



**Quarry Hill
Nature Center
Summer Youth
Programs
2024**





Scholarships Available

Any child whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for [Educational Benefits from the MN Department of Education](#) (formerly the Free & Reduced Lunch Program) qualifies for a camp scholarship.

Scholarships are available for Bug Hunt and Summer Nature Camp. Please contact Quarry Hill Nature Center with questions (507) 328-3950 or apply at the link below.

[Apply here.](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I once asked our camp staff to share the top 10 words they would use to describe the essence of summer camp at Quarry Hill, they include:

Exhilarating
Excitement
Fun
Discovery
Memories
Encouragement
Friendship
Explore
Senses
Ah-ha learning

Camp can be hard to fully put into words but I think they nailed the key emotions and elements.

I will say I noticed they left off tiring, that's probably the Minnesota nice in them. 😊 Staff pour so much of themselves into every single day creating camps that are fun, exhilarating, exciting and ah-ha learning moments that write memories for your camper, forge friendships, encourage them to try new things and make them want to explore nature more. Maybe you'll find your camper is also tired at the end of the camp too – but in the best way.

We are ready and looking forward to giving our very best to your eager campers this summer. It is a privilege getting to know and explore the great outdoors with them.

Pam Meyer, Executive Director

PS > words 11, 12, 13, 14 were good times, awestruck, questions and stories. We expect great questions from your campers, hope they are awestruck by nature and all but guarantee they will come home with plenty of stories.

Summer Staff:

The Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center summer team includes our permanent staff and seasonal staff with education, science, and environmental education backgrounds. Enthusiasm, experience with children and knowledge of the natural world shine through in their interactions with campers.

In addition to staff, high school students join our team as camp leader assistants. High school assistants are students that have committed to complete a .5 credit independent study course requiring 60 hours assisting camp leaders.

GOING ON A BUG HUNT - BUG HUNT BONANZA!

AN ACTIVE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE FOR
ADVENTURERS AGES 4 TO 7 WITH AN ADULT

Jump, hop, fly and buzz your way up to the Oak Savanna with a Quarry Hill naturalist! We're rounding up adventurers, ages 4-7, and their adult sidekick for this premier experience. On this 90 minute adventure, naturalists will teach you how to use a bug net (*that you get to keep!*) and lead you in discovering the amazing world of insects.

Each adventurer will go home with their very own Quarry Hill bug hunt tote which includes a copy of the interactive book "*Backpack Explorer: Bug Hunt*," an insect net, a bug jar, and sweet honey bee treat.

This is an active outdoor experience where all activities are geared toward the abilities and interests of children 4 - 7 years of age and who are accompanied by a participating adult. Only children registered for the experience may attend - unregistered siblings and other children will not be allowed to attend. The adventure begins on the west side of Quarry Hill Park, 2100 9th St. NE, Rochester, not at the Nature Center.



[Register here.](#)



Scholarships Available!

Families who qualify for free and reduced lunch can request a scholarship. Scholarships cover 50% of fees. Call 507-328-3950 for questions or apply at the link. .

[Apply here.](#)

Choose From:

June 25, July 16, July 30

Start times vary. Times are listed at the online registration page.

Rain date is Thursday of the same week.

Cost: \$40, \$35/members

(includes one-time 90 minute experience plus Bug Hunt tote)

Location: Class meets at the west entrance to Quarry Hill Park at 2100 9th St. NE.

Registration:

Quarry Hill member priority March 5-13

Open enrollment begins March 14

Refunds/Cancellations:

Bug Hunt Extravaganza is a non-refundable program. Session changes will be allowed if space is available.

GOOD NATURED KIDS

For 3 & 4 yrs old with an adult

Join us with your little explorer and set them on a path to becoming a good-natured kid! Good Natured Kids is all about getting outdoors to explore, learn and connect to the natural world.

- Good Natured Kids meets entirely outdoors.
- Rain date is the following Thursday
- *In order to provide the best experience for all participants, only children registered for the class may attend. Siblings and other children will not be allowed in the class.*

Six Fun Themes

Choose your favorite or register for the series.

All classes meet from 9:30 - 11:00 am

Cost: \$18, \$15/members

Location: Meets at Nature Center

Registration: Begins February 29

[Register here.](#)



Quarry Hill program cancellation and refund policies apply to Good Natured Kids classes.

[Policies can be found here.](#)

June 4 or 5: Salamander Salute

Salute the salamander and learn all about this wet, wild and wonderful animal. Meet our live salamander and head into the woods in search of more “tigers”. A muddy craft and snack fit for a salamander will complete our adventure.

June 18 or 19: Knock Knock Woodpecker

Who is that knock knocking in the woods? Downy, Hairy, Pileated, what makes these birds so special? Use your eyes and ears as we search for woodpeckers in the park and their signature mark on trees. Then enjoy a snack suitable for “pecky” eaters.

July 9 or 10: Flying Dragons

Did you know that flying dragons exist? They do! We call them dragonflies and they hatch right out of the water. Gather around the pond to learn all about the lifecycle of the dragonfly. Snack & craft fit for a dragon.

July 23 or 24: Holey Moley

Moles, worms, groundhogs, spiders, foxes and even owls find life is good when you are underground. Get the dirt on why these animals like to live underfoot when we go searching for their lairs. Dig up some good grub and make your own underground detective funnel.

August 6 or 7 : Butterfly Flutterby

Summer is coming to an end and butterflies are abundant. Search high and low for fluttery butterflies that rise and glide on the breeze. Learn what makes each unique and beautiful. Spend time in the butterfly garden looking for young caterpillars, taste a butterfly snack and nature willing, take home your own caterpillar to raise and release.

August 20 or 21: Nature's Helicopter

Most birds can only fly forward, however hummingbirds can also fly backward, up, down, and sideways just like a helicopter! Join us as we learn more about the world's smallest birds. Fuel up on a sweet snack and craft your own animated hummingbird toy.

Quarry Hill Summer Nature Camp is an adventure filled week of natural science exploration that fosters discovery, ignites learning, and inspires action.

Paddle across the pond, scale the rock wall, dig deep into geology, and recharge in the outdoors alongside experienced group leaders in 329 acres of forest, prairie, and stream habitats.



SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMP REGISTRATION INFORMATION

How to Register:

Registration is accepted online only. Camp registration is not accepted by phone or mail. If you require assistance with online registration, please call 507-328-3950 Mon - Fri from 9 am - 4 pm. Full payment is required at the time of registration. A one-time fee of \$3 per camper will be added to the total camp fee. Scholarships are available for camp, see details below.

When to Register:

Member Priority Registration: March 5-13

Open Enrollment begins March 14.

All campers registered before May 20 are guaranteed a camp t-shirt and will receive it on the first day of camp.

[Register here.](#)

Wait List:

You can add your camper to a wait list at no charge. If space becomes available, campers on a wait list will be contacted in the order their registrations were received. Please provide an email address you frequently check so you can be reached. Campers are encouraged to register for wait lists in any sessions they are able to attend.

Scholarships:

Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center is committed to making camp accessible for all. Scholarships are available for camp. Any child whose family meets the income eligibility guidelines for the [Educational Benefits from the MN Department of Education](#) (formerly the Free & Reduced Lunch Program) qualifies for a camp scholarship. [Income eligibility guidelines can be found here.](#)

A non-refundable fee of \$20 is required to attend any camp with a regular fee of \$120 or less (or ½ of the listed fee for camps over \$120).

Limit one scholarship per camper/per summer.

[Apply here.](#)

Cancellations:

Requests for cancellations made at least 3 weeks prior to your camp session start date are eligible for a 75% refund. Cancellations made less than 3 weeks prior to your camp start date are not refundable.

Campers withdrawing before the start of camp due to a medical emergency are encouraged to re-schedule in a session with availability. If unable to reschedule, camp fees (less a \$20 processing fee/per camp) will be refunded.

Camp registrations are non-transferrable.

Session Changes:

Campers requesting a session change must call the Nature Center office. Requests made after May 1 will incur a \$10 fee per change/per camper. Session change requests will only be considered if they are made 2 weeks before the start date of your camp session.

SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMPS

AM SESSIONS: 9-11:30 AM PM SESSIONS: 12:30 - 3:00 PM



ENTERING KINDERGARTEN

YOUNG NATURALIST

CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Find out what awaits us on the nature trail during this camp for aspiring young naturalists! With science tools in hand, campers will observe, explore, play and create as they navigate the pages of the nature guide: *Backpack Explorer, On the Nature Trail*. Campers will search high and low for the plants and animals that call Quarry Hill Park home, encountering the sights, sounds and wonders of the natural world. From beginning to end, our time on the trail will be full of fun-naturally! Each camper will receive a copy of *Backpack Explorer, On the Nature Trail*.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 17-21	YN5	YN6
June 24-28	YN7	YN8
July 8-12	YN9	YN10
July 15-19	YN11	YN12
July 22-26	YN13	Not Offered



ENTERING GRADES 1&2

MISSION EXPLORE

CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Lace up your shoes, grab your gear and get ready for an expedition in Quarry Hill Park! Campers will safari in the savanna, creep in the cave, poke around the pond, and frolic in the forest. Our mission is to find out what makes these intriguing places unique and to uncover what animals can be found in and around these mysterious habitats. Each day begins at headquarters where we will investigate clues to the day's destination. Then we are off to the great outdoors to carry out our mission: exploration! At the end of each day, campers will log their discoveries in their mission journal. Are you ready to accept the mission?

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 3-7	ME1	ME2
June 10-14	ME3	ME4
June 17-21	ME5	ME6
June 24-28	ME7	ME8
July 8-12	ME9	ME10



ENTERING GRADES 1&2

WHIZ KIDS

CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Calling all whiz kids who like to build things that float, fly and even explode! Think like a scientist and design like an engineer as we set out on daily excursions in the park to conduct fun experiments. Building boats, fashioning fizzy rockets, exploring the night sky in our DIY NASA inspired starlab and making things glow in the dark are just a few examples of the fun that awaits. The great outdoors will be our laboratory as we discover how nature puts science to cool use. Goggle up whiz kid...it's going to be a BLAST!

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
July 15-19	WK11	WK12
July 22-26	WK13	WK14
July 29 - Aug 2	WK15	WK16
Aug 5-9	WK17	WK18

SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMPS

AM SESSIONS: 9-11:30 AM PM SESSIONS: 12:30 - 3:00 PM

ENTERING GRADES 3&4

FUR-O-LOGY FUN

CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Explore the wild side of Quarry Hill as you learn mammal tracking skills and capture live animals. Have fur-ology fun learning about our furry friends, the mammals, and their behavior! Campers will make mammal mazes for our resident hamsters and spy on the park's nocturnal animals using outdoor trail cameras. All activities emphasize hands-on involvement and outdoor exploration. Campers will also canoe, fish, hike and explore the sandstone cave.



Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 3-7	FF1	FF2
June 10-14	FF3	FF4
June 17-21	FF5	FF6
June 24-28	FF7	FF8
July 8-12	FF9	FF10
July 15-19	FF11	FF12
July 22-26	FF13	FF14
July 29-Aug 2	FF15	FF16
August 5-9	FF17	FF18



ENTERING GRADES 3&4

S.W.A.M.P. G.A.S.

CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Hunt for the biggest trees, the tiniest bees, and the otherwise unseen when we immerse ourselves in our natural environment in search of "S.W.A.M.P. G.A.S." During the week campers will sift through the soil, build natural shelters, canoe, and make their own tasty treat "a la plant" to eat. With our scientific tools in hand we will unlock the secrets of Quarry Hill's ecosystems - forest, prairie, savanna, quarry, and pond.



Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
July 15-19	SG11	SG12
July 22-26	SG13	SG14
July 29-Aug 2	SG15	SG16
August 5-9	SG17	SG18

SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMPS

AM SESSIONS: 9-11:30 AM PM SESSIONS: 12:30 - 3:00 PM

ENTERING GRADES 5&6

POKÉMON NATURE QUEST

CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

NEW!

Campers will create a Pokédex and earn badges while exploring the Quarry region! Level up while rock climbing to collect evolution stones, go canoeing and crayfishing in search of water types, check lures on trail cams, and geocache in pursuit of Legendaries. Natural science meets imagination everyday in this action packed camp. (This is a device free camp.)

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 10-14	PK3	PK4
June 17-21	PK5	PK6
July 8-12	PK9	PK10



NATURE BIKER

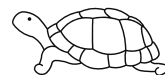
CAMP FEE: \$150/\$140 MEMBERS

Exercise, fresh air, adventure! Ride on city bike trails to explore the plants, animal life and health of our local waterways and natural areas. Campers must provide a bike, helmet, and water bottle. Campers will bike between 5-10 miles daily and should be able to sustain a biking speed of 1 mile in 8 minutes. Minimum wheel size for bikes is 20" and while gears are not required, they are helpful in maintaining the speeds and distances of this active camp.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 3-7	NB1	NB2
June 10-14	NB3	Not offered
June 17-21	Not offered	NB6
June 24-28	NB7	Not offered
July 8-12	NB9	Not offered
July 15-19	Not offered	Not offered
July 22-26	NB13	Not offered
July 29-Aug 2	NB15	Not offered
August 5-9	Not offered	NB18

ENTERING GRADES 5&6

SCALES & SLIME



CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Search for the slippery and scour for the scaly as you hone your herpetology skills through encounters with turtles, snakes, frogs and salamanders. Discover why a toad is a toad and a frog is a frog, how long a turtle can hold its breath and whether salamanders really can regenerate body parts. Be amazed at the remarkable things these amphibians and reptiles can do when you catch the wild and handle the captive. Canoeing, fishing, rock climbing, and hiking will round out the week's adventures.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 3-7	SS1	SS2
June 10-14	SS3	SS4
June 17-21	SS5	SS6
June 24-28	SS7	SS8
July 8-12	SS9	SS10
July 15-19	SS11	SS12
July 22-26	SS13	SS14
July 29-Aug 2	SS15	SS16
August 5-9	SS17	SS18

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMP FEE: \$140/\$130 MEMBERS

With camera in hand, venture to a unique location in the park each day! Campers will see nature through an all new lens when they photograph snakes, turtles, butterflies, flowers, moss and fungus. They will also experiment with light during a slow shutter speed 'flashlight painting' session in the cave. Campers learn the basic elements of photography and photo editing using digital cameras and laptops provided by Quarry Hill. Campers are provided with a 4G USB flash drive for photo storage.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 3-7	Not offered	Not offered
June 10-14	Not offered	NP4
June 17-21	NP5	Not offered
June 24-28	NP7	NP8
July 8-12	Not offered	Not offered
July 15-19	NP11	NP12
July 22-26	Not offered	NP14
July 29-Aug 2	Not offered	NP16
August 5-9	NP-17	Not offered

SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMPS

AM SESSIONS: 9-11:30 AM PM SESSIONS: 12:30 - 3:00PM

ENTERING GRADES 7-9

TEEN NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CAMP FEE: \$140/\$130 MEMBERS

Digging deeper into photography composition techniques, campers will hike to little known reaches of the park for unique photo opportunities. Each day of camp poses a new photographic challenge with opportunity for collaborative editing and review. Digital cameras, computers, and editing software is provided by Quarry Hill. Each camper will receive a 4GB USB drive for photo storage.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 10-14	TNP3	Not offered
June 17-21	Not offered	TNP6
July 8-12	TNP9	TNP10
July 22-26	TNP13	Not offered
August 5-9	Not offered	TNP18



SLIP SLACK PADDLEWACK CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Slip on your adventurous shoes for this all-around, action packed class! This week will offer experiences in kayaking, fly-fishing, orienteering, fire starting, bird and turtle studies and more. So slip, slack, paddle-WACK, and throw a fish a fly. So much fun, why not give it all a try?

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 3-7	Not offered	SPW2
June 10-14	SPW3	SPW4
July 15-19	SPW9	Not offered
July 29-Aug 2	SPW15	SPW16

ENTERING GRADES 7-9



GEO-TREKKERS CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Mark, set, GO FIND! Combining nature and technology, Geo Trekker campers will be introduced to the international sport of geocaching, played in cities and parks around the world. Using a hand-held GPS, campers will explore the natural treasures in Quarry Hill Park as they trek through different, and often remote areas, hunting for geo-cache treasures! Expect to hike on uneven terrain, sometimes through tall grasses or shrubbery, 1+ miles per day. GPS devices will be provided.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 17-21	GT5	Not offered
June 24-28	Not offered	GT8
Aug 5-9	GT17	Not offered



SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMPS

AM SESSIONS: 9-11:30 AM PM SESSIONS: 12:30 - 3:00PM

ENTERING GRADES 7-9

CRAZY CRAYFISH

CAMP FEE: \$140/\$130 MEMBERS

If you like to get wet, don't mind being pinched, and love to catch critters, this is your camp! Learn how to catch, handle, mark, and study crayfish at some of the local hot spots. Campers should be prepared to walk in water, use a dip net, and handle crayfish. (Wear sandals with a strap or water shoes for this camp). Campers will travel to area streams on the Quarry Hill Critter Coach 23 passenger mini-bus.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
July 15-19	Not offered	CF12
July 29-Aug 2	Not offered	CF16



ENTERING GRADES 7-9

ADVENTURE BIKER - ALL DAY CAMP!

CAMP FEE: \$220/\$210 MEMBERS

Explore the "wilder" side of Rochester by bike. Water and dry land adventures include fishing, canoeing, and fire starting. Bikers must provide a bike with at least 24" wheels and 3 speeds, sack lunch, water bottle, helmet, and shoes that can be worn in water. To be up to the challenge, bikers should be able to sustain a bike speed to cover 1 mile in less than 6 minutes, and a daily distance of 10+ miles.

Offered:	All Day Session 9:00 - 3:00
June 17-21	AB5
June 24-28	AB7
July 8-12	AB9
July 22-26	AB13
Aug 5-9	AB17

ENTERING GRADES 8+

KAYAK PADDLE DAY TRIP

CAMP FEE: \$90/\$80 MEMBERS

Discover SE Minnesota's wild side from inside a kayak. Spend the day looking for bald eagles, turtles, great-blue herons and more as we paddle our kayaks down the river. Lunch will be at the sand bar of our choice. Campers should bring a water bottle and lunch. In case of high water, area lakes will be explored instead. Campers will travel to the kayaking launch on the Quarry Hill Critter Coach, a 23 passenger mini-bus.

Offered: July 1 or 2 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



QUARRY HILL SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMP FAQ'S

Can I request to be in the same group as my friend?

Yes. Both campers must request each other to ensure placement in the same camp group.

How big will my camper's group size be?

Low camp to staff ratio is part of the Quarry Hill camp experience. Entering grades K-6 camp groups consist of 12 or less campers and are led by a staff member and a high school student assistant. Entering grades 7-9 camp groups are up to 16 campers and led by two staff members.

Can I register my camper for more than one camp?

Yes, if there is more than one camp offering for the grade your camper is entering.

Are the camps the same each week?

Yes, camps run more than one session and have the same activities each time.

Can my camper repeat a camp?

While camp is designed for a single session, some campers enjoy repeating camp. We allow repeat camps, however we ask that there be at least 2 weeks between repeat camps.

Do you have extended day options?

No, extended day options and supervision between camp sessions is not available. Quarry Hill campers should arrive and be picked up according to camp session start and end times.

What do I need to know before registering my special needs camper?

We are happy to make reasonable accommodations for special needs. Parents and guardians with questions regarding the ability of camp staff to meet a child's needs must contact the camp director before registering for camp.

Campers who require an aide in their school setting must be accompanied by an aide at camp. It is the responsibility of the camper's family to provide this aide. Due to group size restrictions, the Quarry Hill office needs to be made aware of any camper that will be accompanied by an aide prior to registration to ensure the group enrollment is within guidelines.

What should my camper bring to camp?

Campers should dress for the weather in comfortable clothing. Clothing and shoes may get dirty and wet. Campers should bring a water bottle, filled with water only, everyday.

What if it rains?

If there is no threat of severe weather, we will continue outdoor activities. In the event of inclement weather that prevents outdoor activity, camps will move indoors for alternate activities.

What are your camp safety protocols?

Safety is a priority at camp. All staff have first aid training and are trained in safety protocol for all camp activities.

I have more questions, what do I do?

We are available to answer your questions! Call us at the Nature Center office M - F from 9 am - 4 pm: 507-328-3950 or email us at quarryhill@QHNC.org.



Quarry Hill Nature Center
507-328-3950
QHNC.org
quarryhill@qhnc.org

