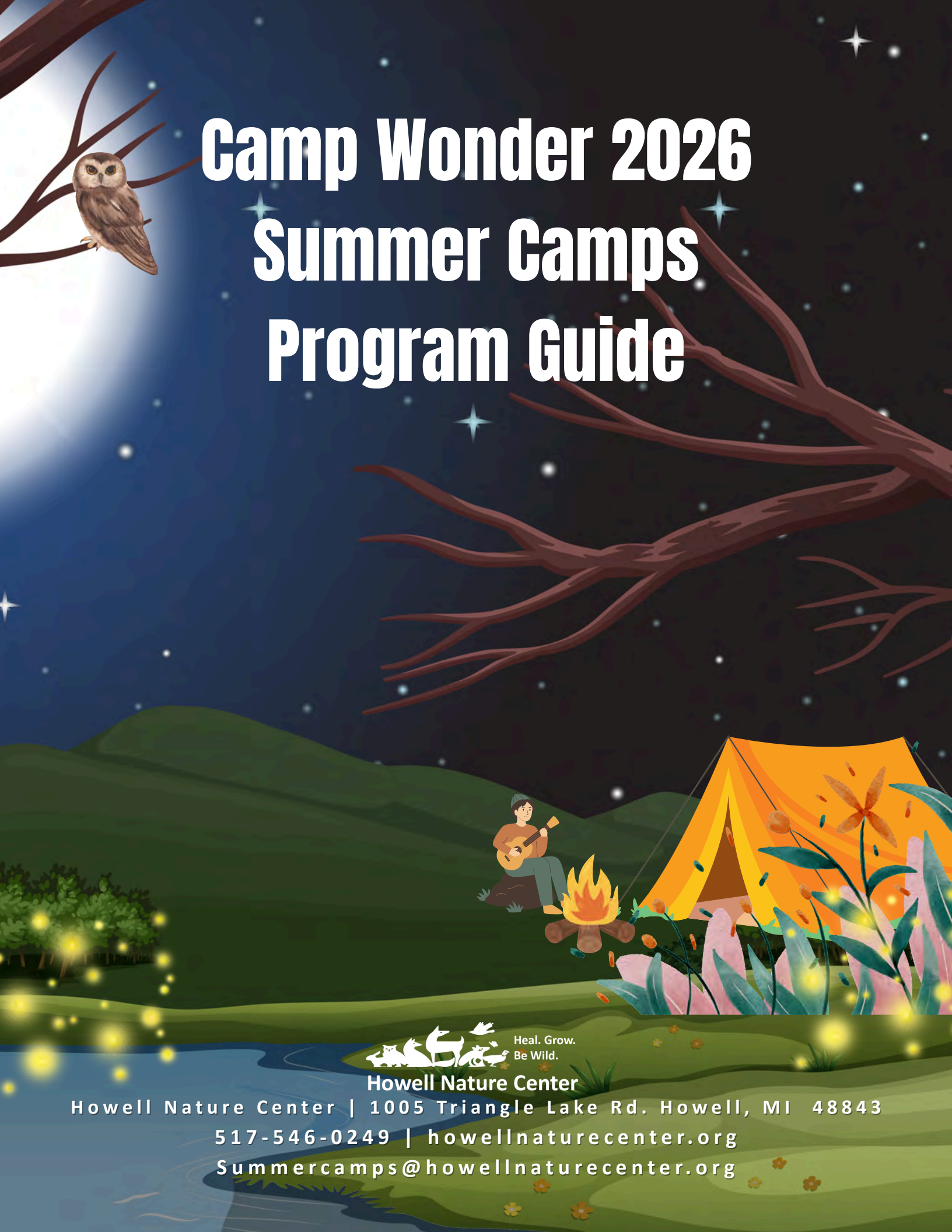




Camp Wonder 2026 Summer Camps Program Guide



Heal. Grow.
Be Wild.

Howell Nature Center

Howell Nature Center | 1005 Triangle Lake Rd. Howell, MI 48843

517-546-0249 | howellnaturecenter.org

Summercamps@howellnaturecenter.org



Camp Wonder

Philosophy, Safety, and Stupendous Staff

Where Fun is in our nature

Our programs are based on this unique slogan. We believe time spent in nature is time well spent. Research has proven that children benefit greatly and grow from valuable time outdoors, especially when making new friends and experiencing new adventures.

Our Philosophy

Is based on a perfect combination of nature-based and wildlife programming, and age appropriate adventures in the outdoors. At Camp Wonder, nature's wonders are interwoven through all our summer camp offerings.

Stupendous Staff

Camp Wonder understands the importance of positive role models for today's youth. When people ask what makes Camp Wonder different from other camps, we say with pride that it's our people. Each summer, over 60 enthusiastic and caring staff come to the Nature Center to shape and impact campers' lives.

All staff members undergo background checks and a stringent training program. We stand dedicated to providing a safe and fun experience for your child. Camp leaders are Red Cross First Aid and CPR certified, and all aquatic and adventure-based programs are operated by qualified, certified, and caring staff. In addition, our camp is licensed by the State of Michigan and accredited by the American Camp Association.

We maintain a 1:10 camper-to-staff ratio across all of our groups and are not able to accommodate 1:1 support requests at this time. If your child has a paraprofessional at school or requires a 1:1 ratio, we are more than happy to help connect you with a camp that provides that level of support and is the right fit for your family.

HEAL

Our camps provide a restorative environment for children by replacing excessive screen time with the healing impact of nature.

GROW

Our camps foster new skills that build confidence and promote emotional growth while providing opportunities for kids to meet fellow campers outside their normal social circle.

BE WILD

Our camps provide campers an opportunity to **JUST BE KIDS!** We give kids a safe space to determine their own risk assessments, developing a critical skill for later in life.

Health & Safety at Camp

At Camp Wonder, we are always thinking safety first. We have certified health officers available 24 hours a day to campers. These health officers are always reviewing our safety policies and procedures.



DAY CAMPS

Day Camp represents a progressive format designed for children to grow through the ages in learning new skills, building lasting friendships, and gaining confidence and self-esteem. We offer three different attendance options:

Our **5-Day** runs Monday-Friday

Our **3-Day** runs Wednesday-Friday

Our **2-Day** which runs Monday-Tuesday.

We organize our Day Camp groups by the grades listed below

Please note, these would be the grades your camper is entering in the Fall of 2026

Day camp weeks begin June 8th and run weekly through August 10th

PUPS: Entering Kindergarten

A perfect opportunity for the first-time camper experience, Pups explore and learn about nature in a nurturing environment. Our positive role models create a safe and fun experience that will enrich your child's summer.

CUBS: Entering Grades 1 – 2

Cubs answers a child's yearning for discovery and making new friends. Designed for small group participation, campers are geared up for new adventures, all while developing a love of nature and playing outside.

PACK: Entering Grades 3 – 4

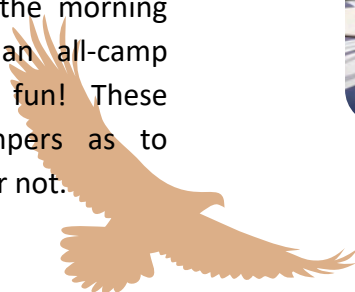
Designed for an age group that loves exploring more challenging activities and has no problem getting messy, the Pack will gain an appreciation for the outdoors while jumping into exciting adventures and new skill development daily.

CREW: Entering Grades 5 – 6

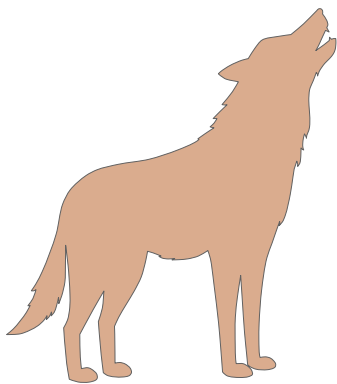
Summer days are filled with camp favorites and new age group activities. The Crew builds friendships, gains confidence and learns skills through an array of fun challenges. From thrilling scavenger hunts to friendly group competitions, we've got it all.

Weekly Themes

Weekly themes tap into a child's imagination and appeal to their sense of adventure. Daily storylines are interwoven into the morning program and culminate into an all-camp event full of adventure and fun! These themes are optional for campers as to whether they'd like to dress up or not.



Dates and Themes



Week 1: June 8–12 – Jungle Safari

Explore the wild! Go on scavenger hunts, track animals, and enjoy jungle-inspired games and crafts.

Week 2: June 15–19 – Space Explorers

Blast off into a week of rockets, planets, and outer-space challenges. Every day is a cosmic adventure!

Week 3: June 22–26 – Mad Scientist Lab

Mix, build, and experiment! Campers will get hands-on with wacky science projects and fun experiments..

Week 4: June 29–July 3 – Pirate Adventures

Ahoy, matey! Search for hidden treasures, decode maps, and take on swashbuckling challenges around camp.

Week 5: July 6–10 – Camp Olympics

Friendly competition and team spirit take center stage with relay races, silly challenges, and field games.

Week 6: July 13–17 – Fairy Tale Fun

Princesses, dragons, knights, and magical quests! Campers will act out stories and enjoy themed games and crafts.

Week 7: July 20–24 – Wet, Wacky & Wild

Splashy outdoor fun with water games, messy crafts, and goofy challenges guaranteed to get everyone laughing.

Week 8: July 27–31 – Western Week

Howdy, partners! Campers will enjoy cowboy-style games, crafts, and outdoor challenges inspired by the Wild West.

Week 9: August 3–7 – Adventure Quest

A week full of challenges and exploration! Campers tackle obstacle courses, scavenger hunts, and team adventures in a camp-wide quest.

Week 10: August 10–14 – Carnival Week

Step right up! Enjoy games, silly competitions, fun challenges, and a mini carnival celebration to end the summer with a bang.

Schedules



Daily Schedule:

Check in: 8:00AM-9:00AM

Morning Meeting: 9:00AM-9:15AM

1st Activity: 9:15AM-10:30AM

2nd Activity: 10:45AM-12:00PM

Lunch: 12:15PM-12:45PM

3rd Activity: 1:00PM-2:15PM

4th Activity: 2:30PM-3:45PM

Prepare for check out: 3:45PM-4:00PM

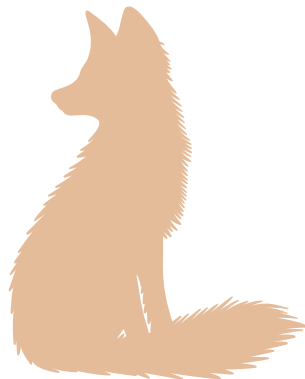
Check out: 4:00PM-5:00PM

What adventures can your camper expect:

- Archery | Arts & Crafts | Water Trampoline
- Ziplining | Canoeing | Sky Tykes
- Capture the Flag | Fishing | Wildlife Presentations
- High Ropes | Tower Climbing | kayaking
- Wild Wonders Tours | Scavenger Hunts | Paddleboarding
- Pond Study | Team Challenge | Gaga Ball
- Swimming | Shelter Building | New Friendships

Please note that activities are tailored to different age groups.

- **Safety:** Certain activities (like high ropes or archery) might have physical requirements or risks that are too high for younger children.



SPECIALTY DAY CAMPS

Specialty Day Camps offer a perfect mix of specialized programming for half of each camp day and classic camp fun for the other half. Specialty Day Camps differ from our Classic Day Camps in that each session is offered only as a 5-day option. Specialty Camps are uniquely catered to specific ages and interests.

Grades 1-2



June 15-19: Lil' Zoo Keepers

Step into the world of animals! Campers will help care for our resident critters, learn about their habitats, and explore what it takes to be a zookeeper. Each day brings hands-on fun, animal encounters, and plenty of discovery.



July 6-10: Fish, Frogs, and Forts

Splash, hop, and build your way through the wild! Campers explore ponds, observe frogs and other aquatic creatures, and get creative constructing forts and nature-inspired play spaces. Adventure awaits in every corner of the outdoors!



July 27-31: Lil' Zookeepers

Step into the world of animals! Campers will help care for our resident critters, learn about their habitats, and explore what it takes to be a zookeeper. Each day brings hands-on fun, animal encounters, and plenty of discovery.



Grades 3-4



June 22-26: Eco Artists

Let nature spark your creativity! Campers will explore the outdoors and turn leaves, sticks, stones, and other natural materials into unique works of art. Every day is a new project that blends imagination with the beauty of the natural world.



July 13-17: Critter Keepers

Go beyond the basics of animal care! Campers will interact with wildlife, learn about habitats, and discover fun facts about the critters that call our nature center home. Hands-on activities make learning about animals exciting and memorable.



August 3-7: Nature Navigators

Become an outdoor explorer! Campers learn basic navigation, map-reading, and tracking skills while discovering the plants and animals around camp. Teamwork and adventure are part of every trail!

SPECIALTY DAY CAMPS

Grades 5-6



June 29- July 3: Wild About Wildlife

Campers will go behind the scenes in our wildlife park where they will learn how to care for animals from real zookeepers! They will assist the wildlife team with some aspects of animal care like, Enrichment, Diet prep, training and habitat design. *Please note campers will not be handling animals.*



July 20-24: Summit Seekers

Reach new heights (literally)! Campers take on the climbing tower, zip line, and high ropes course while building confidence, teamwork, and courage. Each day is packed with thrilling adventures and challenges that inspire campers to push their limits.



A Day in the Life of Summer Campers

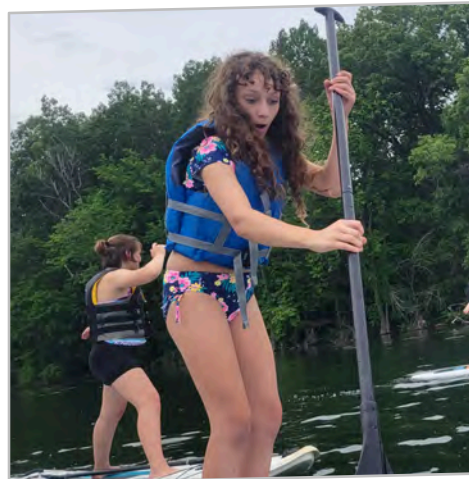
Here's a sample schedule of what your campers' day might look like:

The day starts with a camp-wide Morning Meeting where everyone sings camp songs, gets silly, and starts the day off on the right foot.

The day gets going with morning activities, ranging from ziplining, arts and crafts projects, sports, or Wildlife tours. Specialty campers will spend their mornings doing activities based on their camps' topic.

After lunch the fun continues at our state-of-the-art waterfront, experiencing watercraft activities, fishing, free swim, or traversing the Aquatic Inflatables Park in the warm summer sun!

Theme activities will happen for all camps throughout the week. On Friday afternoon, it all comes together with one All Camp Theme Event that will be the culmination experience topping off a great week!



Camp Pricing

Day Camp Pricing

Register By

Nov 28 - Jan 31 Feb 1 - May 1 After May 1

5-Day: Monday - Friday (Entering grades K - 6)	\$330.00	\$355.00	\$380.00
3-Day: Wednesday - Friday (Entering grades K - 6)	\$235.00	\$250.00	\$275.00
2-Day: Monday - Tuesday (Entering grades K - 6)	\$170.00	\$185.00	\$210.00
5-Day: Specialty Day Camps (Entering grades K - 6)	\$335.00	\$360.00	\$385.00

Siblings get a
\$50.00
Discount

Additional Add-on

Camper T-shirt \$15.00

Check-In / Check-Out Times

Check-In 8:00AM - 9:00AM

Check-Out 4:00PM - 5:00PM

Ways to Save

\$50.00 sibling discount: When two or more siblings are registered for the same week, every registration past the first, will get \$50.00 off. The more siblings and weeks you register for the more you save! You must register all siblings at the same time.

Early Registration Discount: Register early for the best rates! Prices increase February 1st and then on May 1st. The sooner you register, the more you save!



Registration

Registration Process:

- Visit us at <https://www.howellnaturecenter.org/campwonder/> and click the **Register Now** button. You'll be asked to set up an account to register.
- Add each child that you are looking to register to your account. Remember to choose the grade the child is entering in the fall.
- Once all potential campers are added, you will be able to view which camps are available for their grade level and which weeks still have openings.
- Add the weeks to your cart and move to the paperwork step.
- All paperwork must be completed to finish registration. A spot will not be held if you stop midway through registration.
- Friend requests can be made during the registration process as long as both children are in the same age group. We will do our best to honor these requests.
- Once the deposit is made and payment is set up, registration is done and you are all set.

Payment plans:

After registering, you can pay your camp fees in full or split the fees into smaller payments. These payments are setup through the online registration with a credit or debit card. Camp fees are divided into equal payments that are automatically processed.

Please note that there is an application fee of \$10.00 per child.

Deposits:

Day camps have a \$50.00 deposit per week, per child. Deposits must be made to complete registration. If you are unable to pay, please email us at summercamps@howellnaturecenter.org.

All deposits are non-refundable.

What to expect:

Following registration, you will receive a detailed confirmation e-mail which includes a parent information packet, packing lists, and more! If you don't receive a confirmation e-mail, please check your spam folder.

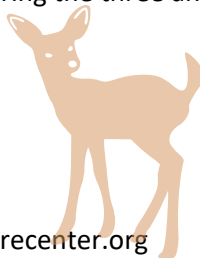
Cancellation/Refund Policy:

Cancellations must be submitted via e-mail to summercamps@howellnaturecenter.org. Requests made at least two weeks before the start of a camp session will get a refund of all fees, minus the deposit. Cancellations made within two weeks of a camp session start date, forfeit all fees. Day camp operates rain or shine and we offer activities as the weather permits. Refunds are not offered for bad weather. No shows are not permitted to switch days and are considered day-of cancellations.

Special note:

If you were looking for a five day week, but you find that option is already full, check the option of registering the three and two day option for that week.

Waitlists are also available.



Registration Questions?

E-mail us at: summercamps@howellnaturecenter.org



Frequently Asked Questions

Whether you're new here or just need a refresher, we're here to help!

We've rounded up the questions we get asked the most to save you some time. From how to reach us or what to pack you'll likely find the answers below.

I need to change my campers' registration?

The best way to make registration adjustments is to e-mail us at: summercamps@howellnaturecenter.org. While we don't maintain a year-round summer camp phone line, we do have a Day Camp phone number (810- 599-0367) when camp is in session. This line is primarily used to let us know about early pick-ups, late drop-offs, or absences. If you call with a question, our Day Camp staff may be able to assist, but they will most likely direct you to our Summer Camps email for the quickest and most accurate response.

Do I need to send lunch with my camper?

Yes! You will need to send lunch with your camper. It's recommended to pack it in an insulated lunch box with cold packs or ice packs, as we don't have enough refrigerator space for everyone's lunch. You're welcome to pack items that contain nuts, but we do ask that campers do not share food with others.

Are snacks provided by Camp Wonder?

Yes! Campers will receive a snack around 3:30 PM each day before check out. If your camper has a food allergy, please be sure to list it on our health form during registration so our Camp Health Officers can arrange for an appropriate snack.

What else should I be sending with my camper?

Please refer to the packing list in our Parent Guide online for the full list of what to bring. The essentials include items like a backpack, lunch, water bottle, swimsuit, towel, sunscreen, and a change of clothes. And please make sure to label everything with your child's name so we can easily return any misplaced items.

What happens if the weather is bad, does camp still run?

Yes. We make every effort to ensure that our campers spend time outdoors, but when the weather goes down we've got it covered. We are a rain-or-shine camp! Activities will continue outdoors as long as there is no lightning or thunder. On rainy days, we recommend that campers bring a raincoat, rain boots, or an umbrella to stay comfortable.

My camper doesn't know how to swim yet should I send a lifejacket with them?

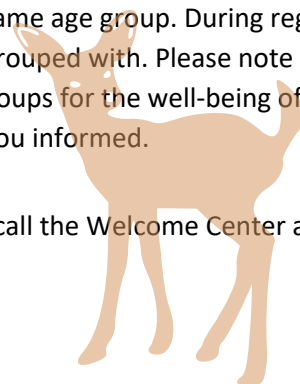
Every child will take a swim test conducted by our certified Red Cross lifeguards and will be assigned a swim section based on their skill level. However, if you would like your child to wear a life jacket during swim time, we are more than happy to accommodate that request. Just include it in the camper notes section during registration or let the day camp staff know upon arrival. Please note that life jackets are required on our fishing dock, during any boating activity, and while using our aqua toys and will be supplied to your child.

Can my camper be put in the same group as their friends?

We're happy to accommodate friend requests as long as the campers are in the same age group. During registration, you'll find a section where you can list any friends your camper would like to be grouped with. Please note that if behavioral issues arise, our day camp staff may need to separate certain friend groups for the well-being of the campers. If that occurs, we will communicate with parents or guardians to keep you informed.

I need to pick my camper up early from camp, what should I do?

For early pickup or late drop off, please call the camp hotline at 810-599-0367 or call the Welcome Center at 517-376-9733 to make arrangements.



Open House

May 17th 2026 2:00PM - 5:00PM

Camp Wonder invites new and returning campers to preview our 2026 Summer Camp Programs. Bring your friends and family for an afternoon “camp sampler” of exciting summer programs and activities. Meet the staff, tour the facility, and have all your questions about summer programs answered. Advanced registration is required for this FREE event. Sign up online to hold your spot at howellnaturecenter.org/events



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