



*EGADS*  
*Earth Guardian Adventurer Days*

*Martha Lafite Thompson*  
*Nature Sanctuary's*

2025 Summer Camp Program Guide

*Member enrollment begins March 4<sup>th</sup> 2025*  
*Non-member enrollment begins April 8<sup>th</sup> 2025*



# Earth Guardians

## (Ages 6-14)



**\*Must have completed 1<sup>st</sup> grade**

“All the Kids” summer camps provide an opportunity for all the children in the family to enjoy nature together! Every camp will provide the opportunity for campers to explore Rush Creek, participate in science experiments, and spend the week surrounded by Missouri wildlife. Each camp will also focus on an aspect of nature and conservation ranging from ecosystems and habitats to the smallest creatures that inhabit them!

- “All the Kids” camps run Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 3pm (drop-off 8:20-8:40am)
- Campers must bring a sack lunch and water, a mid-day snack will be provided
- Refer to “Things to Know” on page 6
- Camp size is limited to 30
- \$225 per camp (\$175 for members) price includes camp shirt
- [Link to register on line](#) (or right click on the highlighted words, copy hyperlink and past in your web browser)

### **Stream Splashers - June 23-27**

“Dive” into the world of water as we look for frogs, turtles, fish, and more animals that love their watery home as much as kids love to play in them!

### **Animal Encounters – July 7-11**

Get up close and hands on with the animals we take care of this week! We will learn how to care for and handle a variety of animals in a safe and fun environment all the while enjoying the outdoors.

### **Art in the Park – July 14-18**

This week we will be using nature as our inspiration as we create all sorts of creature crafts and animal art! We will use the outdoors as a resource while having fun making a mess!

### **Habitat Safari - July 21-25**

Come join our expedition as we trek into uncharted territory! Explore vast forest, babbling brooks, and seas of grassland as we journey through the Nature Sanctuary!

### **Creekin’ Kids - July 28-Aug 1**

Splash into this week of super-wet discovery in the pond and creek. From critter catching to water games plan on getting soaking wet!



# Discoverers

## (Ages 3-6)



\*Children must be potty trained

Start your youngest on a lifelong love of nature with these age-appropriate games, crafts, stories & explorations! Every camp will spend their week exploring the outdoors, catching bugs and butterflies, playing in the creek, and enjoying crafts they can take home to show the family.

- “Discoverers” camps run Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 12 noon (drop-off 8:20-8:40am)
- Campers must bring a sack lunch and water, a mid-day snack will be provided
- Refer to “Things to Know” on page 6
- Camp size is limited to 30
- \$195 per camp (\$145 for members) price includes camp shirt
- [Link to register on line](#) (or right click on the highlighted words, copy hyperlink and past in your web browser)

### **Buzz, Hop, Fly – June 9-13**

Insects buzz, rabbits hop, birds fly, and kids frolic during this week of outdoor fun and exciting exploration!

### **Magnificent Missouri Wildlife - June 16-20**

This camp is all about exploring, hiking, and enjoying different habitats to see what animals call our state home! Check out everything from bugs to bobcats.

### **Brook Babblers – June 23-27**

Your child will discover the watery world as we search for the aquatic insects, crawdads, frogs, and fish that call this habitat home!

### **Nature Sprouts – July 7-11**

Let your little one bloom into a love of nature as we explore the outdoors and meet plenty of animal friends in a week full of critters, crafts, and curiosity!

### **Art in the Park – July 14-18**

This week we will be using nature as our inspiration as we create all sorts of creature crafts and animal art! We'll use the outdoors as a resource while having fun making a mess!



# Single Day Camps

(Ages 6+)



Single day camps are a great way to wrap up the summer while experiencing an exciting day in nature. Dip your toes in with one camp or dive right in with all three! Each day will focus on one of the many topics that can be studied at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary, all the way from fossils to wilderness survival.

- **Close-toed shoes or boots are required**
- Camps are for a single day, 8:30am to 1pm (drop-off 8:20-8:40am)
- Each session is limited to 25 campers
- Campers must bring a sack lunch and water bottle
- Campers must bring a towel, change of clothes, and extra shoes
- \$85 per day (\$65 for members) does not include a camp shirt. If supplies remain, camp shirts can be purchased for \$11
- [Link to register on line](#) (or right click on the highlighted words, copy hyperlink and past in your web browser)

## **Crafty Kids – June 5**

Join us for a day filled with arts and crafts inspired by the natural world!

## **Wilderness Adventure – June 6**

Come learn basic wilderness survival skills in a fun filled day of adventure.

## **Rush Creek Ruckus – August 6**

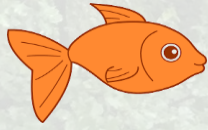
Here is a chance for your child to join us for a half-day adventure exploring beautiful Rush Creek.

## **Children's Fossil Find: August 7**

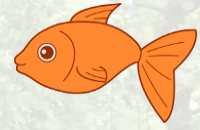
Learn to find and identify fossils of Missouri. Everyone will be able to take home a fossil they make!

## **Animal Encounters – August 8**

We will get hands on and up-close meeting and learning to care for all the animals of the Sanctuary.



# Family Summer Programs



(Ages 4+)

These programs are fun for the whole family! Spend a day immersed in the Missouri wilderness while getting to experience a wonderful nature program. Both programs include time at Rush Creek so be sure everyone is wearing close-toed shoes or boots!

- **Close-toed shoes or boots are required**
- Camps are for a single day, 9:30am-12 noon
- The program is limited to 32 people
- \$85 for a family of 4 or less (\$65 for members). Each additional family member is \$6
- Does not include a camp shirt. If supplies remain, shirts can be purchased for \$11
- [Link to register on line](#) (or right click on the highlighted words, copy hyperlink and past in your web browser)

## Fishin' Family Fun: June 7

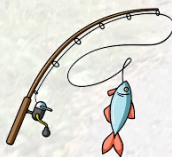
Get a first-hand look at the fantastic fish living in Rush Creek!

## Family Nature Art: July 19

This week we will be using nature as our inspiration as we create all sorts of creature crafts and animal art! We'll use the outdoors as a resource while having fun making a mess!

## Creekin' Family Fun: August 9

Discover first-hand the amount of life found underneath the surface of Rush Creek!



# Earth Guardian in Training



(Ages 14-17)

Become an Earth Guardian in Training! Earth Guardians in Training will enjoy all the camp activities while becoming a leader for the younger campers. This program is available for any of the camps offered throughout the summer.

- Sessions are Monday through Friday, 8:10am-3:45pm
- \$125 per week of camp (\$100 for members), includes camp shirt
- Refer to "Things to Know" on page 6
- Campers must bring a sack lunch and water, a mid-day snack will be provided
- [Link to register on line](#) (or right click on the highlighted words, copy hyperlink and past in your web browser)

# Things to Know

**Enrollments** are kept low to ensure individual attention and to enhance each child's experience. Each weekly camp is designed with a different theme so children can participate in multiple sessions. Creative hands-on activities, games, and crafts are age appropriate to encourage learning about nature while having fun. Our goal is to provide a safe, fun, nurturing learning experience.

**Campers' Behavior & Discipline:** All campers are expected to demonstrate behavior appropriate to a group setting. If a camper is destructive or disrespectful to staff, volunteers, or fellow campers, we will remove the camper from the group for a short period of time. Once the camper has demonstrated self-control, he/she will return to the group. The parent/guardian will be notified of our actions at the end of the day. If the problem continues, we will notify the parent/guardian to pick up the camper and he/she will not be allowed to return to camp. Under this condition, no refund will be given.

**Arriving on Time** Camps begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. Please have your camper(s) at the Sanctuary between 8:15 and 8:30 to ensure camp may start on time and reduce delays.

**Sanctuary Rules** While our programs encourage hands-on learning, we ask that campers do not pick flowers or leaves, or collect other natural materials, unless directed by a Naturalist. Following these guidelines will protect the resources at the Sanctuary and make them available for others to enjoy.

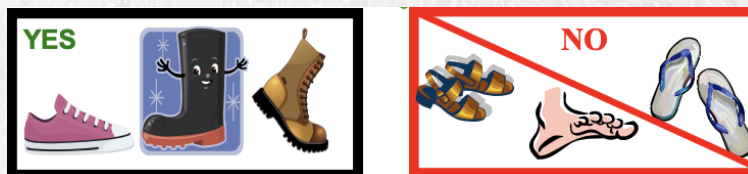
**Ages Are Not Flexible** Due to camp activities, crafts, games, etc. being age specific, we cannot allow children in camps that they are not eligible for.

**Camp T-Shirts** Shirts are included with a five-day camp registration. T-shirts for campers registering in the day camps (Rush Creek Ruckus, Wilderness Adventure, Creekin' Family Fun, Family Fossil Find, and Family Night Out) may be purchased for \$11.00 each. Please indicate the shirt size for your camper at the bottom of the Emergency Contact/Health Information form.

**Snacks** Campers will be served a nutritious snack during their mid-morning break. Please ensure that your child does not bring extra food with him/her as it causes problems among the other campers. If your child has dietary restrictions (such as peanut allergies), please notify the Sanctuary staff on the enrollment form and verbally remind them the first day of camp, so we can adjust snacks accordingly.

**Clothing** Children need to dress for outdoor adventures.

All programs will involve off-the-trail activities. **ONLY** closed toed shoes will be allowed in the creek and on the trails. Crocs and sandals may be used indoors only. Shoes may get wet or muddy on any given day.



## Camps That Involve Water

Nearly all of our camps involve some type of water. We use the bodies of water we have on site to educate campers. Strict rules are given to campers and are to be followed in these areas to ensure safety. Swimming will not be allowed during any camp.

## Things to Bring

For your convenience, we suggest the following things:

- Backpack - to hold everything
- Extra socks & shoes. Both pairs of shoes must be closed toed and can get wet. We recommend rubber boots and old tennis shoes. Crocs, sandals, and water shoes with holes will not be allowed in the creek
- Large plastic bag for storing wet clothing & shoes
- Towel
- Lunch and drink if applicable to the camp. Lunches are not refrigerated
- Water bottle
- Please be sure to label all items with your child's name.

## Things NOT to Bring

- Sunscreen & insect repellent (campers should come with it already applied)
- Nature equipment (everything will be provided)
- Extra snacks
- Phones, tablets, or other electronic devices
- Water shoes, crocs, sandals (campers must bring closed toed shoes or boots for the creek)

## Severe Weather

In case of inclement weather (i.e., lightning, heavy rain, excessive heat) it is our policy not to cancel camp. We have alternate activities planned for days that limit outdoor time. NOTE: On rainy days (weather permitting) we will still go outside.

## Emergency Contact / Health Information

Please be sure to fully fill out the Emergency Contact / Health Information section on the back side of the registration form or online. We must have this information on file before your child(ren) can be admitted to camp. Any medications must be listed to help manage the daily heat categories.

## Camp Evaluations

You will be emailed a short camp evaluation the final day of camp. Please fill this out at you earliest convenience. Evaluations help us improve our camps and we value the feedback we receive!