat or change of clothes (no umbrellas, please).

Bugs & Sun

Since your child will be spending time outside, please be sure to apply bug spray and sunscreen to your child prior to camp. You may also choose to send these to camp with your child (please write your name on them). If you wish River Bend staff to reapply or assist in reapplying these to your child throughout the day, please make sure to check the box on the medical form allowing staff to do this for your child. River Bend staff cannot apply these to your child without written authorization. Deep Woods Off! is provided by River Bend.

It is possible that while exploring the habitats of River Bend, your child may come into contact with ticks, mosquitoes or other biting insects, or poison ivy. **Parents / guardians should check their child each night for ticks as a precaution.**

Lost & Found

Please label everything with your child's name. We make an effort to match lost items with their owners. Any unclaimed and unlabeled items are set near the registration table in bins at the end of each day. Please check this area or let us know if your child is missing something. At the end of the summer, any unclaimed items will be donated to charity. River Bend is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

What To Wear

While at River Bend, your child will be spending much of their time outside. Send your child in clothes and shoes that are okay to get dirty. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

What To Bring

Please make sure to label everything with your child's name.

- **Long sleeved shirt** – long sleeved shirt is to wear over a t-shirt for insect/sun protection when necessary – a loose, button down shirt works best.
- **Complete change of clothes**, including underwear and socks – our campers are likely to get wet & dirty.
- **Backpack** to hold extra clothing.
- **A bag for wet or muddy clothing.**
- **Rain coat / Rain poncho**
- **Closed toe, comfortable shoes** that can get wet – sneakers are fine. Please, no crocs or flip flops.
- **Snack and bag lunch** – please pack a nutritious morning snack, and a healthy lunch each day.
- **Water bottle** – send your camper with fresh water every day, in a reusable water bottle.
- **Hat** – to protect from sun & insects.
- **Sunscreen** – please apply sunscreen on your child before dropping them off at camp. You may pack sunscreen in their bag to reapply mid-day.
- **Bug Spray** – this is not required, but highly recommended.

Please leave at home: personal items including toys and electronics including game systems, cell phones, MP3 players, etc.