



## Welcome to Nature Day Camp!

Nature Day Camp is excited to be back for its 57th summer! Our passionate, talented team is ready to make a positive impact on the lives of our campers. Our mission is to help them build a lifelong, meaningful relationship with the natural world through positive outdoor experiences. Whether it's catching a frog, building a fort with friends, or floating in the river, our campers will have a dynamic, engaging experience. We hope you all are ready for an adventure! If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at 989-631-0830 or email [camp@chippewanaturecenter.org](mailto:camp@chippewanaturecenter.org).

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Steve Frisbee,  
Nature Day Camp Director

Allie Elliott,  
Nature Day Camp  
Assistant Director

### Health Forms

You will receive an email about three weeks prior to camp with instructions for completing. If you cannot access this form online, please call 989.631.0830 to have one mailed to you.

**Medications must be in their original packaging** with the camper's name and dosage information. Medication must be given directly to the Nature Day Camp Director or Assistant Director.



### Where do we go on the first day of camp?

**Before and After Care** will meet at the Homestead Barn for check-in from 7:30-8 am. When you arrive at the welcome sign, turn right at the stop sign and follow the gravel road down to the parking area outside the farm.

**Full day camps** (except *Habitat Hunters*) will meet at the Chippewa Trail Pavilion adjacent to the main parking lot by the Visitor Center. When you arrive at the welcome sign, turn left at the stop sign and park in the main parking lot. Camp staff will be ready to welcome campers beginning at 9:15 am. Follow the signs to the check-in areas at the arrival space's north and south end.

**Half day and Habitat Hunters** sessions will meet at the Nature Preschool beginning at 9:15 am. When you arrive at the welcome sign, turn left at the stop sign and park in the main parking lot. Follow the trail that begins under the small pavilion to Nature Preschool.

### Check In

On Monday, you will need to stop at the check-in table. You and your child will then be directed to their counselor. For the rest of the week, you will sign-in with your child's counselor. **Please do not drop campers off before 9:15 am unless they are enrolled in Before and After Care.**

### Sign Out

Sign out will take place with your child's counselor each day.

### What should I bring to camp?

- Water bottle
- Rain gear (*no umbrellas please*)
- Change of clothes
- *Optional items: Sunscreen & Hat*
- Lunch (*if attending a full-day program*)

#### **Please do not bring:**

- Spray insect repellent (*lotion, bracelets and stickers are ok*)
- Toys and games
- Camera
- Cell phone

### Lunch at Nature Day Camp

Campers attending a full-day session (9:30 am-3:30 pm) should pack a lunch. Below are some helpful tips for planning your camper's lunch.

- No refrigerator is available for camper lunches.
- **Please do not send peanuts or peanut butter** as we have several campers who are severely allergic.
- We encourage you to pack lunch items in reusable containers. Campers participate in team projects, including recycling, all week to help their team win the *Stewardship Challenge*.

## Meet our Staff

We work hard to hire the best staff at Chippewa Nature Center in order to provide the very best camp experience for your child. Each staff member was selected for their commitment to teaching kids about nature and their passion for learning. Staff members are assigned to individual sessions based on their interests, knowledge, and training. Each staff member is certified in First Aid and CPR, has undergone a background check and central registry clearance, and is 100% committed to providing an excellent experience for your camper.



**Aubrey Brown, Early Childhood Camp Counselor**  
I have completed the full (life) cycle at Nature Day Camp. Starting as a camper, then CIT, and then a Junior Counselor, I am now happy to return for my sixth summer at Nature Day Camp as an Early Childhood Camp Counselor. This year, I completed my first year teaching K-2 Special Education at Bullock Creek Elementary. This summer, I look forward to challenging campers by choice, making lots of smores, and jumping into all of the muddiest puddles Nature Day Camp has to offer! Let's make a summer full of memories!



**Anthony Clark, Camp Counselor**  
This is my second summer at Nature Day Camp, and I am ecstatic to be back for another great summer! I am currently studying at GVSU and will be entering my third year in the fall, majoring in Secondary History Education. In my free time I will most likely be at the gym, playing Pokémon, and all around just chillin'. I am super excited to connect all campers with nature, let's get it!!



**Sherry Clarkson, Preschool Counselor**  
I fell in love with Nature Day Camp as a camper and a CIT, and came on staff in 2009 as a Junior Counselor. Because of my own experience at camp, I became passionate about connecting children with the outdoor world and have filled roles as Counselor, Trip Leader, and Program Coordinator. During the school year I teach at Nature Preschool, and I look forward to sharing the summer season with preschoolers this year as well. It is a privilege to be able to share my love of learning, log climbing, frog catching, and puddle jumping with children though the experiences they have at Nature Day Camp.



**Marcus Collins, Program Coordinator**  
This is my 10th summer working at Nature Day Camp. During the school year, I teach at the Nature Preschool. I am originally from Cornwall, England, and now live in Midland, Michigan. I hold a Bachelors in Education from the University of Massachusetts and have received my Master's Degree in Family and Community Services from Michigan State. Over the last 20+ years, I have worked in 10 different summer camps in 7 states. I believe camp is a truly magical place that provides endless opportunities to teach, learn, and grow in the natural world. I look forward to getting to know you all.



**Caden Cummings, Camp Counselor**  
I am so excited to be back at Nature Day Camp! I've been coming to camp in some way, shape, or form since I was 6 years old, so getting to spend my first summer on staff is a dream come true! I'm a recent graduate of Dow H.S. and will be studying Biomedical Engineering at Case Western Reserve University this fall. You might have seen me running around Midland playing the trumpet or piano, singing, acting, student leading, Eagle Scout-ing, and so-so-so much more! Nature Day Camp taught me to love the outdoors, so I'm excited to share, teach, and explore the wonders of nature with these incredible campers!



**Joe Cummings, Program Coordinator**  
I'm a 24-year-old Midland native who graduated from Bullock Creek H.S. in 2018. I'm currently a medical student at CMU College of Medicine looking to specialize in Family Medicine or Pediatrics. A few of my hobbies include soccer, Pokémon, kayaking, gardening, and exploring nature. I started coming to NDC as a camper in the summer of 2006 and have been back every summer since. Camp was a huge part of my childhood. It was instrumental in shaping my love for nature, and I'm so excited about getting the opportunity to pass that on to the next generation.



**Josh Danielson, Adventure Trip Leader**  
I Graduated from Eastern Michigan University in vocal music education and am currently the Choir Director at Reeths-Puffer H.S. I am so excited for my sixth summer at CNC! I have been a camper, teen volunteer, and camp counselor, and I am incredibly excited to return as an Adventure Trip Leader. When I'm not singing, conducting, or playing piano, I love hammocking and adventuring in the outdoors!



**Harley Davidson, Camp Counselor**  
Hi friends! This will be my second summer at NDC. I am an Elementary Education graduate from SVSU, and I am beyond eager to be back at NDC, sharing my love for nature and teaching! I can be found traveling, backpacking, gardening, or reading in my free time! I am most looking forward to spending my summer immersed at CNC with all our incredible campers!



**Brady Dixon, Camp Counselor**  
My name is Brady Dixon, and this is my second year on staff here at CNC. I am going to be a sophomore at Oregon State University majoring in Marine Biology, and I flew all the way back from Oregon for this summer, so I'm ready to make this one the best yet. I have been at camp as long as I can remember, and my goal is to hopefully help nature make a lasting impact on your children.



**Allie Elliott, Assistant Camp Director**  
I am so excited to be back at Nature Day Camp! I have been on the NDC Leadership Team since 2019 as a Program Coordinator and as an Assistant Director. I graduated from CMU with a Bachelor's in Biology: Natural Resources. I fell in love with the CNC and teaching through nature during my work as an Interpretive Naturalist. I am most looking forward to climbing, camping, and getting muddy this summer!



**Steve Frisbee, Nature Day Camp Director**  
I joined CNC in 2007 and I have been on the Leadership Team at camp for seventeen years. This summer will be my seventh year as the Nature Day Camp Director. I previously taught Nature Preschool for 10 years. I look forward to supporting campers and families in getting the most out of the camp experience while I coach staff to meet their full potential. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your family!



**Brooke Gledhill, Camp Counselor**

This is my second summer at CNC, and I am beyond excited to explore and adventure with the campers here! I am a licensed EMT, an NMU graduate, and a student at CMU studying Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Education. When I'm not in classes, working as a barista, or at summer camps, you can usually find me in the woods camping year-round, fishing, kayaking, or climbing. I look forward to meeting all my campers and getting muddied up this summer!



**Kodie Hale, Camp Counselor**

This will be my third summer with Nature Day Camp, and I'm so happy to be back for Summer 2024. I also just completed my first year as a Nature Preschool Teacher. I went to Central Michigan University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Development and Learning. If I'm not at CNC you can probably find me camping or trying to teach my pup Marshal how to kayak with me!



**Ashley Harvey, Camp Counselor**

This is my third summer as a counselor at Nature Day Camp, and I'm so excited to be back at my favorite place! I am a student at Central Michigan University studying Biology: Ecology and Conservation and Education! I cannot wait to spend the summer exploring nature, looking at different animals, and getting to know campers! Outside of camp, you can find me researching fish or hammocking!



**Chris McCreedy, Camp Counselor**

I have been with CNC since 2021 as a camp counselor and nature educator. My background is in natural resources, outdoor recreation, and history interpretation. It is a pleasure to get outside daily and connect children to nature, their passions, and each other. My favorite part of the week is watching camper moments of wonder, fascination, and nature joy. I am excited to meet your camper and create an experience they will cherish for years!



**Emily Osborne, Adventure Trip Leader**

I started my CNC journey as a kid, going to camps, which then turned into volunteering. Last summer was my third summer at CNC, and I had the privilege of leading campers on backpacking trips all around Michigan. I am beyond excited to lead groups of adventurous campers on adventure trips this summer. I'm looking forward to all the laughs on the trail and teaching them some principles like leave-no-trace.



**Nick Pellegrino, Camp Counselor**

This is my third summer with Chippewa Nature Center after an amazing spring working as an educator and preschool assistant. I'm studying Early Elementary and Special Education at SVSU and have worked with day camps around Midland for the last six years. I am so excited to spend summer days in nature exploring, discovering, and learning along with all the campers!



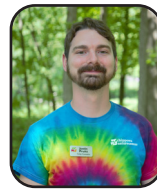
**Katie Papst, Junior Camp Counselor**

I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a Nature Day Camp junior camp counselor. I really enjoying hiking and being outside and have been able to do a lot of things like hiking the Grand Canyon. I am excited about this summer and can't wait to see what adventures camp will bring.



**Bridgette Plante, Camp Counselor**

Hello! I am going into my second year as a secondary education major at SVSU, and I have a background in childcare. I graduated from Bullock Creek H.S. in 2023 and spent the previous summer as a CIT. I am very musically inclined and spend much of my free time with music and at local live shows, I play the guitar and saxophone! I love to do anything I can outdoors and thoroughly enjoy admiring nature. I am passionate about creating a community environment and look forward to doing so with our campers in a wonderful, natural environment!



**Justin Pruitt, Camp Counselor**

This will be my third summer with Nature Day Camp, and I am just as excited as I was about my first. Using the knowledge I gained from pursuing my degree in Recreation Event Management and Outdoor Education, I plan to give the campers under my care a summer they will remember fondly for the rest of their lives. During the rest of the year, I will work as an educator at CNC and use those skills to inspire future stewards of our beautiful world. This summer will be filled with fun activities, interesting sights and sounds, and memories to last a lifetime.



**Nate Shafto, Before and After Care Coordinator**

I received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and Geography Information Science from Central Michigan University in 2018. Following graduation, I served with the Peace Corps in Liberia, West Africa, where I worked in education for the public school system. I have been a part of CNC since Fall 2019 as an educator, preschool teacher, adventure trip leader, and program coordinator. I am most excited to reconnect with my camp family and help link our beautiful ecosystems to all who attend Nature Day Camp.



**Morgan Simons, Early Childhood Camp Counselor**

This is my fourth summer at CNC, and I'm excited to be back! I'm a recent graduate of Central Michigan University and a kindergarten teacher at Coleman Elementary. This summer, I'm looking forward to exploring nature alongside your kiddos!



**Katie Steinhaus, Adventure Trip Leader**

I just finished my second year at SVSU in the environmental science program and have had the opportunity to work on some cool research in the Saginaw Bay watershed. I have been leading high-adventure and backcountry trips with peers at SVSU, and I look forward to engaging with a younger generation and exploring Michigan's beautiful environment. This summer will be a blast, and I can't wait to continue supporting CNC's mission to connect all people to nature!



**Makenna Town, Camp Counselor**

I am thrilled to be a part of Nature Day Camp as a counselor this summer! I grew up in Midland and have enjoyed walking the CNC trails for as long as I can remember. In the fall, I will enter my fourth year at Saginaw Valley State University, pursuing a BA in Environmental Studies and Sustainability. I am excited for a summer filled with learning and fun!



**Katie Vauhkonen, Junior Camp Counselor**

This is my third summer at Nature Day Camp! I have been a teen volunteer for two years and am very excited to be a Junior Camp Counselor this year. In the fall, I will be starting my senior year at Bullock Creek H.S. I am so excited to hang out with great kids all summer and enjoy the outdoors!



## Friday Flagpole

On Friday at 3:15 pm, we invite camper's friends and family to join us as we celebrate a week of Nature Day Camp. We'll sing songs, hear about each group's adventures, and watch a Counselor Challenge!

## Evaluations & Feedback



We love to hear about your camp experience! Please take time to complete this online survey as it helps us to continually improve to best serve you! [tinyurl.com/EvaluateNDC](https://tinyurl.com/EvaluateNDC)

## Fantastic Flora

Nature Day Camp is excited to celebrate a plant for the first time on our camp t-shirts! The Green Dragon is a nonwoody perennial wildflower.

It is known for its spikelike structure, with many small flowers blooming from April to

June. It has one leaf that is made up of many lance-shaped sections. The fruit is a cluster of berries that, when ripe, are a brilliant scarlet. Venture Out with Nature Day Camp to find the Green Dragon!



## Poison Ivy, Ticks & Mosquitoes

**Poison Ivy** - You will be notified if we suspect your child had contact with poison ivy. Washing the area with soap and cool water helps prevent a reaction and the spread of oils. Also be sure to wash exposed clothing promptly.

**Ticks** - Finding ticks at CNC is rare. Each night, check your camper for ticks, focusing on the backs of knees, sock and underwear lines, and other borders between clothing and skin.

**Mosquitoes** - Mosquitos are not prevalent at camp, but depending on recent weather, levels may change. If you would like your camper to use repellent, please send bracelets, stickers or lotion or spray them before they arrive at camp.

## Tips from the Pros

- **Label everything.** Be sure to check the Lost and Found on Friday.
- **Complete your health form ahead of time.** Please log-in to make sure your forms are complete. Call us at 989.631.0830 if you are unable to complete an online form.

- **Embrace the dirt!**

Dress your camper in old clothes and stick an old towel in the car to keep the seats clean.

- **Wear close-toed shoes.**

Avoid Crocs, slip-ons, and flip flops. Tennis shoes are usually best.

- **Talk to your camper's counselor.**

You are the expert on your camper and we appreciate any tips you can provide so we can give them the best experience possible.



## Family Picnic • Tuesday, July 30 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Join us as we celebrate a summer of fun at Nature Day Camp! Park at the Visitor Center, ride the wagon to the Homestead Farm and enjoy games, cold treat, crafts, and a scavenger hunt with NDC staff. If you like, bring dinner and a blanket and make it a picnic for the whole family! *If the weather is poor, we will relocate to the Visitor Center.*



**PLEASE RSVP**  
Scan to go to  
[tinyurl.com/ndcpicnic2024](https://tinyurl.com/ndcpicnic2024)  
or call 989.631.0830