

2025 Summer Camps Catalog



Online registration is now available.



**Online registration
begins on
February 3, 2025
Register early!
Camps fill up fast!**



**ELLIS HOUSE & EQUESTRIAN
C E N T E R**

LESSONS • WEDDINGS • PARTIES



How to Register:

Online registration begins Monday, February 3, 2025.

1. Choose a camp based on the age of your child, or the grade that your child will be entering in the 2025-2026 school year.
2. Online registration is the quickest & easiest way to register your child for summer camps.
Registration online provides real-time camp availability, secure online payment, and immediate confirmation of registration, and is accessible 24/7 from any device with internet access.
3. If you chose to mail in your registration forms or bring your forms in to our office, please know that these applications will be processed slower than online submissions, and there is no guarantee you will secure your preferred spot.
4. If you have questions about a nature camp, call (630) 553-2292 or email: kcfpdeducation@kendallcountyil.gov.
5. If you have questions about an equestrian camp, call (815) 475-4035 or email: ellisequestrian@kendallcountyil.gov.

Nature Camps are held at Hoover Forest Preserve 11285 W Fox Rd Yorkville, IL 60560

Equestrian Camps are held at Ellis House and Equestrian Center 13986 McKanna Road Minooka, IL 60447

Cancellation Policies:

No refunds for cancellations **with less than two weeks notice** prior to the first day of the program. A \$20 non-refundable registration fee is included in each camp program fee.

Summer Camps Offered:

Ages 1 - 3 (Mon., Wed., Fri.)	Pg. 3
Ages 4 - Entering Kindergarten	Pg. 4
Entering Grades 1st - 3rd	Pg. 5
Entering Grades 4th - 6th	Pg. 6
Grades 1 - 3 & 4 - 6 Three Day Camps (Extended hours)	Pg. 7
Grades 1-6 <i>Friday</i> : 1-day Creek Camp	Pg. 8
Grades 1-6 <i>Friday</i> : 1-day Art Camp	Pg. 9
Entering Grades 7th - 9th "Nature Quest"	Pg. 10
Counselor in Training Program - Grades 8 - 10	Pg. 11
Ellis House & Equestrian Center - Pony Camps	Pg. 12

Summer Camps 2025

Ages 1 - 3

These three-day camps (**Mon, Wed, Fri**) provide a first nature camp experience for the very young. Camp time may include stories, songs, discovery time, nature explorations & hikes.

A caregiver must stay for the class.

Time: 9 am - 10:30 am

Fee per session: \$45



“Exceptional Earth”

Give young explorers the chance to experience nature in close-up and hands-on ways by connecting with the earth below their feet. Campers will get an opportunity to explore dirt, mud, clay, sand, stones, soil and the fascinating life within. Share the joy with your child by digging into these readily available, sensory rich, open ended play materials. Take delight in childlike wonder and marvel in the discovery of a worm wiggling in the garden bed, or toad nestled under a rock.

Dates: June 16, 18, 20

“Wondrous Water”

Children can't resist water – the sound and feel of it is mesmerizing. Campers are invited to explore the interesting properties and unique sensory experiences of this element when it changes shape, textures, and colors. Let's stomp, squish, splash and play our way through as we delve into aqua adventures, while investigating water's vitality and creatures. This camp offers many fun ways for young learners to engage and develop an appreciation for water and its many uses.

Dates: July 7, 9, 11

“Fantastic Flora and Fauna”

Animals and Fungi and Plants OH MY! Campers will be introduced to the delights of animal and plant life, from small dandelions in a sidewalk crack, to grand trees growing in the forest. For young children these everyday plants are marvelously new and waiting to be explored. They will delight in finding birds, bees, butterflies, ants, squirrels, and chipmunks that call the plants & trees “home”. Participants will be immersed in the wonder of all things wild and native. Observe a curious Eastern Box Turtle? Spy a Turkey tail mushroom? Listen to a Northern Flicker? In nature, the possibilities are endless!

Dates: July 21, 23, 25

Summer Camps 2025

Ages 4 - Entering Kindergarten

“Aerial Acrobats” *Half Day*

Swift, zoom, drift, dart, dash!

Campers will glide in this summer to learn about birds, bats, insects and more!

Spend a week with us looking up, down, and around as we learn about aerial acrobats and their ways of moving.

Hikes, songs, stories, games, crafts, and more will fill our fun days at camp.

Session I: June 9 - 13

Session II: July 7 - 11

9 am - 12 pm

Fee: \$145

“Wonders of Water” *Half Day*

Get ready for a fun week of water filled adventures!

Campers will learn about water and the amazing creatures that rely on it.

Splashing, scooping, and collecting are just some of the activities in our Wonders of Water camp.

Session I: June 23 - 27

Session II: July 21 - 25

9 am - 12 pm

Fee: \$145



Summer Camps 2025

Entering Grades 1 - 3



“Soil Science” Full Day

How is soil formed?
What fascinating creepy, crawly creatures live just beneath the surface?
Why is soil so important to our earth, to the plants, and to the air we breathe?
Did you know that soil helps to filter and clean water? Campers will dig deep to discover what is to be found in the dirt in different ecosystems. They will turn over logs, look under rocks, and explore soil layers underneath the water in our creeks.

Session I: June 9 - 13

Session II: July 7 - 11

9 am - 2:30 pm

Fee: \$220

“Nature Warriors” Full Day

This camp will help to teach our aspiring naturalists to love and respect our natural world and the wild animals who live there. We will take hikes, learn about different habitats including prairie, forest, wetlands and creeks and learn more about these special places. There will be hands-on activities about camouflage, animal tracking, and different animal adaptations. What's Not To Love? Nature is amazing!

Session I: June 23 - 27

Session II: July 14 - July 18

9 am - 2:30 pm

Fee: \$220



Summer Camps 2025

Entering Grades 4 - 6

“Adaptation Academy” Full Day

Want to learn how organisms adapt to the deep ocean, how animals nourish their bodies in the Sahara Desert, or how plants survive in the taiga? Adaptation Academy will teach your child the principles of life on Earth in some of the world’s most diverse & extreme environments.

Equipped with this knowledge, we will take a closer look at the equally amazing & surprising survival strategies of flora and fauna right here in Illinois.

And what about us humans? How do we adapt to our surroundings?

Let’s go deep into the inner workings of plants and animals alike in Adaptation Academy.

Session I: June 9 - 13

Session II: July 14 - 18

9 am - 2:30 pm

Fee: \$220

”Be an Ologist” Full Day

Let’s dig deeper into scientific studies that have “ology” at the end of their names. Come explore the worlds of Meteorology (weather), Paleontology (fossils), Ornithology (birds), Herpetology (amphibians & reptiles) and Entomology (insects).

Session I: June 23 - 27

Session II: July 21 - 25

9 am - 2:30 pm



Summer Camps 2025

Three Day Camps

June 16, 17, 18 (Monday to Wednesday)
9:00am - 4:00 pm
Extended Hours Camps

Fee: \$170

Grades 1 - 3

“Light to Dark”

From the peak of summer to the depth of winter, we will compare and contrast how nature changes during the seasons. What is the summer solstice? When is the winter solstice? Which animals hibernate, and which ones leave Illinois in the winter for warmer places? What food supplies are available during the four seasons? From full foliage on the trees to bare branches, discover where animals hide, survive and thrive during seasonal changes. There's so much to explore & learn - let's do it together.



Grades 4 - 6

“Tenacious Trailblazers”

It's exciting to go on different adventures in nature, to explore new forest preserves, and to hike new trails, right? We think so! Let's get our trail maps out and discover three different Kendall County Forest Preserve locations. After mastering the trails at Hoover, our travel van will transport campers to two other local preserves to see and experience what they have to offer.

Drop-off and pick-up will always be at Hoover Forest Preserve.

Summer Camps 2025



Entering Grades 1 - 6

“Crazy for Creek Creatures” 1-day Creek Camp

**Friday, June 20th
9:00 am - 2:30 pm**

Fee: \$45

Come out to catch crayfish, tadpoles, frogs, fish, water insects, and more!

This one day camp offers a full day of fun with both morning and afternoon creek explorations.



Summer Camps 2025

Entering Grades 1 - 6

“Naturally Artistic” 1-day Art Camp

**Friday , June 20th
9:00 am - 2:30 pm**

Fee: \$45



Do your kids love getting messy, making art, and exploring nature?
If so, this is the outdoor art camp for you!



During our time together we'll be observing the beauty of nature and getting our artistic juices flowing. Campers will learn about drawing, colors, painting, creating their artwork using natural materials, and so much more, all while enjoying the summer weather.

Each art project will tie back into our connection to the natural world and each other.

Join us for a day of letting our imaginations play together!

Summer Camps 2025

Entering Grades 7 - 9



“Nature Quest” Camp

We are offering our jam-packed schedule of fun; including an environmental stewardship project, group and teambuilding games, canoe trip on the Fox River, travel to a different forest preserve to explore new trails, Wednesday night campfire cookout for all, and an optional overnight tent camping experience on Wednesday night.

Dates: June 30 - July 3

Monday: 9 am - 2:30 pm
Tuesday: 9 am - 2:30 pm
Wednesday: 9 am - Overnight
(7:00 pm pickup for campers not staying overnight)
Thursday: Pickup at 11:00am, for Campers who camped overnight

Fee: \$ 240 (all travel & cookout meal included)

Important Tent Camping Requirements:

If you choose to have your camper spend the night on Wednesday, you will need to provide the following: Your own tent, sleeping gear (sleeping bag, pillow), flashlight, pajamas & a change of clothes for the next day, basic hygiene items: toothbrush, tooth paste, hairbrush, etc.

**** Complete & Submit the Overnight Tent Camping Permission Slip****



*Notes: Siblings/family members are allowed to share a tent and sleep together.
(Our tent camp sites do not have electrical outlets available)*

Summer Camps 2025

Ages 14 - 16 / Grades 8 - 10 **Counselor in Training Program (CIT)**

Do you love being outside and working with children? Join us this summer and become a Summer Camp Assistant!

All CIT's are expected to:

- * Attend a CIT training which will providing the CIT the tools needed to work with campers.
- * Participate fully in the camp programs (4 weeks total) and show a positive mindset.
- * Present themselves as positive role models.
- * Assist the camp staff with activities, hikes, crafts, games, setting up, cleaning, etc.; and to provide the best possible camp experience for our campers.



CIT's assist with camps offered for Kindergarten – 3rd grades.

This program helps teens develop leadership skills, and build a solid work ethic.

Application deadline: May 5, 2025

Fee: \$220

If you would like more information on the CIT program please email:

KCFPDeducation@kendallcountyil.gov

Equestrian Summer Camps 2025

Summer Camps at Ellis Equestrian Center provide children with the opportunity to learn the basics of horse care and horse behavior. All camps include fun, hands-on activities that teach safe, responsible care for horses.

Children learn confidence around the horses by feeding, grooming, leading, and riding the animals each day! In addition to getting hands on with the horses, our camps provide a daily craft and a variety of games and activities to keep your child busy and having fun.



Day Camp Options and Pricing

PARENT AND TOT DAY CAMPS

Explore the wonderful world of horses with your tot! This is a two hour, **one day camp** offered for our younger horse lovers and the parent!

Ages 3 to 5

Session 1: Mon. June 9

Session 2: Mon. July 7

Session 3: Mon. August 4

All "Parent and Tot Day Camps" run from
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Fees:

\$70 (Kendall County residents)

\$75 (Out-of-County residents)

THREE DAY CAMPS

Camps will provide students with hands-on experiences with horse care, feeding, handling, and riding. Each camp also includes a daily craft and other explorations of Baker Woods Forest Preserve.

Ages 6 to 8

Session 1: June 17 - 19 (Tues. - Thurs.)

Session 2: July 15 - 17 (Tues. - Thurs.)

Ages 9 to 13

Session 1: June 24 - 26 (Tues. - Thurs.)

Session 2: July 22 - 24 (Tues. - Thurs.)

All "Three Day Camps" run from
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Fees:

\$265 (Kendall County residents)

\$275 (Out-of-County residents)

OVERNIGHT CAMP

This exciting overnight camp will teach every aspect of what it is like to own a horse. It will include classroom lessons on basic horse knowledge; daily horse care, different disciplines of riding, horse crafts, movie nights & more!

Ages 8-14

Dates: July 27 - 29 (Sun. - Tues.)

Overnight Camp Times: Sunday, 3:00 pm drop off to
Tuesday, Noon pick up

Fees:

\$475 (Kendall County residents)

\$525 (Out-of-County residents)



Kendall County Forest Preserve District 2025 Summer Camp Registration Forms (3 Pages)

Camper Information & Waiver of Liability Form

Name of camp:	
---------------	--

Date of camp:	
---------------	--

Child's name:	
---------------	--

Date of Birth:		Grade Entering in Fall 2025:	
----------------	--	------------------------------	--

Parent/Guardian Name:	
-----------------------	--

Home Address:

City:	State:	ZIP:
-------	--------	------

Cell Phone:	Other Phone:
-------------	--------------

Email Address:

1. I am an adult over the age of 18 and I affirm that my minor child/ward ("Child"), has voluntarily chosen to participate in this Kendall County Forest Preserve District Program. I, on behalf of myself and my minor child, voluntarily understand and consent to the following:

2. Risks: I understand that participation in the Program may involve risks not found in my Child's daily life. These include, without limitation, illnesses, injuries, and even death. I understand these risks and assume them knowingly and willingly. My Child and I will take every precaution to safeguard my Child's health, safety, and personal belongings. I agree to instruct my child to obey all rules, regulations, and instructions given by instructors and/or authorized personnel. I further agree that no instructor or other authorized personnel will be held responsible or liable for injuries or other mishaps caused by my child's deliberate disobedience of rules, regulations, or instructions. I understand the Kendall County Forest Preserve District ("KCFPD") cannot eliminate all risks or guarantee my Child's safety.

3. I understand that state law mandates Program staff report any suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities for investigation. General Release: Knowing the risks described above, I agree, on behalf of my Child and my Child's family, heirs, and personal representative(s), to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding my Child's participation in the Program. To the maximum extent permitted by law, I, on behalf of myself and my Child, release, hold harmless and agree to indemnify and defend (with counsel of the KCFPD's own choosing) the KCFPD as well as their commission members, officials, employees, and agents, from and against any present or future claims, losses, liabilities, costs and expenses (including, but not limited to attorneys' fees, expert fees and court costs) for injury to person or property, or for any other damage, which myself or my Child may suffer, or for which my Child may be liable to any other person, related to my Child's participation in the Program, resulting from any cause, including but not limited to negligence on my Child's part or on the part of any of the released parties. Any attorney representing the KCFPD is subject to review and approval by the Kendall County State's Attorney and must be appointed a Special Assistant State's Attorney prior to performing any work for the KCFPD. The KCFPD's participation in its defense shall not remove the duty to indemnify, defend, and hold the KCFPD harmless, as set forth above. The KCFPD does not waive its defenses or immunities under the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act (745 ILCS 10/1 et seq.) by reason of indemnification or insurance.

4. Photograph, Film and Vocal Recording Release: I grant to the KCFPD the right and authority to photograph, film or record my Child as part of the Program. I consent to the KCFPD's use of these photographs and recordings for educational, promotional or publicity purposes and agree that these photographs and recordings may be displayed during presentations or published in mass media publications, newspapers, social media promotions, or websites. I agree that my Child's legal name may be used. My Child and I release the KCFPD from any expectation of confidentiality.

5. I, the undersigned as parent or legal guardian of my Child listed above, do hereby consent to his or her participation in the Program. I, as the parent or legal guardian of my Child and on behalf of my Child and myself, accept and agree to all assurances, assumptions, waivers, releases, and statements identified in the Assumption of Risk and General Release Form.

6. **Cancellation Policies:** No refunds for cancellations **with less than two weeks notice** prior to the first day of the program. A \$20 non-refundable registration fee is included in this program fee.

Signature:	Date:
------------	-------

HEALTH INFORMATION: (TO BE FILLED OUT BY PARENT/GUARDIAN)

Child's Name: _____ Sex: M F Non-binary

Name of Summer Camp: _____ Date of Camp: _____

Please indicate if your child has any health concerns we should be aware of:

Does your child require any special considerations to fully participate in camp activities?

Medications: Please note any medications camper is taking and special instructions for staff.

Emergency Contact Information— Someone Other than the Parent/Guardian listed on Pg.#1

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Health Insurance; Medical Care; Health and Safety Concerns: I affirm my Child carries valid and current medical insurance and I will be solely responsible for payment, in full, of all costs of medical care my Child may receive for all injuries or illnesses that my Child may sustain while participating in the Program or as a result of the Program.

I authorize the Program staff to administer basic first aid and to obtain health care for my Child if needed, as determined by Program staff, while participating in the Program. I authorize Program staff to transport my Child to receive such medical care. I give the Program staff authority to contact the provided Emergency Contacts if the child experiences serious health problems, suffers an injury, or is otherwise in a situation that raises significant health and safety concerns and Program Staff are unable to reach a parent/guardian.

I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure all emergency contact information is kept up-to-date and accurate. I understand Kendall County Forest Preserve District staff will not administer prescription or non-prescription medications under any circumstances other than medications that may be administered with physician instructions and parental consent include and are limited to inhalers to treat asthma; epinephrine pens, Benadryl, and other similar treatments to address severe allergies and/or allergic reactions. I consent for my child to receive epinephrine from program staff should my child present signs of anaphylaxis. Staff will not apply sunscreen or bug spray to children; it must be applied by a parent, guardian, or the program participant.

Parent Agreement: The above medical information is complete and accurate to my knowledge. Also, my child is fit to participate in all camp activities except for the limitations noted in this health form.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Summer Camp Payment Information

Online registration is the quickest & easiest way to register your child for summer camps. Registering online provides real-time camp availability, secure online payment, immediate confirmation of registration, and is accessible 24/7 from any device with internet access.

If you chose to mail in your registration forms or bring your forms in to our office, please know that these applications will be processed slower than online submissions, and there is no guarantee you will secure your preferred spot.

Child's Name:			
Name of Summer Camp:			Date of Camp:
Camp Fee:			
Payment Option (check one):			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash (In person drop-off only)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check (Make payable to Kendall County Forest Preserve District—Mailed or drop-off)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit card (Easiest method: Register on-line or Fill out information below and mail or drop-off)		
Credit Card Information (3.5% processing fee will be applied)			
Name on Card:			
Billing Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	
Card Type (circle one): Visa Master Card Discover Card			
Card Number:			
Security Code:		Expiration Date:	
I authorize Kendall County Forest Preserve District to charge my credit card the amount indicated on the dates as noted. Signature: _____ Date: _____			
If you are not registering online: Mail, or drop off your completed registration form, payment form, health form & payment to Kendall County Forest Preserve District, Attn: Summer Camp, 110 W. Madison St., Yorkville, IL 60560			
Once registration forms & payment are processed, you will receive a confirmation email. Summer Camp letters with details & instructions about the camp for which you are registered, will be sent 1 week prior to camp. If you have any other questions or need assistance, please contact the Kendall County Forest Preserve District Environmental Education Coordinator at 630-553-2292 or email kcpdeducation@kendallcountyil.gov			
If you have questions regarding equestrian camps contact the Kendall County Forest Preserve District Equestrian Program Coordinator at 815-475-4035 or email ellisequestrian@kendallcountyil.gov			
Thank you!			

Office Use Only:

Forms rec'd: _____
 Date Registered: _____
 Confirmation Email: _____



Nature Quest—Overnight Tent Camping Permission Slip

2025 Summer Camp Programs

Nature Quest Camper Information

Name & Date
of camp:

Nature Quest June 30—July 3

Overnight Camping Experience on Wednesday evening , July 2, 2025

Child's name:

Date of Birth:

Grade Entering in Fall
2025:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Overnight Emergency
Phone Number

Your signature below indicates that you have read and agree to the following, #1-#7 statements and that your child has your permission to attend the
Overnight Tent Camping Experience in the Nature Quest Camp:

1. I have been informed of the details of this program. My child has my permission to participate in this supervised program. (More details listed on page # 10 of this Camp Catalog)

2. I am aware that my Camper who is tent camping over night, will be promptly picked up at 11:00am on Thursday morning.

3. I understand that I will need to provide the following for my Camper to use: My own tent, Sleeping Gear (sleeping bag, sheet, pillow), Flashlight, Pajamas & a Change of Clothes, Basic hygiene items: tooth brush, tooth paste, hairbrush, glasses case if needed , I understand that showers are not available .

4. I understand that the Kendall County Forest Preserve will provide two meals: the Wednesday evening campfire cookout meal for all campers and the Thursday morning breakfast meal. If your Camper has any food allergies, please indicate this on the Health Form and you are welcome to pack extra (non perishable) foods that are safe for your camper to eat.

5. If your Camper is known to sleep walk, please indicate this on the Health Form; our staff will situate their tent closer to a counselor so if they get up in the night there is a better chance the counselor will awaken and be aware of the situation .

6. I authorize the instructors to take my camper on hikes and special excursions off site. I also authorize the camper to ride as a passenger in a vehicle owned or leased by the Kendall County Forest Preserve District organization.

7. **If Applicable for your Family:** I consent that my child (Name shown above) is allowed to share a tent with and sleep over night with our family member.
(list name of family member who will share the tent): _____

Signature:

Date:

(Page 1 of 1)