

# SUMMER CAMP AT THE FOREST SCHOOL



**FRIENDS OF RYE NATURE CENTER**

[ryenaturecenter.org](http://ryenaturecenter.org)

(914) 967-5150

873 Boston Post Road, Rye, NY 10580

# OUR VALUES

At Friends of Rye Nature Center (FRNC), we believe a deep understanding of and connection to nature starts when we allow our environment to teach us. The Forest School's 47-acre preserve is so much more than a park. It is the place where we begin to understand our role in our greater ecosystem, how we can shape our future, and why the freedom of the outdoors ignites our imaginations.



Our camp experience provides adventure, ecological exploration, and the ideal opportunity to explore the outdoors. A hands-on approach to scientific inquiry connects everyone to nature through environmental stewardship activities in a fun, relaxed setting. Our staff embrace the diversity of all our campers and create a culture of inclusion.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

FRNC follows the Westchester County Department of Health requirements for immunizations and communicable diseases. The DOH also conducts an annual review of our Emergency Action Plan to ensure the safety of program participants and visitors. More information about our policies and procedures can be found at [ryenaturecenter.org/parent-guide](http://ryenaturecenter.org/parent-guide).

## ACA ACCREDITATION

Friends of Rye Nature Center's Day Camp and Paddle Adventure Camp are accredited by the American Camp Association. This accreditation demonstrates our commitment to excellent professional practices for the safety and well-being of our campers.



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FRNC seeks to create equity when it comes to accessing environmental education. Through our Nature Access Fund, we provide need-based financial assistance. To request an application, please contact us at [programs@ryenaturecenter.org](mailto:programs@ryenaturecenter.org). Applications must be submitted by June 1, 2024.

## FRNC MEMBERSHIP

An Environmentalist-level membership (\$125) or higher valid through the program date is required to attend camp. Only one membership is required per family.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Summer Camp registration will begin online on Friday, January 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. For instructions on how to create an account and register, visit [ryenaturecenter.org/createaccount](http://ryenaturecenter.org/createaccount).

### Cancellation Policy

No refunds or credits will be given if you cancel your enrollment. In the event you cancel, a tax receipt will be issued indicating that the program fee was converted to a charitable donation. Membership is non-refundable.



# DAY CAMP

FOR CAMPERS IN PRE-K THROUGH 7TH GRADE

## EXPLORERS ENTERING PRE-K OR KINDERGARTEN

**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. \$450 per week**

Designed for our youngest campers' growing minds and bodies, our Explorers program is grounded in early childhood educational values and promotes nature exploration and inquiry. Each day is structured to build confidence and skills as children discover the Nature Center's forest, wildlife, animals, ponds, and garden.

***Children must be at least 3.5 years old by the start of camp and completely toilet-trained. No exceptions.***



## DISCOVERERS ENTERING K-5TH GRADE

**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. \$475 per week**

Discoverers enjoy a variety of nature and science activities throughout the week. Hiking, natural history, art, and STEM projects fill these campers' days. During free time, campers cool off in our sprinklers, play games, visit with our animals, and build friendships.

***Please note: Discoverers are grouped by their age and/or the grade they are entering in the fall. Children will be grouped within one grade level or 1.5 years of their age. FRNC strives to fulfill friend requests, but it is not guaranteed.***



## NATURALISTS IN TRAINING ENTERING 6TH-7TH GRADE

**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.\* \$495 per week**

Our NITs enjoy the freedom and responsibilities of being the oldest campers. A typical day includes teacher-led activities with FRNC staff as well as time to pursue the group's own interests and develop outdoor skills. With the help of FRNC staff, NITs will have the opportunity to facilitate weekly animal meet and greets for younger children.

***\*NIT campers stay until 5:30 p.m. on Thursday for a cookout and exploration of the camp grounds.***



# INFORMATION

## GEAR

Children should dress for outdoor play and wear securely fastened, closed-toed shoes, including socks, appropriate for hiking. Water shoes should be worn for water play. Ballet flats and flip flops are not permitted. Please send a towel, change of clothes, hat, sunscreen, and water shoes. Our Explorers group does not participate in water play. All campers are given a camp shirt at the start of the week.

## LUNCH

We are a carry-in, carry-out facility. All garbage from your child's lunch will be sent back daily. Although we are not a nut-free facility, we ask that you pack lunches that consider the well-being of other children and use nut-free alternatives. All children should bring snack, lunch, and a reusable water bottle.

## OUR STAFF

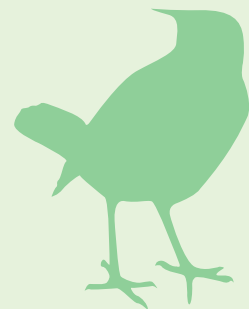
Our professional staff consists of FRNC's year-round naturalists and environmental educators. Our attentive college-aged group leaders and high school-aged counselors serve as role models and allow us to maintain a low camper-to-staff ratio. Our year-round staff are certified in Adult, Child, and Infant CPR, and First Aid for First Responders, including EpiPen use. Certifications are updated annually.

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Campers use our convenient drive-by drop-off and pick-up. Drivers are asked to stay in the car with their vehicle in park while children are escorted out of/into their cars. If you need to walk with your child to sign-in, you will be directed where to park. Please send a note if your child will be picked up by someone other than a parent, guardian, or caregiver. Note, we cannot accommodate early drop-off or late pick-up and do not provide transportation to or from camp.

## SAMPLE SCHEDULE

- 9:00 a.m.** *Arrival*
- 9:15 a.m.** *STEM activity*
- 10:00 a.m.** *Snack*
- 10:15 a.m.** *Games*
- 11:00 a.m.** *Hike*
- 11:45 a.m.** *Lunch*
- 12:30 p.m.** *Water Play*
- 1:15 p.m.** *Arts & Crafts*
- 2:00 p.m.** *Garden*
- 3:00 p.m.** *Dismissal*



# WEEKLY THEMES

Registration will begin online on January 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. **At this time, we are limiting registration to four weeks per child.** If you would like to register your child for more than four weeks, you will be able to request to be added to a waitlist for the remaining weeks at registration. Full payment is due upon registration.



## WEEK 1\* MAKING WAVES

*July 1 - July 5*

Dive into the world of water! Earth's surface is 70% water, so explore hydrology, marine animals, and the critters that live in Nanderwhere Pond.

*\*Prorated due to the July 4th Holiday.*

## WEEK 2 PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

*July 8 - July 12*

Take a trip back in time and blast into the future with our friends at RNC! Take a closer look at native artifacts, explore other galaxies, and search for fossils in the Quarry.

## WEEK 3 I WILL SURVIVE!

*July 15 - July 19*

Do you have what it takes to survive at Rye Nature Center? Learn how to build a primitive shelter, the best techniques for fire making, or how to navigate back to civilization.

## WEEK 4 BUGS, BUGS, BUGS!

*July 22 - July 26*

Calling all entomology enthusiasts! Learn about all kinds of insects, arachnids, and other bugs. Get up close and personal with the creepy crawlies of Rye Nature Center.

## WEEK 5

### WORLD OF ADAPTATIONS

*July 29 - August 2*

Have you ever wondered how a chameleon can change colors, or why a bat sleeps upside down? This week we will be celebrating the animal adaptations that make them all so special and unique!



## WEEK 6

### REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, REPEAT!

*August 5 - August 9*

Hey! Don't just throw that away! Bring in recyclable items for an opportunity to give them a new purpose. Learn about composting, invasive plants, and take a piece of nature home with you!

## WEEK 7

### CHEF IT UP!

*August 12 - August 16*

Use the bounty of the nature center to put your palate to the test! Harvest vegetables and herbs from the garden, look for wild forageables, and use a primitive fire to cook some s'mores!



## FRIDAY SHOWCASES AND SPIRIT DAYS

At the end of camp each Friday, children will present a project they have been working on throughout the week to parents and caregivers. Past showcases include science fairs, art shows, and "show and tells."

Spirit days are back! Each Friday will have a spirit day where kids can show up dressed to impress based on the theme of the week.

FOR CAMPERS ENTERING GRADES 8, 9, OR 10

# PADDLE ADVENTURE CAMP



This all-levels camp is designed to introduce campers to the joys of kayaking throughout the beautiful Hudson Valley. Our goal is for participants to build paddling skills, confidence, and make friends in a safe, exciting, and fun atmosphere.



## OUR STAFF

Paddle Adventure Camp (PAC) is led by qualified FRNC staff and seasoned kayak instructors. Each day on the water, the group is accompanied by three trip leaders: two American Red Cross (ARC) certified lifeguards and one FRNC educator. On land days, the group is led by two experienced FRNC educators. Our staff are certified in adult, child, and infant CPR and First Aid for First Responders, including EpiPen use. Certifications are updated annually.

## OUR GEAR

FRNC provides all equipment needed to safely explore our local waters. On the first day, campers are assigned a touring kayak, paddle, and dry bag for storing lunch and extra clothing, as well as life vests with a safety whistle. Each boat is equipped with bulkheads for gear storage and flotation. Campers should bring lunch and dress ready for that day's excursion. Hiking gear and water shoe recommendations will be available in our parent information packet.

## OUR LOCATIONS

We choose our kayaking and hiking locations to offer safe and fun experiences for campers. Local destinations introduce campers to a variety of habitats and ecosystems that provide opportunities to view wildlife and learn about local history. Families will be given specific trip locations and information prior to the week their child is enrolled. Drop-off and pick-up are at Rye Nature Center. FRNC will transport campers to the various trip locations.



## SESSIONS \$600 per week

**Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Pick-up time may vary slightly based on travel.

**SESSION 1\*** July 1 - July 5

**SESSION 2** July 8 - July 12

**SESSION 3** July 15 - July 19

**SESSION 4** July 22 - July 26

**SESSION 5** July 29 - August 2

**SESSION 6** August 5 - August 9

**SESSION 7** August 12 - August 16

*\*Prorated due to the July 4th holiday.*

Registration will begin online on January 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to register your child for three or more weeks of PAC, please contact FRNC.

An Environmentalist-level membership (\$125) or higher valid through the program date is required to attend camp. Only one membership is required per family.



# PAC INFO

## SAMPLE DAY

- 9:00 a.m.** Arrival at Rye Nature Center.
- 9:15 a.m.** Trip and safety overview, gear distribution, departure.
- 10:30 a.m.** Paddle throughout Canopus Lake and explore islands.
- 12:30 p.m.** Lunch and games.
- 1:15 p.m.** Kayak skills and water games; foraging and animal ID lesson.
- 3:15 p.m.** Return to launch point and load gear; return to RNC.
- 4:00 p.m.** Dismissal from RNC.

## SAMPLE WEEK

- Day 1** *Paddle*  
Camp orientation at RNC; on-water training; paddle games, short kayak tour.
- Day 2** *Hike*  
Hike Rockefeller State Park; learn about local history; bird ID lesson.
- Day 3** *Paddle*  
Paddle Lake Sebago, kayak skills; short exploration of Harriman State Park.
- Day 4** *Hike*  
Hike Westmoreland and Arthur Butler Sanctuary; orienteering and geocaching.
- Day 5** *Field Excursion*  
Visit the New York Botanical Garden's Conservatory; explore the glass-enclosed rainforests and deserts.