

Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
Outdoor Adventure Camp 2026
Theme Descriptions

Age Groups	Week	Theme	Description
Chipmunk Patrol (AM & PM) Squirrel Scouts	1 & 5	Junior Naturalist	Get ready to explore, discover, and play like a real naturalist! This week, campers will use their senses to observe the world around them, ask big questions about nature, and try fun, hands-on experiments. From searching for bugs to discovering how plants grow, every day is a new adventure filled with games, outdoor fun, and plenty of “wow” moments in nature!
Chipmunk Patrol (AM & PM) Squirrel Scouts	2 & 6	Dirt Detective	There’s a whole hidden world waiting just beneath our feet! This week, campers will dig into the fun as they peek under rocks, logs, and leaves to discover the tiny creatures and mini ecosystems that call the soil home. Through hands-on exploration, games, and outdoor adventures, your little dirt detective will uncover the amazing secrets of the world below!
Chipmunk Patrol (AM & PM) Squirrel Scouts	3 & 7	eARTh Fun	Did you know there’s “art” hidden right inside the word “earth”? This week, campers will discover the beauty all around them as they create crafts inspired by nature. From turning leaves, rocks, and sticks into masterpieces to exploring how art lives in the world outside, every day is full of creativity, outdoor fun, and playful learning!
Chipmunk Patrol (AM & PM) Squirrel Scouts	4 & 8	Water Safari	This week, campers will dive into the wonders of water through hands-on experiments, playful games, and exciting outdoor exploration! They’ll hike along Doan Brook, investigate streams, and discover the amazing creatures and secrets that live in our watery world. Most importantly, campers will learn about and celebrate water—our most

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			important natural resource—while having a splash-filled week of fun!
Nature Detectives			
Nature Detectives	1 & 5	Be a Naturalist	This week, campers will dive into the world of a real naturalist, exploring the outdoors to learn how plants, animals, and ecosystems work together. Through hands-on experiments, nature hikes, and fun games, your child will discover, investigate, and connect with the world around them—building curiosity and a love for nature along the way!
Nature Detectives	2 & 6	Rot Squad: Dirt & Decomposers	There's a whole hidden world right beneath our feet! This week, campers will lift rocks, peek under logs, and explore the Nature Center to uncover the tiny ecosystems all around us. Through hands-on exploration, experiments, and outdoor adventures, your child will discover the amazing creatures—worms, insects, and fungi—that help keep nature thriving, all while having a fun, messy, and memorable week!
Nature Detectives	3 & 7	Survival Skills 101 (Archery)	Adventure awaits! This week, campers will step into the role of young explorers, learning essential survival skills while having hands-on fun in the great outdoors. From building shelters and tracking nature's clues to trying their hand at archery, your child will gain confidence, problem-solving skills, and a deeper connection to the natural world—all while enjoying games, challenges, and exciting outdoor activities!

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Nature Detectives	4 & 8	Water Adventure	This week, campers will become water explorers! They'll hike along creeks, investigate streams, and play fun water games—maybe even with a few water balloons! Through hands-on exploration and outdoor adventures, your child will discover the wonders of water while staying active, curious, and fully immersed in nature.
Nature Explorers			
Nature Explorers	1 & 5	Nature Invaders	This week, campers will dive into the amazing world of invasive species! They'll discover how different organisms survive, adapt, and thrive in their habitats while exploring what makes some species “invaders” in nature. Campers will get hands-on experiences and venture on two field trips to nearby natural areas to see wildlife and ecosystems up close. It's a week full of adventure, discovery, and outdoor fun!
Nature Explorers	2 & 6	Ultimate Adventure Camp (Archery)	Get ready for a week of teamwork, problem-solving, and outdoor adventure! Campers will tackle challenges together, try their hand at archery, and go on two field trips while exploring creative ways to overcome obstacles. Along the way, they'll collaborate with fellow campers and build confidence, leadership, and critical thinking skills—all while having a blast in the great outdoors.
Nature Explorers	3 & 7	Survival Skills 201 (Archery)	This week, campers will sharpen their outdoor skills with opportunities for shelter building, fire building (weather permitting), and archery. They'll also go on two field trips to nearby natural areas to practice what they've learned, build confidence, and explore the “wilderness”—all while having an adventurous, hands-on experience in nature. No previous survival skills training is needed.

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Nature Explorers	4 & 8	Water Warriors	Creek hikes, hiking, and even a field trip to the beach (weather permitting) are the key parts of our water and hiking week.
Eco-Rangers			
Eco-Rangers	1	Bio Blitz	This week, campers will learn one of the most important skills of a naturalist—identifying and recording the plants and animals that make up an ecosystem! They'll take field trips to nearby natural areas to explore a variety of habitats while observing wildlife up close. Through hands-on investigation and outdoor discovery, your child will gain real-world experience as a field scientist and develop a deeper understanding of the natural world.
Eco-Rangers	2	Ultimate Nature Center Challenge (Archery)	This week, campers will become young scientists on a mission to explore the natural world! They'll take two field trips to nearby natural areas, investigate wildlife, plants, and ecosystems, and put their focus and skill to the test with archery. Through outdoor exploration, teamwork, and problem-solving activities, your child will develop critical thinking, observational skills, and a deeper connection to nature—all while having an unforgettable adventure.
Eco-Rangers	3	Survival Skills 301 (Archery)	This week, campers will tackle advanced outdoor challenges, honing their skills in shelter building, fire making (weather permitting), navigation, and archery. They'll also take two field trips to nearby natural areas to put their skills to the test, solve real-world challenges, and explore the "wilderness". Through hands-on adventure and problem-solving, your child will gain confidence, resilience, and a deeper

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			connection to nature. No previous survival skills training is needed.
Eco-Rangers	4	Waterways and Pathways	This week, campers will explore the wonders of water and trails! They'll hike scenic paths and take two field trips to nearby natural areas—one for a creek hike and one to swim in Lake Erie—while investigating ecosystems and enjoying hands-on outdoor adventures. Through exploration, teamwork, and nature-based challenges, your child will build confidence, curiosity, and a deeper connection to the natural world.