



GREEN VALLEYS  
WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION

# Summer ECO Camp 2024

Weekly Outdoor Adventures  
For youth ages 6 to 12  
June 17 – August 9



# Summer ECO Camp 2024



## Every Child Outside (ECO) Camp at Welkinweir Preserve

Weekly outdoor adventures June 17 – Aug 9

Play, explore, and discover on 224 acres!

Before and After Care Available

Camp Scholarships Available  
Call or email for application

Dates	Weekly Theme	<b>Bullfrogs</b> Ages 6-7 <b>9:00 – 3:00</b> Fees (5-day week): Members - \$245 NM - \$295	<b>Turtles</b> Ages 8-9 <b>9:00 – 3:00</b> Fees (5-day week): Members - \$275 NM - \$325	<b>Hérons</b> Ages 10-12 <b>9:00 – 3:00</b> Fees(5-day week): Members - \$345 NM - \$395
June 17 - 21	<i>Animals</i>	Feet, Fins, & Feathers	ECO Detectives	Smooth, Slimy, & Slithery
June 24 - 28	<i>Adventure</i>	Young Explorers	Into the Wild	ECO Trekkers
July 1 – 5* *No camp on Thursday, July 4th	<i>Art</i>	Art in Nature M - \$220 NM - \$270	Nature's Art Gallery M - \$245 NM - \$290	Green & Crafty M - \$320 NM - \$370
July 8 - 12	<i>Water</i>	Wet & Wild	Just Add Water	Earth, Wind, & Water
July 15 - 19	<i>Animals</i>	Creature Features	Amazing Adaptations	Camouflage, Claws, & Super Sight
July 22 - 26	<i>Adventure</i>	Survivor	Creative Native	Lenape Life
July 29 - Aug 2	<i>Art</i>	ECO Art	Wild Art	Great ARTdoors
August 5 - 9	<i>Water</i>	Stream Stompers	Water Wonders	Aqua-Ventures

**Green Valleys Watershed Association,  
1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown, PA 19465.**

Online Registration at [www.greenvalleys.org/summer-nature-day-camp](http://www.greenvalleys.org/summer-nature-day-camp)  
For assistance or questions, email [camp@greenvalleys.org](mailto:camp@greenvalleys.org) or 610-469-4900

# *ECO Camp*

Unplug the kids and let the outdoors do the teaching! GVWA's ECO camps are the perfect outlet for kids this summer! They'll keep learning and growing through outdoor play, exploration, physical activity, creativity, and friendship. Backed by research, kids will have happier, healthier learning experiences in a camp setting that relies on outdoor activity. While no two weeks of our camp are the same, all weeks include problem-solving, team building, learning about our natural world, and becoming better environmental stewards. Through our wide range of activities, campers will learn valuable skills that may help them academically, socially, and maybe even professionally. When did you know you wanted to be an aquatic scientist? ECO Camp! An environmental engineer? ECO camp! An urban planner? A landscape architect? An environmental lawyer? Turn them on to experiences, adventures, and skills they won't get anywhere else, all provided by kid-friendly, kind-hearted, outdoor-passionate trained staff.

Green Valleys Watershed Association is a member-supported, non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, preserve, and restore the waterways of northern Chester County. Our headquarters, Welkinweir, is a beautiful 224-acre preserve in rural East Nantmeal Township, open for visiting throughout the year. Please visit our website to learn more, or to support our important mission through membership:

[www.greenvalleys.org/support](http://www.greenvalleys.org/support)

## **What makes our camp special?**

- A camper-to-counselor ratio of 12-to-2
- Special guest presentations that compliment each camp week's theme, including live animal demonstrations, special team-building activities, and experts in nature-based recreational activities (such as birding).
- Unique field trips for campers 10 to 12
- A beautiful location

## **Nature Camp Staff**

Camps are staffed by lead (age 18+) and co-lead (age 16+) camp counselors; all of which have previous experience working with or educating children. We also offer a counselor-in-training program, for students ages 13 – 15, to help campers learn about the natural environment, native plants and animals, and how to be caring stewards of the Earth.

All staff and volunteers have passed the necessary background checks and are certified in CPR and first aid.

If you are interested in working as a counselor or counselor-in-training, please contact us at [camp@greenvalleys.org](mailto:camp@greenvalleys.org) or 610-469-4900.

# Bullfrogs

Children ages 6 and 7; runs 9:00am – 3:00pm.

## Feet, Fins, & Feathers

June 17-21

Are there animals with Feet, Fins or Feathers that fly? Yes BIRDS! Explore the forests, meadows and waterways to learn all the places birds live. Why don't all birds look the same? Why do some have claws and others webfeet, some have bills and others hooked beaks? Play games, learn bird calls, practice sighting birds through binoculars!

## Young Explorers

June 24-28

Hike into the wild! Explore and play while learning basic outdoor survival skills. Solve a riddle to find a hidden treasure, make a sensory map, identify and follow animal tracks, listen to a master storyteller and practice telling your own tale.

## Art in Nature

July 1-3 & 5

Discover designs in nature and make your own works of art. Make natural dyes from plants, weave grass baskets, paint with nature's minerals, take pictures with the sun's rays. Make and decorate a group mask for the ECO Camp Art Performance finale.

## Wet & Wild

July 8-12

Meet aquatic creatures as you explore ponds and streams! Catch frogs and dragonfly nymphs, search for signs of beavers, go fishing at the pond. Learn why and how to keep water clean! Play games, get wet, and construct a boat to compete in Friday's ECO Camp Boat Race.

## Creature Features

July 15-19

It's a wild world out there! How do animals and plants compete for food and avoid being eaten? Play games and explore to learn about camouflage, mimicry, migration, and other behaviors used by animals to protect themselves and their food.

# Bullfrogs (continued)

## Survivor

July 22-26

Journey into the wild for a week of outdoor thrills! Be bold and brave as you follow animal tracks and identify wild plants. Build a shelter and create a campfire as you “camp out” for the day. Participate in skill-building games, travel the trails and tell tall tales as you roam the woods and waterways.

## Eco Art

July 29-August 2

Explore color in the meadows, tree bark textures, flower and leaf shapes. Let nature be your creative playground and inspiration for painting, crafting collages, mobiles, sound instruments and more! Help create a temporary art installation at ECO Camp.

## Stream Stompers

August 5-9

Submerge yourself in the world of water. Explore streams and ponds to discover the many plants and animals living there. Find out how you can take care of fresh water while cooling off during water games. Construct a boat to compete in Friday’s ECO Camp Boat Race.

### Weekly Fees

GVWA Members - \$245

Nonmembers - \$295

### July 1-3 & 5 (4-day camp week)

GVWA Members - \$220

Nonmembers - \$270

# Turtles

Children ages 8 and 9; runs 9:00am – 3:00pm.

## Eco Detectives

June 17-21

Venture into the wild this week to hone your investigative skills! Learn to read the landscape, follow wildlife tracks, identify scat, walk the un-nature trail, and set up insect traps. Find and learn about local wildlife and their behaviors by honing your senses. Display your daily discoveries at the ECO Camp Museum.

## Into the Wild

June 24-28

Hit the trails and build a shelter, forage for edible plants, build a campfire, track wildlife and learn about safety in the wild! Play games to learn, and create your own field guides of the animals and plants you find signs of on our trails and waterways.

## Nature's Art Gallery

July 1-3 & 5

Art is an expression of you! Use your senses to explore the natural environment. Meet a tree, draw a sound map, take a blindfolded trust walk, and identify the smell of different natural objects. Hike the hills, valleys and along the waterways to find natural objects to use to make something for the ECO Camp Art Performance finale.

## Just Add Water

July 8-12

Get your feet wet while exploring your watershed. Hike the stream and probe the ponds in search of aquatic wildlife. Play games and do experiments to learn amazing qualities about water. Make fish prints and construct a boat to compete in the ECO Camp Boat Race. Ah, yes, and get WET!

## Amazing Adaptations

July 15-19

Mimic or migrate? Find out how adaptations such as camouflage, hunting behaviors and physical features help animals survive. Seek out and observe wildlife in our streams, woodlands and meadows. Construct terrariums for temporary inhabitants; and participate in games to learn about the many adaptations of our local wildlife.

# Turtles (continued)

## Creative Native

July 22-26

The original reducers, reusers, recyclers! Learn creative ways the Native American Lenape lived off of the land. Make a traditional Lenape toy, play "On the Hunt", go fishing and foraging, make cordage, and build a fire. Learn the many ways to use natural materials to make all things needed to survive and play.

## Wild Art

July 29-August 2

Nature is full of art. Search gardens, fields and waterways for forms, shapes, patterns and colors done nature's way. Capture spider webs, collect seeds to create a collage, paint with your hands, learn creative ways to journal and sketch in the field, and help create a temporary art installation at camp.

## Water Wonders

August 5-9

Dive in and discover your watery world! Search aquatic habitats for critters and learn about the plants that live in and near water. Build wetland models and conduct experiments to demonstrate how our waterways become polluted. Get wet while playing in obstacle courses, and construct a boat to compete in the ECO Camp Boat Race.

### Weekly Fees

GVWA Members - \$275

Nonmembers - \$325

**July 1-3 & 5**

**(4-day camp week)**

GVWA Members - \$245

Nonmembers - \$290

# Hurons

Children ages 10 - 12; runs 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## Smooth, Slimy, & Slithery

June 17-21

Discover the world of reptiles and amphibians with games, experiments, and explorations. Visit local natural areas to explore wetlands, seek out creatures and set up traps along the trails. Includes a kayaking field trip.

## Eco Trekkers

June 24-28

Build survival skills when you take on various quests this week. Learn orienteering and navigation skills needed to chart and follow a course. Hone your compass skills, make a map and set up a geo-cache. Includes a challenge adventure field trip.

## Green & Crafty

July 1-3 & 5

Immerse yourself in our forests, meadows and waterways to inspire your own works of art. Make tree bark prints, leaf prints, and sun prints. Collect different colored soils and clay to build a sculpture. Make homemade paper. Identify and collect plants and stamp out your own one-of-a-kind headband. Includes a Wednesday evening family campfire program.

## Earth, Wind, & Water

July 8-12

What fuels nature? Through experiments and games, explore earthquakes and volcanoes, the strength of water, wind, sun and more. Build a weather vane, take a gravity, force, and motion scavenger hunt, construct and fly a kite, and compete in teams in the Egg Drop challenge! Includes a trip to St. Peter's Village rocks.



# *Heron* (continued)

## Camouflage, Claws, & Super Sight

July 15-19

How do birds adapt to survive? Study birds in action to learn their mimicry, hunting and hiding techniques. Practice skills in identification, songs, calls and behaviors of birds. Learn the physics of bird flight and create your own flying machines. Design your own bird; map out migration routes; and play games to reveal the amazing world of birds. Observe waterfowl and raptors as you meet live birds up close and personal! Includes a birding field trip.

## Lenape Life

July 22-26

Go back in time to when the Lenni Lenape Native Americans roamed the land. Build a wigwam, play hunting games, learn about plants used for food, medicines and dyes. Make and use traditional hunting tools and learn tracking skills. Enjoy native stories of how things came to be. Includes an astronomy family night (date to be determined based on weather).

## Great Artdoors

July 29-August 2

Let nature inspire you to create with its variety of colors, textures, and forms. Check out nature's geometry and patterns by measuring, dissecting and drawing. Build a wind sculpture, a string mandala or a lifesize cut out of you! Help create a temporary art installation at ECO Camp. Includes a Wednesday evening family campfire program.

## Aqua-Ventures

August 5-9

Water adventures every day? Navigate a stream, catch aquatic insects, conduct a water quality assessment, and catch freshwater fish. Visit the Great Marsh and learn about its wildlife. Design a boat to compete in the annual ECO Camp Boat Race. Includes a kayaking field trip.

### Weekly Fees

GVWA Members - \$345

Nonmembers - \$395

### July 1 -3 & 5

GVWA Members - \$320

Nonmembers - \$370

# Registration

Online registration, forms, scholarships, and job application info are available at [www.greenvalleys.org/summer-nature-day-camp](http://www.greenvalleys.org/summer-nature-day-camp)

## Details

Registration opens in February for GVWA members. General registration opens March 11th. Camp enrollment for each week is limited. Registration remains open throughout the summer, as long as spaces are available.

## Scholarships

The Summer Nature Day Camp Scholarship Fund supports families who cannot financially afford to send their children to camp. To support the fund, call GVWA or mail your donation to Green Valleys Watershed Association / 1368 Prizer Rd / Pottstown, PA 19465 / Attn: Summer Camp Scholarship Fund.

To apply for a one week camp scholarship, submit a completed application online, or email us at [camp@greenvalleys.org](mailto:camp@greenvalleys.org)

## Before & After Camp Care

Before-care begins as early as 8:00 a.m. (camp starts at 9).; after-care runs until 5:00 p.m. (camp ends at 3:00). We request that you give us at least 24 hours' notice if utilizing these services.

<b>Before-Care Full Week .....</b>	<b>\$60, except July 1st Week (\$50)</b>
Before Care Daily Rate.....	\$15 available upon request
<b>After-Care Full Week .....</b>	<b>\$80, except July 1st Week (\$70)</b>
After Care Daily Rate .....	\$20 available upon request

## Counselor-in-Training Program

CIT's assist ECO Camp Counselors to run the camp program. CIT's help campers learn about the natural environment, native plants and animals, and how to be caring stewards of the Earth – all in an outdoors setting. They learn to serve as role models, and demonstrate our core values of Respect, Stewardship and Leadership. CIT's may lead a hike, a game, assist with set up or clean-up of an activity, or aid a camper who needs extra help or encouragement. CIT's are 13-15 years old, helpful, open to learning and positive. They share willingly and enjoy being outside spending time with others. Training dates are June 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>; fee \$150. For an application please email [camp@greenvalleys.org](mailto:camp@greenvalleys.org)

## About Welkinweir

Home of Green Valleys Watershed Association, this 224-acre permanently preserved property boasts forests, meadows, ponds, and streams open for exploration. Home to abundant wildlife, one can spot a family of beavers, a bald eagle or ospreys, and a variety of birds, at any time. It is an ideal setting for ECO Camp!