

EGADS
Earth Guardian Adventure Days

Martha Lafite Thompson
Nature Sanctuary's

2026 Summer Camp Program Guide

Family Member enrollment begins March 3rd 2026
Non-member enrollment begins April 7th 2026



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 water bottle, a mid-day snack will be provided, lunch at home.
- Refer to “Things to Know” on page 6
- Camp size is limited to 30
- \$225 per camp (\$175 for members) price includes camp shirt

Little Green Thumbs June 8-12

Enter the life of plants from beneath the soil to the SUN! Tiny seeds become some of the largest life on earth.

Bluebird Brigade June 15-19

Step into the wild world of birds to master the "Five S's" of birding: Shape, Shade, Size, Sound, and Space. Grab some "binocs" and help us solve the mystery of who's who and who really says "HOO!"

Wild Child - June 22-26

Let your child run wild as they are introduced to the world of wildlife around them. They'll meet plenty of animals while getting to act like one themselves!

Knee High to Nature - July 6-10

Step into a world where a “kid’s -eye view” is the best one! Your child will investigate the natural world as we spend the week enjoying its countless wonders.

Puddle Jumpers - July 13-17

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

[Link to register on line](#)



Earth Guardians

(Ages 6-14)



***Must have completed 1st grade**

“Earth Guardians” 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!

- “Earth Guardians” 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-morning snack will be provided
- Refer to “Things to Know” on page 6
- Camp size is limited to 30
- \$265 per camp (\$210 for members) price includes camp shirt

Botanical Basecamp - June 22-26

Become a biological architect at Botanical Basecamp, where you'll go beneath the soil to decode the secret "superpowers" of plants and engineer the ultimate wildlife-friendly garden.!

Creek Critters - July 6-10

“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!

Wing and Talon Squadron - July 13-17

Explore the world of avian survival at Wing & Talon Academy, where you'll harness raw nature to master the ancient skill of decoding bird calls and build bird feeders.

Wild Design Studio - July 20-24

This week we'll 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!

Sanctuary Splash - July 27-31

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

[Link to register on line](#)



Single Day Camps

(Ages 6+, 1st Grade Completed)



Single day camps are a great way to get to know the program while experiencing an exciting day in nature. Dip your toes in with one camp or dive right in with all! 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, dry hiking shoes and creek shoes
- \$85 per day (\$65 for members) does not include a camp shirt. If supplies remain, camp shirts can be purchased for \$11

Birds of a Feather June 3

Step into the wild world of birds to master the "Five S's" of birding: Shape, Shade, Size, Sound, and Space. Grab some "binocs" and help us solve the mystery of who's who and who really says "HOO!"

Animal Encounters June 4

Be a zookeeper for the day! We'll get hands on and up close meeting and learning to care for all of the animals of the Sanctuary.

Crafty Kids June 5

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

Fishing Fun August 4

Enjoy the fun of barbless fishing. After a short class in the basics of fishing, we will try our hand at casting and catching. Either the location will be in Rush Creek at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary or at an offsite pond, (location decided August 1, 2026).

Birds of a Feather August 5

Step into the wild world of birds to master the "Five S's" of birding: Shape, Shade, Size, Sound, and Space. Grab some "binocs" and help us solve the mystery of who's who and who really says "HOO!"

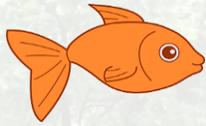
Rush Creek Ruckus August 6

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

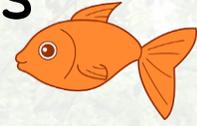
Learn to find and identify fossils of Missouri. Everyone will make a fossil to take home!

[Link to register on line](#)



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,**
 - Have shoes for the creek and a pair to wear in the building/hiking.
- The program is limited to 32 people
- Time 11am – 3pm
- \$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 paste in your web browser)

End of Camp Family Summer Celebration (Age 4+) **August 8, 2026**

Bring a picnic and family friendly drinks for an end of season EGADS Summer Camp Experience for the whole family! See what EGADS is like as a family and visit with friends made during the SUMMER FUN.

EGADS Leadership Training

(Ages 14-17)



Become an Earth Guardian in Camp Assistant! EGADS Leadership 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. All applicants must have participated in EGADS in the recent past and/or may be asked to attend a camp session prior to the Training Program.

- Sessions are Monday through Friday, 8:15am-3:30pm
- \$150 per week of camp (\$100 for family 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
- Choose a week of camp you would like to attend.
- All applicants must have pre-camp training and a pre-camp interview with staff.

[Link to register on line](#)

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 Nature Sanctuary between 8:15 and 8:35 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 the older camps. A 6 year old completed 1st grade may request the younger camp with siblings.

Camp T-Shirts Shirts are included with a five-day camp registration. T-shirts for campers registering in the single day and Family camps 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 are served a 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. Discoverers, age 3-6 will eat lunch at home. Earth Guardians need to pack a lunch that does NOT need refrigeration. All campers are to bring a refillable water bottle; we stop to hydrate multiple times a day and bottles are refilled each time we enter the building.

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 camp days 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. Wading and walking in the creek is part of some camps. Swimming is not allowed in this program.

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 (unless preapproved by staff)
 - 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.

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!

[Link to register on line](#)