



Environmental Education

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Nature's Calling Eco-Explorer Camps 546 Turkey Point Road

2017 Day Camp Themes

Tuesday July 4

1, 2, 3 Come Explore Camp with Me – *Exploration & Outdoor Survival*

Exploration has always fascinated and intrigued the human race. With such a wonderful world, there is so much to explore - from the tiniest molecules to the furthest reaches of space. Explorers will immerse themselves in our amazing planet, one leaf, animal, or pile of dirt at a time at Nature's Calling new home 'Carolinian North'. While discovering, campers will learn about the environment and develop their outdoor living skills.

Wednesday July 5

Bee Great - *Honey Bees & Pollinators*

Kids love butterflies! Nothing captures the attention of our campers more than finding a really cool bug or watching a beautiful butterfly flutter through our pollinator garden. Birds, bees and butterflies are flitting across Norfolk during the summer and we'd love to show them off by teaching youngsters the importance of these magnificent pollinators. Your camper will explore and discover the world of bees and butterflies as they play games, take hikes, crafts and use the wax and honey for making sweet treats and dipping candles. *This is a dress up theme day and your child may come dressed as their favourite Super Hero (as pollinators are Superhero's of the real world!)*

Thursday July 6

Eco-Warriors - survival of the fittest – *Outdoor 'Animal' Olympics*

"Survival of the fittest", a 19th century Darwinian evolutionary theory describing the mechanism of natural selection. Today, children will learn about natural selection and adaptations to outwit, outplay, and outlast. Competitions

between the groups will end with a finale for the Ultimate Survivor contest! Partake in favourite traditions and competition styled Olympic sports with a hint of nature!

This is a dress up day; the children will be asked to dress in a specific colour of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green or blue) and represent their tribal team in various survival styled competitions.

Tuesday July 11

Let's Go Out into the Woods - *Diversity of Life & Forest Ecology*

What's it like to be a tree? Get to know the quiet giants of the forest through the science, the senses and ecological games. Campers will spend the day exploring wildlife and plant ecology, adaptations, tracks and signs, and the complex system by which all things in an ecosystem are connected. Discover all the different types of trees and understand how they serve different purposes in our interconnected world. Learn how trees impact the animal world, and humans too! Come, explore and have a "tree-mendous" day!

Wednesday July 12

Shipwrecked – *Finding Solutions to Pollution*

Climb aboard matey's. Like the pirates, we will set sail on a course for adventure searching for a *WHALE* of a *Solution to Pollution*. Taking care of Mother Earth is no easy feat, but that doesn't mean it can't be done by learning how to tread lightly on planet earth. Find out how humans impact the environment, and understand the harmful effects of pollution. Join us as we communicate, collaborate and create new ways to address climate change and live within our means off the land. We will trek far and wide surveying nature to help think-start us on a quest for green energy, cities and homes. Learn about Carbon Farming: using the powers of photosynthesis and a dash of compost to confiscate carbon in grasslands. How would you design your green home: as a passive house, with green roofs, green walls, water catchment and compostable toilets? We will work together to become natural nature makers and shipwreck pollution before it shipwrecks us!

This is a dress up theme day, come dressed as a Pirate

Thursday July 13

Hooray for Herptiles – *Reptiles & Amphibians*

If it has scales, a shell, or slithers it will be fair game as your camper is immersed in all things reptile & amphibian. Through nature exploration, games and crafts, campers will leave no stone unturned learning about our cold-blooded friends. Our 'Carolinian North' wetland is the perfect place to begin to understand what makes reptiles & amphibians so interesting. Ssshhh... if we're quiet, we'll probably see some of our cold blooded friends as they bask in the sun, search for food, or swim in the pond.

Tuesday July 18**Camp Camouflage** - *Nature's Hide & Seek*

What kid doesn't love to play hide and seek? Did you know that animals must hide and seek in order to survive? They have to hide from predators and seek out prey! Discover how animals use camouflage to both hide and seek during this week of camp. Campers will also explore the various adaptations of animals that enable them to survive in the wild. We will go on scavenger hunts, search for the geocaches, and create our own letterboxes for others to find, play game and make camouflaged animal masks.

Children can come to camp dressed in their favourite camouflage

Wednesday July 19**Campfire Craze** – *Life around a Campfire*

There is just something fabulous about gathering with friends and family around the warmth and wonder of a campfire. Along with toasting marshmallows, for many, the favorite part of the fire is the conversation that takes place. Sometimes funny, sometimes soul-searching, a campfire chat is always rewarding.... In recollection of recent happening in Fort McMurray, children will learn the importance of safety measures and practices around campfires, fire lighting skills, and building techniques. Also learn the importance of a campfire for survival by providing light, warmth and heat for cooking, serve as a beacon, signal distress and an insect and predator deterrent. Campers will learn the three natural types of material involved in building a fire and set out on an adventure collecting these basic supplies. Sharing smiles and laughs around the campfire will be an integral part of the day learning traditions of stories and songs passed down through generations, not to mention a few tasty treats!

Thursday July 20**First Nations Games**

Before the arrival of European settlers, Norfolk County was a dense forest inhabited by Native peoples. Aside from teaching new settlers essential skills to survive in the dense forest, First Nations peoples helped entertain our ancestors and introduce them to competitions during leisure. Campers will learn what our world was like before video games, cell phones and plastic toys and experience some of the games played by early settlers and First Nations peoples – all of which are made from natural materials found in the great outdoors. While enjoying the games, campers will also learn the incredible history of First Nations people who inhabited the land that we now call home. These traditional team-building games will help campers build lasting friendships and new skills.

Tuesday July 25**Ants in my Pants** - *Bug Safari*

Kids love bugs! They are just plain fun, especially when they can spend a whole day learning about and scouring camp for ladybugs, roly-poly's, ants, water striders and more. Campers will learn how to identify and classify creepy crawlies from insects to spiders. Bugs are very active at a wetland during the summer so let's get down and dirty as we turn over every leaf, stump and barrel on a wild bug hunt searching for those creepy crawlers! Children will get active and engaged in a day full of 'bug' themed activities, games, crafts and snacks as they explore the world of bugs singing about them, moving like them, paint them, and even hold them!

Wednesday July 26**Nature's Pantry - It Makes Scents** - *natural spa remedies, therapy relaxation*

Nature is a busy and curious kitchen, full of everything from imaginary cooking to edible berries to medicinal uses for native plants. Discover the importance of natural fragrances, concoct a healing salve, exfoliates, teas, poultices and herbal relaxation techniques through nature's very own gardens of life. Learn and remember the names of fragrances by their odor and create an original fragrance! Learn the benefits of various natural products and how to use them. Children will be working with various plant and herbs to create a collection of teas, soaps, balms and homemade spa treatments.

Thursday July 27**How Great Thou Lake** - *magnificent wonders of Lake Erie & the Long Point Watershed*

Explore the science of lakes, rivers, creeks, ponds & wetlands through investigation and observation. Test the water quality, dip for macroinvertebrates, and explore for predatory animals who depend on water as a food source. The campers will learn all there is to know about Norfolk's 'great' lake – What feeds it? Where does it go? Who lives in there? What grows near it? And most importantly - how can we help to preserve this local treasure! Come prepared to get wet and go home happy! Discover how all creatures are connected through water – including you!

Be sure to bring clothes & towel suitable for getting wet!

Tuesday August 1**A Brush with Nature** - *Outdoor Art*

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Nature has inspired talented artists since people lived in caves! Join us to train your eyes, minds and hands to create works of art from nature. Campers will draw inspiration from nature to create

amazing masterpieces across multiple modes. Artists will tap into their creative genius with guided curriculum and help from the great outdoors. The natural world offers the opportunity for children to return to their roots as they draw, design, paint, and shape their way toward beautiful works of art from mosaic to music! This camp will culminate in an all-camp art show at the end of the day.

This is a day for of crafting and creative exploration, please dress appropriately.

Wednesday August 2
Life's a Beach

Splash into summer fun as campers participate in several beach themed lessons and games including beach volleyball, water games, nautical crafts, sand beach art, shoreline treasures, create a keepsake picture frame using real shells and a shore side picnic!

Bathing suit and towel recommended for beach play & water sports

Thursday August 3
Underground Farmers - *Worms & Composting*

What has no teeth in their mouth, but can eat almost one and a half times their own weight in one day? Learn about these tricky little slimy creatures, and how they can fool you! Campers will discover how nature made worms to be the perfect recyclers and underground farmers to help the green grass grow all around. Learn songs, stories, life cycles, build your own worm farm and eat treats all from the goodness of worms!

Tuesday August 4
Talk Turkey to Me – *Birding: Calls & Bird Watching*

Swoop into the world of flight. Search for birds, butterflies, beetles, and bats. What is it like to have feathers and a beak? We will build nests, guard our eggs, and learn to fly during an avian adventure. We'll share secret bird calls and find hidden perches. Maybe even make a new friend! Discover winged creatures around every corner as you imitate bird calls and see who answers back. Pay attention - the birds have a lot to tell us about the forest! Come and learn their secrets...

Dress Up Day - Children may come dressed as their favourite flying crusader

Wednesday August 5
Pixies, Pollywogs, and Potions – *Nature's Mysteries*

The forest is the most magical place to discover nature's most mysterious plants and animals. From poison ivy to plantain, come learn to tell plant

hazards from plant helpers and have lots of time for foraging, making magical concoctions, and building fairy houses! Campers will learn about crazy critters and perform exceptional experiments; exploring everything from crabby crustaceans to gooey ooblek. Campers will investigate the strange, learning not only how things happen, but more importantly *why* during experimentation, outdoor inquiry, and play. Remember—it's not magic, it's nature!

Thursday August 6

Telling Tales ~ Imagination Station

Everyone loves a great story, and there is no better place to widdle a stick, spin yarn or relax than in the shade of a tree by the trickling stream listening to a captivating story. Campers will hear some great tales from Dr. Seuss to Thornton Waldo Burgess and with their inspiration, create stories of their own imagination! Crafts, hands-on activities, games, puppetry and more will follow the themes set by the stories we tell. If life is a legend, let your storyteller delve into his or her own story as they immerse themselves in camp, nature, and friendship. Every child deserves a chance to live his or her own "Once upon a time...", and the Nature's Calling Eco-Adventure Camp is the perfect place for it!

Tuesday August 15

No Backbone About It ~ Look Mom ... No Spine – Spineless Creatures

Snails and slugs, worms and spiders, centipedes and pill bugs – what do they all have in common? They have no backbone! Spend the day searching for and learning about these well-adapted, spineless creatures. Play games that teach the differences and make temporary habitats that match the ones you find!

Wednesday August 16

Forest Friends – Animals & their Habitats

Every living thing needs a place to call home – and nature is no different! Habitats are where we find our food, water, houses and families! Seek out different habitats and discover who's hiding in our forests and around our homes. If your camper loves animals, they will love this camp. Animal lovers will get a closer look at the animals that inhabit our world through games, hands-on activities, and crafts. Campers will get some up-close and personal time with some of the native animals that live in and around Norfolk County. Whether your child is just beginning to burrow into the world of animals or is an animal expert, this is the purr-fect camp for them. Stealth mode and imagination recommended!

Campers may bring their favourite stuffed animal with them.

Thursday August 17

Lady Bug Lady Bug Fly Away Home - *Creatures & Things that Fly*

Join us as we have a flappin' great time learning about birds and discovering all the creatures who fly, soar, and zoom in the sky. From birds and bugs to bats and squirrels, if it is up in the air we will explore it! Through interactive games and crafts, campers will understand the unique adaptations that allow these animals to fly. We will look at the wonderful birds that call Southern Ontario their home – owls, crows, hawks, and several songbirds. Campers will create feathery works of art, flap around the trails and along the wetland searching high and low for our flying friends. Campers will also learn about how the weather affects not only these creatures, but also us humans who study them!

Tuesday August 22

Hoo's Hunting Who - *Predators & Prey*

Predators are truly amazing and fascinating creatures, from their sharp teeth to their long claws, they are magnificent! Campers will discover the impressive features and adaptations of several top predators in North America. They will learn how loud a bear can roar or how sharp shark teeth are or if an owl can really turn its head all the way around. Learn how the animals stalk their prey, play games that encourage quiet invisibility, think like a bird of prey as you spend the day sneaking and trying to be unseen. Join us as we learn about these and many other predators including some surprisingly small predators like the ladybug and praying mantis.

Wednesday August 23

Builders, Diggers and Crafty Critters – *Nature's Engineers*

Calling all creative creatures! Find out what beavers, birds and humans all have in common . . . they love to build! Whether your child loves to build things or destroy them, this camp includes lots of both! Nature is one of the best teachers when it comes to architecture and design, and campers will design and engineer dams, build natural shelters, and express themselves using nature's bounty. Campers will learn about homes for all sorts of animals from spiders to birds to beavers. Our nature camp engineers design and build structures using simple tools and their imaginations. Campers will have the opportunity to design their own simple machines using pulleys, wedges, screws and levers and have fun learning how catapults work!

Thursday August 24

Whatever the Weather . . .

Whether the weather is cold or whether the weather is hot; you'll weather the weather, whatever the weather; whether you like it or not! Through

exploration, experiments and crafts, children will discover the many sides of weather; detecting in and making the through it. Learn the importance of weather on all living things from plants to animals.