

camp woodend

BY NATURE FORWARD

2026 Nature
Summer Camps
For Grades K-12

Camp Catalog • Registration begins January 22, 2026



Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD



nature forward
Connecting people and nature in the Capital Region

natureforward.org

Chevy Chase Camps (Woodend Sanctuary)

Two-week sessions include a different theme each week.

	Session 1 June 22-26	Session 2 June 29-July 10	Session 3 July 13-17	Session 4 July 20-31	Session 5 August 3-7	Session 6 August 10-21
K	Woodend Wildlife	Forest Friends & Nature Explorers	Go Fish!	Animal Babies & Monkey See	Dino Soar	Creature Feature & Backyard Birds
Grades 1-2	Habitat Hikers	Carnívoros Curiosos & Prehistoric Prowlers	Maryland Mammals	Plantapalooza & Nature Detectives	Water Works	Science Sleuths & Jurassic Journey
	We are Scientists!	Eco Explorers & El Mundo de Pájaros	Wildly Crafty	Young Astronomers & Secrets of the Forest	Jungle Royals	Ice Age & Amazing Adaptations
Grades 3-4	All About Birds	Talons and Teeth & Deep Sea Discovery	Micro Worlds	Extreme Animals & Fairytale Forest	Cold Blooded Creatures	Wild at Heart & Sensational Science
	Out of this World	Aquatic Odyssey & Mythical Creatures	STEAM Team	Reptile Mania & Bat Camp	Divers and Dabblers	Animal Clues & Fearsome Foes
Grades 5-6	Space Explorers	Aquatic Odyssey & Mythical Creatures	Rock Creek Critters	Woodend Rangers & Nighttime Flyers	Scavenger Scheme	Earth Shakers & Fossil Hunters
				Science Wizards & Sunset Safari		
Grades 7-9	Week 1 June 22-26	Week 2 June 29- Jul 2	Week 3 July 13-17	Week 4 July 20-24	Week 5 July 27-31	Week 6 August 10-14
	Space Explorers	Prehistoric Planet & National Park Rangers	Camp Cuisine	Maryland Rocks!	Bay Quest	Ethnobotany & Animal Keepers
Teen Programs		Outdoor Skills	Nature Photography		Caverns & Legends	Camping 2.0
	Mountain Outpost	Green Team		Advanced Bay Quest	Aquatic Adventures	
		Expedition Outdoors	TNT Session 2	TNT Session 2	TNT Session 3	TNT Session 3
		TNT Session 1				

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A Day at Camp Woodend

Here's what your camper may do on a typical day at Camp Woodend! Activities vary from day to day and according to each camp's theme. Two-week sessions include two camp themes.

Sample Camp: Cold Blooded Creatures

Theme: What are reptiles and amphibians? What is the difference between them versus other animals?

- **8:45** Drop Off
- **9:15** Camp Gaggle (All campers gather for a morning meeting)
- **9:30** Morning Circle: What is an amphibian? Learn characteristics common to all amphibians
- **9:45** Hike: Scavenger hunt for amphibians. Identify native amphibians
- **10:30** Snack and Story
- **10:45** Craft: Design and build your own reptile out of recycled materials
- **11:15** Outdoor Exploration: Roll logs and look for salamanders
- **12:00** Lunch and Free Play
- **1:00** Afternoon Circle: Discuss these semi-aquatic creatures and their adaptations for survival
- **1:30** Outdoor Exploration: Ponding! Get the nets and boots as we look for frogs
- **2:30** Game: Camouflage in the forest
- **3:15** Closing Circle: Wrap up and review
- **3:30** Pack up and get ready for pickup at 3:45

A Day of Traveling at Camp Woodend

Sample Camp: Outdoor Adventures

Theme: Learning local natural history through outdoor activities

- **8:45** Drop Off
- **9:15** Morning Circle: Discuss today's destination: Sugarloaf Mountain
- **9:30** Travel to Sugarloaf Mountain
- **10:30-2:00** Nature hike, lunch, and games
- **3:00** Return to Woodend
- **3:15** Reflections and Nature Journals
- **3:30** Game: Capture the Flag
- **3:45** Pick Up



Birthday Parties at Woodend

Explore Woodend Nature Sanctuary with a naturalist for nature-themed activities and games all outdoors!

Learn more at natureforward.org/birthday-parties

ENJOY THE WONDERS OF WOODEND

Days Off & Spring Break Camps

MCPS Spring Break Camp Grades K-5

Monday, March 30-Thursday, April 2, 2026
8:45 am – 3:00 pm
Members \$425; nonmembers \$490
Extended camp available until 5:00 pm for \$140



SCAN TO REGISTER

Questions? Email brenna.houck@natureforward.org
Register at natureforward.org/day-off-camps

Winter Mini Camp (Grades K-5)

Monday, February 16-Tuesday, February 17, 2026
8:45 am – 5:00 pm
Members \$280; nonmembers \$330

Join us for a two-day camp full of winter fun at Woodend Sanctuary! Hike through the forest to find winter wildlife, get creatively crafty, play games, huddle around a bonfire, and build friendships. It's two days of the Camp Woodend experience, now in winter!

Days Off Camps (Grades K-5)

Friday, March 20, 2026
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
8:45 am – 5:00 pm
Members \$145 per day, nonmembers \$195 per day

Join us for outdoor adventures and nature exploration. Activities may include catching frogs in the pond, learning about pollinators in the meadow, games, and building forts. Come prepared to get dirty and have fun!



@gonatureforward

Discovery Camp (K in Fall 2026)

8:45 am–3:45 pm

Your camper must be a rising Kindergartener
& toilet-trained by the start date of camp to attend.

No Extended Camp available

Woodend Wildlife

One Week Session: June 22-26

Members \$550; nonmembers \$635

Come learn about the wonderful wildlife that calls Woodend home. We'll talk about insects, frogs, birds, foxes, coyotes, and more!

Forest Friends & Nature Explorers

Two Week Session: June 29–July 10

No camp 7/3

Members \$985; nonmembers \$1155

Come learn all about our animal friends who live in the forest! From foxes to worms, we'll learn why animals live in forests, what they find to eat, and how they build their homes.

What better way to learn about nature than through hands-on exploration! Join us as we satisfy our curiosity and get our hands dirty looking for slugs, bugs, and more!

Go Fish!

One Week Session: July 13–17

Members \$550; nonmembers \$635

Learn all about aquatic animals in this splashy camp! From stingrays to sharks, dolphins to pufferfish, we'll learn all about different types of animals that inhabit the deep sea.

New

Animal Babies & Monkey See

Two Week Session: July 20–31

Members \$1,095; nonmembers \$1,265

Animal babies are amazing! Some are cute and cuddly while others are scruffy and slimy. We will explore how different animal babies grow and change, how they communicate, and how their parents protect and teach them.

Did you know that humans and orangutans are closely related? In this camp, we'll learn all about a group of animals known as primates that contain gorillas, monkeys, baboons, and even humans!

New

Dino Soar

One Week Session: August 3–7

Members \$550; nonmembers \$635

We're going back in time to when dinosaurs roamed the earth! Bones, fossils, ferns, and gigantic animals will surround us as we investigate the world's pre-historic life forms. We'll even learn to identify some common dinosaurs by their tricky names.

Creature Feature & Backyard Birds

Two Week Session: August 10–21

Members \$1,095; nonmembers \$1,265

What strange creatures roam Woodend Sanctuary? Come explore with us as we learn about the variety of animals that populate Woodend's dense combination of habitats. Together, we'll discuss the adaptations that led these creatures to be so different. From frogs to hawks to grasshoppers to turtles, there's a world to discover!

Robins, cardinals, chickadees, and woodpeckers are just some of the amazing birds that we'll be talking about (and seeing!) in this camp. We'll learn about what makes a bird a bird and observe local birds in their native habitats.



Exploration Camp (1st and 2nd Grade in Fall 2026)

8:45 am–3:45 pm

Extended Camp available until 5:00 pm (see page 13 for details)

Habitat Hikers

One Week Session: June 22–26

Home to an amazing host of plants and animals, Rock Creek Park is a natural wonderland! During our explorations we'll discover how forest, meadow, and pond ecosystems are structured. By observing and interacting with wildlife and native plants, we'll develop our understanding of ecology and interrelationships.

We Are Scientists!

One Week Session: June 22–26

Do you want to work with plants, animals, or fossils when you grow up? In this camp, we will become zoologists, paleontologists, and naturalists as we explore the world around us through different scientific fields.

New

Carnívoros Curiosos (Curious Carnivores) & Prehistoric Prowlers

Two Week Session: June 29–July 10, no camp 7/3

Sharpen your senses in this camp on predators and their prey. We will discover who eats whom on our sanctuary and learn what adaptations, from stalking to ambushing, help carnivores find their dinner. This camp will teach nature vocabulary in both English and Spanish. No previous experience with Spanish necessary.

New

Do you know who the prowlers of the Mesozoic era were? Dinosaurs! In this camp we will learn about the different adaptations that made dinosaurs so successful and what we can learn about them through their fossils.



Eco Explorers & El Mundo de Pájaros (The World of Birds)

Two Week Session: June 29–July 10, no camp 7/3

Kids can be environmentalists, too! We'll be recycling and composting pros at the end of this camp. We'll make crafts out of recycled materials, get involved in eco-action projects, and learn about how kids can make a difference and help their planet.

Step into the world of birds with this exciting camp that features everything feathered and flying! We'll learn all about birds and what makes them unique in the animal kingdom. This camp will teach nature vocabulary in both English and Spanish. No previous experience with Spanish necessary.

New

Maryland Mammals

One Week Session: July 13–17

From the mountains to the floodplains, Maryland is home to thousands of mammals. We will learn about their adaptations, habitats, and behaviors. On our own sanctuary, we will track raccoons, look for fox dens, and learn about native flying squirrels.

Wildly Crafty

One Week Session: July 13–17

Camp Woodend loves crafts! Unleash your imagination and get creatively crafty using natural objects found at the Sanctuary.

Plantapalooza & Nature Detectives

Two Week Session: July 20–31

Discover the wonderful world around you from the perspective of a plant and explore how different plants support our Woodend ecosystem. Learn how carnivorous plants, grasses, leaves, mosses, and algae are the base of the food web that sustains life.

Using all five of our senses, we'll explore our nature sanctuary to determine who lives here. We'll search for clues, make hypotheses, and get our hands dirty as we hunt down the truth about our local wildlife.

Young Astronomers & Secrets of the Forest

Two Week Session: July 20–31

What do you know about the galaxy? Learn all about the moon, stars, and planets and create your own constellations as we explore the wonders of the universe.

There's more to a forest than what we see. Discover how trees talk to each other, how birds communicate with deer, and how ants protect plants.

Extreme Animals & Fairytale Forest

Two Week Session: July 20–31

Nature is full of wonder, beauty, and unbelievably extreme animals! In this camp we'll learn about the smartest, fastest, and deadliest animals out there and why they have evolved such special traits.

Embark on a magical journey learning all about the wondrous creatures that dwell in our forests. Along the way, we'll create our own stories and learn how nature inspires fairytales and folklore.

Water Works

One Week Session: August 3–7

The water we drink today is the same water the dinosaurs swam in! We'll investigate the many forms water takes as it moves in and around our planet. Expect many wet and wild adventures as we explore our pond, Rock Creek, and all things aquatic.

Jungle Royals

One Week Session: August 3–7

You've heard that lions are the kings, but there are many magnificent animals that soar through the skies and prance through the jungle. In this camp, we'll focus on jewel-colored macaws, graceful gazelles, fierce jaguars, and many other majestic creatures that command the jungles they roam.

New

Cold Blooded Creatures

One Week Session: August 3–7

Do you love reptiles, amphibians, and fish? Then this is the camp for you! We will focus on how these animals are alike and different, learn about their special needs, and compare them to their prehistoric ancestors.

Science Sleuths & Jurassic Journey

Two Week Session: August 10-21

Calling all junior scientists! This is a camp full of experiments, creations, and make-believe. We'll test our theories in our own "lab" and then head outside to investigate nature's coolest concoctions from honey to slug slime.

Brachiosaurus, stegosaurus, mosasaurus, and more! We're journeying back to a time when dinosaurs and other huge reptiles patrolled the planet while discovering the small mammals and birds still on the cusp of existence.

New

Ice Age & Amazing Adaptations

Two Week Session: August 10–21

Take an exciting journey back in time, when Megalodons and Giant Sloths roamed with plants and trees in gigantic proportions. As we investigate the past, we'll focus on geology, Ice Age mammals, and ancient plants. We will also investigate the modern-day ancestors of this prehistoric life and how they survived for millions of years.

How does a tiny frog survive the freezing winter? Why are monarch butterflies orange and black? Why do plants have thorns? Campers will answer these questions and more as they explore how living things are equipped to survive and succeed in their environments.

Wild at Heart & Sensational Science

Two Week Session: August 10–21

Have you ever wondered why a dog buries its bone? In this camp, we will explore some of our favorite domestic animals and their fascinating behaviors. We will learn about their different needs and see how some of our most beloved pets might still be wild at heart! During our outdoor investigations, we will observe wild animals and compare their needs to their domestic relatives.

Science is sensational! This camp will be full of interactive activities designed to dazzle your five senses as we create experiments that are bright, bubbly, slimy, and sticky in our classroom "lab."

Prices

\$550 for members and \$635 for nonmembers for all one-week sessions

\$1,095 for members and \$1,265 for nonmembers for all two-week sessions EXCEPT for session 2 (6/29–7/2)

\$985 for members and \$1155 for nonmembers for session 2 (6/29–7/2)

Investigation Camp (3rd and 4th Grade in Fall 2026)

8:45 am–3:45 pm

Extended Camp available until 5:00 pm (see page 13 for details)

All About Birds

One Week Session: June 22–26

Take your bird knowledge to the next level! We will learn about the most common birds in our area, how to ID birds, and the strategies they use to eat, migrate, and survive.

Out of This World

One Week Session: June 22–26

Leave the earth behind as we explore the vast universe above us. Try your hand at designing constellations, experimenting with gravity, and creating your own alien life forms in this adventurous camp.

Talons and Teeth & Deep Sea Discovery

Two Week Session: June 29–July 10, no camp 7/3

Believe it or not, Maryland is home to many predators including foxes, hawks, bobcats, bears, coyotes, snakes, and more! In this exciting camp, we'll discover how these creatures find and hunt their prey, the important role predators play in the food web, and how to find and track them.

Leave Camp Woodend behind as we wade into the world of the deep sea! Discover mysterious creatures that specialize in living deep under water and probe for fresh water relatives in our pond and Rock Creek.

Aquatic Odyssey & Mythical Creatures

Two Week Session: June 29–July 10, no camp 7/3

Did you know that water is the basis for all life on earth? In this investigative camp, campers submerge themselves in the water cycle, aquatic ecosystems, and aquatic plants and animals. Then we will really get our hands wet as we explore our local pond and streams!

Why did the dragon develop the ability to breathe fire? We will use outdoor exploration, art, stories, and our imagination to learn about animal adaptations and to develop our very own creative creatures.

Micro Worlds

One Week Session: July 13–17

Dive into a drop of pond water or a speck of soil and explore the multitudes of life inside. We'll use microscopes and magnifiers to explore the thousands of organisms that can be found in our soil, water, and air.

STEAM Team

One Week Session: July 13–17

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math will be what this camp is all about. We'll do experiments, construct daring designs, and discover art in nature. Get ready to think, build, and test your critical thinking skills!

Rock Creek Critters

One Week Session: July 13–17



What kind of critters live in creeks? And how do they survive there? We will answer these questions and many more while getting wet and muddy exploring Rock Creek. We'll even have a look at some of these small critters under a microscope.

Prices

\$550 for members and \$635 for nonmembers for all one-week sessions

\$1,095 for members and \$1,265 for nonmembers for all two-week sessions EXCEPT for session 2 (6/29–7/2)

\$985 for members and \$1,155 for nonmembers for session 2 (6/29–7/2)

Reptile Mania & Bat Camp

Two Week Session: July 20–31

Komodo Dragons, Timber Rattlesnakes, and sea turtles are just a few examples of wildly cool reptiles and their cousins, the amphibians. We will focus on how these animals are alike and different, learn about their special needs, and compare them to their prehistoric ancestors.

Get ready to delve deep into caves and fly high in the sky as we discover fun facts about bats. Did you know there are 1,000 varieties of these fantastic flyers? Join us on our journey to bat habitats worldwide including our own backyards. This camp will include an optional evening component for campers and their families to explore the nighttime wildlife at Woodend Sanctuary.

Woodend Rangers & Nighttime Flyers

Two Week Session: July 20–31

Do you seek adventure? Discovery? To uncover the mysteries of the forest? Then join us to explore the wilds of Woodend and Rock Creek. With counselor guidance, campers will lead exciting expeditions through the forest in the pursuit of knowledge. Together, we will survey, map, discover, and communicate the mysteries of the wild spaces around us.

Get ready to delve deep into caves with bats and fly high in the sky with owls as we discover fun facts about nighttime flyers. We'll learn how bats use echolocation, why moths are attracted to your porch light, and how to track our nocturnal visitors. This camp will include an optional evening component for campers and their families to explore the nighttime wildlife at Woodend Sanctuary.

Science Wizards & Sunset Safari

Two Week Session: July 20–31

Erupting volcanoes, oozing slime, and dancing bubbles – we'll learn the science behind these magical reactions in this camp full of experiments and explosions. We'll test our concoctions in our own "lab" and then head outside to discover the powerful forces of nature all around us.

They are the famous creatures of the night – owls, bats, fireflies, and cats. But did you know that many amphibians, reptiles, and marsupials are nocturnal as well? Join in the fun as we delve into the wild and surprising world of animals that work the midnight shift. This camp will include an optional evening component for campers and their families to explore the nighttime wildlife at Woodend Sanctuary.

Divers and Dabblers

One Week Session: August 3–7

Maryland is an important stop along the Atlantic Migration Flyway for waterfowl. Learn about our region's ducks, geese, and swans in this camp solely devoted to these wonderful birds. Explore the different habitats that our waterfowl call home, look for mallards at our pond, and search for wood ducks along Rock Creek.

Scavenger Scheme

One Week Session: August 3–7

What do crabs, vultures, and hyenas have in common? They are all scavengers. Enter the world of scavengers and learn about why they are important for the environment and their strategies to get their food.

Animal Clues & Fearsome Foes

Two Week Session: August 10–21

While some animals may elude a hopeful observer, they always leave physical signs behind. Follow deer paths, examine plants for wildlife activity, hone listening skills, and practice tracking local fauna in this camp perfect for animal lovers.

What's the world's deadliest animal? What's the difference between a venomous snake and a poisonous frog? Come find out the answers to these questions and ask so many more!

Earth Shakers & Fossil Hunters

Two Week Session: August 10–21

Tornadoes, volcanoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods – nature's most awesome and devastating displays of power. We will conduct weather experiments, make geologic models, and simulate catastrophic events!

Join us as we learn about fossils, the creatures that made them, and why they are so important. We'll go fossil hunting and make our own fossils to take home.



Pre-Teen Camps (5th–6th Grade in Fall 2026)

8:45 am–3:45 pm

Extended Camp available until 5:00 pm (see page 13 for details)

Space Explorers

One Week Session: June 22–26

\$680 members; \$765 nonmembers

Day camp based at Woodend – two days of travel plus an optional extended evening.

Join our galactic odyssey as we trek through the stars and into the unknowns of the universe. Nebulas, supernovas, and extraterrestrial life are just a few celestial wonders to investigate. Along the way we'll visit museums and a planetarium to learn about the depths of space and the human journey to get there.

Prehistoric Planet & National Park Rangers

Two Week Session: June 29–July 10, no camp 7/3

\$1,200 members; \$1,370 nonmembers

Day camp based at Woodend – one day of travel plus an optional extended evening.

Journey to the Jurassic as we uncover a world where birds were just taking flight, ancient ferns and fauna flourished, and dinosaurs roamed the earth. We'll learn all about this ancient world and the species that inhabited it millions of years in the past.

Traveling day camp based at Woodend.

Come explore the many national wonders we are lucky to have in the DMV. We'll visit multiple sites run by the National Park Service and experience the wildlife and views that each park offers.

Outdoor Skills

One Week Session: June 29–July 2, no camp 7/3

\$530 members; \$615 nonmembers

Day camp based at Woodend — one day of travel and one campout night at Woodend.

Ever wanted to go camping but felt like you didn't have the skills or knowledge? Learn how to build a fire, pitch a tent, and cook over a campfire. We'll also explore some fun local hiking spots. Then on Wednesday night we will put our skills to the test with a campout at Woodend.

Camp Cuisine

One Week Session: July 13–17

\$580 members; \$665 nonmembers

Day camp at Woodend — no travel.

In this camp we will learn about edible wild plants, sustainable farming, and how to care for a garden. We will plant and pick in the learning garden, as well as visit a local farmer's market to find ingredients for our creations. From the science of soil to the taste of freshly picked basil, this camp will satisfy.

Nature Photography

One Week Session: July 13–17

\$680 members; \$765 nonmembers

Traveling day camp based at Woodend.

Can you capture the essence of a tiger swallowtail or the beauty of a wildflower? Come give it a try in this camp all about photographing the wonders of nature. We will travel to different local nature preserves and explore their natural flora and fauna. Please bring your own camera.

Maryland Rocks!

One Week Session: July 20–24

\$705 members; \$790 nonmembers

Traveling day camp based at Woodend.

Get ready to rock as we survey the geology of our region. We'll go hiking and rock climbing and visit Crystal Grottos caverns and the National Museum of Natural History to learn all about rocks, gems, and fossils.





Bay Quest

One Week Session: July 27–31

\$755 members; \$840 nonmembers

M-Tu are day camps at Woodend, W-F are overnight days at Echo Hill Outdoor School. We return to Woodend Friday afternoon.

Go boating, fishing, swimming, and crabbing while learning about the importance of the Chesapeake Bay! Our adventure begins at Woodend where we will spend time getting to know our Bay Quest team and investigating our local watershed. Then we'll travel by bus to Echo Hill Outdoor School for a three-day, two-night excursion on the Chester River. This camp is a great introduction to the overnight camp experience.

Farm to Table

One Week Session: August 3–7

\$655 members; \$740 nonmembers

Traveling day camp based at Woodend.

Dust off those hats and hiking boots for an adventure into the farms of Maryland. Experience a real working farm, pick your own fruits and veggies, meet farm animals, and find out where the food on your table comes from. We will visit local farms and gardens and make some delicious food from our own learning garden.

Caverns & Legends

One Week Session: August 3–7

\$605 members; \$690 nonmembers

Day camp based at Woodend – one day of travel. For centuries, nature and imagination have intertwined, spawning myths and legends such as dragons, fairies, wood nymphs, and even the Loch Ness Monster! Roll some dice and use your imagination to create a fantasy world of your own through nature exploration at Woodend and a trip to the archery range.

Ethnobotany & Animal Keepers

Two Week Session: August 10–21

\$1,255 members; \$1,425 nonmembers

Day camp based at Woodend – no travel.

If we dropped you into the Woodend Wilderness, how would you survive? Throughout history humans have relied on the natural world for their basic needs. We will learn how plants were used for food, medicine, tools, paper, art, and more. Ancient and modern techniques for working with the materials all around us will be used. You might be surprised what you can do with the plants in your backyard!

Traveling day camp based at Woodend.

In this animal-filled camp we will learn why people “keep” animals and how our special relationships have evolved through the years. Each day we will meet different animals and learn how to handle them, take care of them, and what makes them so special to the people who love them! We will travel Tuesday-Friday to animal shelters, farms, and the Smithsonian’s National Zoo.

Camping 2.0

One Week Session: August 17–21

\$655 members; \$740 nonmembers

Day camp based at Woodend — one overnight campout Thurs-Fri at a state park.

Looking for a fun adventure and to take your camping skills to the next level? Then join us for this exciting camp! We'll spend the first part of the week learning how to cook over a camp stove, build a campfire, and how to stay safe on the trail. Then we'll leave Thursday morning for a one-night campout at a Maryland State Park.

Teen Camps (7th–9th Grade in Fall 2026)

8:45 am–3:45 pm

No Extended Camp available

Mountain Outpost

One Week Session: June 22–26

\$750 members; \$790 nonmembers

M-Tu are day camps at Woodend, W-F are overnight days at a Maryland State Park. We return to Woodend Friday afternoon.

Explore Western Maryland in this fabulous overnight camp! We will spend Monday and Tuesday at Woodend practicing team building and basic camping skills. On Wednesday, we will travel to a Maryland State Park for a three day, two-night campout to explore mountain ecology and build our wilderness skills. Join us for the fun, learning, and friendships that only wilderness camping can provide!

Green Team

One Week Session: June 29–July 2, no camp 7/3

\$530 members; \$615 nonmembers

Day camp based at Woodend – one day travel. Learn what it means to be green and earn SSL hours! We will tour a recycling facility, work on restoration projects at Woodend Sanctuary, identify and remove invasive species, and investigate local environmental policy issues.

Sizzle & Spice

One Week Session: July 6–10

\$580 members; \$665 nonmembers

Day camp based at Woodend – no travel. Throughout the week, our chefs will take on different cooking challenges featuring local produce. We'll learn new culinary techniques, visit our local farm stand, and spend some time tending to our learning garden.



Advanced Bay Quest

One Week Session: July 27–31

\$905 members; \$990 nonmembers

M-F are overnight days at Echo Hill Outdoor School. We return to Woodend Friday afternoon. Explore undisturbed marshes and hike sandy beaches, meadows, and forests! Sleep in cabins, swim, fish, crab, and build campfires. Our trip meets at Woodend and then we will travel by bus to Echo Hill Outdoor School for a five-day, four-night wilderness adventure.

Aquatic Adventures

One Week Session: August 10–14

\$730 members; \$815 nonmembers

Traveling day camp based at Woodend. Splash into adventure! In this exciting camp we'll seek out fun interactions with our aquatic ecosystems. We'll go kayaking, explore life above and below the surface, and learn all about the health of the bay and our local waterways. All participants must know how to swim prior to the start of this camp.

10th–12th Grade in Fall 2026

8:45 am–3:45 pm

No Extended Camp available

Expedition Outdoors

One Week Session: July 6–10

\$755 members; \$840 nonmembers

New

M-Tu are day camps at Woodend (one day travel), W-F are overnight days at a Maryland State Park. We return to Woodend Friday afternoon.

In this exciting new camp designed for teens, we'll spend Monday at Woodend learning outdoor survival skills, embark on an off-property adventure Tuesday, then spend Wednesday-Friday at a Maryland State Park where we'll camp overnight (two nights), hike, and kayak.

General Information

Nature Forward summer camps are designed to foster environmental awareness and expand natural and cultural knowledge. Woodend is a 40-acre oasis in the middle of Chevy Chase, MD. Bordering Rock Creek Park, the sanctuary contains mature woods and meadows, a pond, and an intermittent stream that provide habitat for many birds, insects, and mammals. Open lawns provide activity space, and well-maintained nature trails permit safe nature exploration. All camps are taught by experienced environmental educators, maintaining a child-teacher ratio of 8-1.

Camp Woodend Values

Nature Forward is committed to creating a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it. We believe that inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility are essential to that mission. Nature Forward is committed to ensuring that every person is welcome, safe, and treated with respect in all of our spaces and programs. All representatives of Nature Forward, visitors, and program participants will act with kindness and respect in their dealings with people of all identities and backgrounds.

Every child deserves to enjoy a safe and welcoming environment at camp. Children are expected to follow the 5 Camp Woodend Rules: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Kind, and Have Fun. This includes interacting respectfully with people from cultures or belief systems different from their own and refraining from bullying or intimidation.

Inappropriate or unsafe behavior, as determined by the camp staff or director, may result in any or all of the following actions:

- Camper will be given a reminder of the rules and redirected towards more appropriate behavior.
- Camper will be given reasonable choices to modify behavior.
- Camper will take a supervised “cooling off” period away from the group.
- The Camp Director or the Assistant Camp Director will meet with the child.
- Parental notification.
- Partial or total suspension of the child from camp.

Camper Readiness Policy

Campers are ready to attend camp if they are fully toilet-trained and can use the bathroom without assistance or prompting, can function independently in a group of sixteen campers, are able to stay with their camp group at all times, listen to and follow directions, are respectful towards others and refrain from bullying behavior, and do not cause harm to others or themselves. For any concerns that your camper may not be ready to attend camp, please email brenna.houck@natureforward.org prior to registration.

Hours and Extended Camp

Camp hours run from 8:45 am-3:45 pm. Drop off window will run from 8:45-9:05 am and pick up window will run 3:45-4:10 pm. Extended Camp runs from 3:45-5:00 pm at a cost of \$140 a week (except Week 2, which is \$115).

Extended camp is open to all campers Grades 1 through 6. Extended camp provides participants with a fun, relaxing end to their vigorous day at summer camp. Activities include crafts, outdoor games, quiet time for books, and cards. We provide a snack of goldfish crackers as well. Sign up when registering for camp and make sure to pick both weeks if you are signing up for a two-week session. Extended camp spots are limited and we cannot guarantee a spot. Due to licensing regulations and space, we can't offer an extended camp option until 5:00 pm for Kindergarten campers.

Registration Information

Online registration opens Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 10 am. You can become a Nature Forward member when you register for camp on January 22. Simply pick the member rate and add a \$65 family membership to your cart. Nature Forward members receive special pricing.

TO REGISTER:

- Go to www.natureforward.org/summer-camps
- Click on the blue Register button and follow the prompts.
- You will have the option to renew your membership. **Membership fees are nonrefundable.**

In an effort to reduce the number of forms parents must bring to check-in, we are including most forms as waivers in the registration process. Some waivers, such as sunscreen or transportation, may not necessarily apply to your camper due to age, but you must agree to all waivers to register. If you have any concerns, please email brenna.houck@natureforward.org after you complete your registration.

Scholarship Information

Full and partial scholarships are available for campers who qualify for Free and Reduced price Meals (FARMS) or who are referred through an MCPS Parent-Community Coordinator. All scholarships are funded through generous grant and camp registration donations. Please contact the Camp Director at brenna.houck@natureforward.org for more information. You may donate to our scholarship program through the camp registration process.

Payment and Confirmation Information

- Full payment with a credit card is due at the time of registration.
- Membership fees, registration fees (\$5 per camp), and scholarship donations are non-refundable.
- You may register for a maximum of five weeks. Two-week sessions will not be pro-rated for one-week attendance.
- You may not enroll a non-family member/child's friend under your account.
- No prorated rates are available.
- Full and partial scholarships are available. Email brenna.houck@natureforward.org for more info.

WAITLISTS

Nature Forward provides a waitlist for full camps. **Waitlists are free.** If a spot opens up in a camp, we will contact you and you will have 48 hours to decline or accept the spot. There is always a chance that spots will open up in a camp, so we encourage anyone who has some flexibility in their schedule to join the waitlist. We have no way of predicting which camps will have space open up, but in our experience, many camps have at least one cancellation. Due to the number of children registered for waitlisted camps, we will only contact you if space becomes available. **Your child cannot be enrolled in one session and waitlisted for the other concurrent session unless you want to pay the applicable cancellation fees if a spot opens up.**

CONFIRMATION PACKETS

Your initial confirmation after you register online will come by email. We will **email** final confirmations including camp policies and carpool lists approximately 2 weeks prior to the start date for camps. **If you don't receive a confirmation email a few weeks before your child's camp begins, contact pam.oves@natureforward.org. **Health forms must be completed one month before camp begins.****

Refund Policy

REFUND POLICY BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS APRIL 1, 2026

Your tuition is fully refundable less a \$100 cancellation fee per week (\$200 per two-week session), provided that you submit your cancellation request in writing to pam.oves@natureforward.org.

REFUND POLICY AFTER APRIL 1, 2026

Cancellations must be made in writing at least 15 working days before the first day of the camp in which your child is registered, in order to be eligible for a 50% refund. You may email your cancellation to pam.oves@natureforward.org.

If Nature Forward cancels all or part of your child's program for any reason, you will receive a full refund for the missed days minus the \$5 registration fee, membership fees, and any scholarship donations.

There will be no refunds for cancellations made fewer than 15 business days before the camp's start date. There are no refunds for missed days of camp.

Wellness Policy

The health and safety of our campers is our top priority. By the start of camp, your camper must be up to date on the vaccinations required by public schools. Please refrain from bringing your child to the program if they have: fever of 100.4 or higher; sore throat; cough; difficulty breathing; diarrhea or vomiting; new onset of severe headache; or new onset of loss of taste or smell. Participants may return to camp if they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

Note: Children who do not attend a US school will need an immunization certificate by the start date of their camp. A copy of a school immunization record or one from your child's doctor will suffice.

Need Help or Have Questions?

For questions about your registration, including payment information, waitlist status, and refunds please email pam.oves@natureforward.org.

Camp Woodend is committed to providing the best possible camp experience for your child. For questions about the summer camp program, including camp-specific inquires, accommodations for special needs, medical issues, and scholarship information, email Brenna Houck (Hazelnut), Camp Director, at brenna.houck@natureforward.org. Please don't hesitate to email before registration begins.



nature forward

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Teen Naturalist Training (TNT) Program (9th/10th/11th Grade in Fall 2026) 8:30 am–4 pm

- **Session 1: June 22–July 10 (\$565 members/\$735 nonmembers)
No camp July 3**
- **Session 2: July 13–31 (\$605 members/\$775 nonmembers)**
- **Session 3: August 3–21 (\$605 members/\$775 nonmembers)**

Teen Naturalist Training (TNT) Program

If you like getting muddy, singing camp songs, and teaching campers how to hold a frog, then we have the program for you - our teen naturalist training program! TNTs will be assigned to one camp each week where they will assist the teacher with games, crafts and hikes. TNTs can earn up to 105 SSL hours per session (91 hours for Session 1). TNTs may sign up for a second session if spaces are available.

Application is currently open at <https://forms.office.com/r/zY6VtYpxcG>. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Once accepted, TNTs will register and pay through the camp registration system. Note: Acceptance into the TNT program is dependent on a successful interview with the camp admin team.