2026 Guided Discoveries Summer Camp Schedule

Week One: June 22 to June 26

Ages 5-6	9:30am - 12:30pm	Animal Senses - AM
Ages 7-9	9:30am - 3:30pm	Forest Safari
Ages 5-6	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Animal Senses - PM

Week Two: June 29 to July 3

Ages 5-6	9:30am - 12:30pm	Fur, Feathers, and Scales
Ages 7-9	9:30am - 12:30pm	Worlds in our Backyard
Ages 10-13	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Predator Survival
Ages 7-9	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Earth Camp Jr.

Week Three: July 6 to July 10

Ages 5-6	9:30am - 12:30pm	Insect Adventure
Ages 10-13	9:30am - 3:30pm	Junior Animal Keepers I
Ages 7-9	1:30pm - 4:30pm	World of Birds

Week Four: July 13 to July 17

Ages 5-6	9:30am - 12:30pm	Turtle Time!
Ages 10-13	9:30am - 3:30pm	Earth Camp
Ages 7-9	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Discovering Reptiles & Amphibians

Week Five: July 20 to July 24

Ages 5-6	9:30am - 12:30pm	Animal Superheroes - AM
Ages 10-13	9:30am - 12:30pm	Nature of Clay I
Ages 5-6	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Animal Superheroes - PM
Ages 7-9	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Powerful Pollinators

Week Six: July 27 to July 31

Ages 5-6	9:30am - 12:30pm	Have to Have a Habitat - AM
Ages 7-9	9:30am - 12:30pm	Nature of Clay II
Ages 5-6	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Have to Have a Habitat - PM
Ages 10-13	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Nature Guides

Week Seven: August 3 to August 7

Ages 5-6	9:30am - 12:30pm	Sky Hunters - AM
Ages 10-13	9:30am - 3:30pm	Junior Animal Keepers II
Ages 5-6	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Sky Hunters - PM

Week Eight: August 10 to August 14

Ages 7-9	9:30am - 12:30pm	Art in Nature I
Ages 5-6	9:30am - 12:30pm	Marvelous Mammals - AM
Ages 10-13	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Art in Nature II
Ages 5-6	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Marvelous Mammals - PM

Week Nine: August 17 to August 21

Ages 5-6	9:30am - 12:30pm	Nature Explorers - AM
Ages 7-9	9:30am - 3:30pm	Junior Naturalists
Ages 5-6	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Nature Explorers - PM

2026 Guided Discoveries Summer Camp

Week One: June 22 to June 26

Animal Senses - morning, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6

We'll spend this week at camp exploring our five senses and learn how other animal's five senses are not so different. We'll explore the Science Center campus using our five senses, and with up-close animal encounters, we will better understand how other animals use theirs. With fun games and activities, we'll smell, touch, see, and hear our way through this fun-filled week!

Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Forest Safari, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Ages 7 to 9 ✶ **A new full day session!**

Join us this week of camp and experience all that New Hampshire forests have to offer! Home to many different species of plants, insects, and animals, campers will get the chance to explore and learn about the natural wonders of New Hampshire forests. With plenty of time for games, exploration, nature art, and up-close encounters with our ambassador animals, there will be something fun for every camper.

Cost: $378/member; $420/non-member

Animal Senses - afternoon, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6

See morning session for description. Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Week Two: June 29 to July 3

Fur, Feathers & Scales, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6 ✶ **One of our favorites!**

This week at camp will focus on three different types of animals: mammals, birds, and reptiles! Through games, activities, and crafts, campers will learn about the similarities and differences across these different animal groups. Throughout the week, we will walk the live animal exhibit trail to look at some New Hampshire mammals, birds, and reptiles, and even get the chance to meet some up-close in our classroom.

Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Worlds in our Backyard 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 7 to 9

Get ready to explore the wonders of the tiny worlds that can be found in our own backyards! From ants to spiders to butterflies, these small but mighty creatures play an important role in nature, and live almost invisible lives around us. During this week of camp, campers will learn the bug fundamentals and build an appreciation for our tiny friends through games, crafts, and live-animal encounters.

Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Predator Survival, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 10 to 13 ✶ **Brand new session!**

Join us for a week of learning what is takes to be an apex predator! Do all predators have sharp teeth and sharp claws? What about stealth and speed? Through games and activities campers will discover different predator adaptations, explore the predator-prey relationship, and uncover what it takes to be at the top of the food chain. We'll also get the chance to see some NH native predator species on our live animal exhibit trail, and up-close in our classroom.

Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Earth Camp Jr., 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 7 to 9 ✶ **Brand new session!**

New this summer, we're excited to offer younger campers the opportunity to learn about conservation and sustainability. Through games, hands on activities, and up-close encounters with special ambassador animals, campers will start to learn ways that they can have a positive impact on the natural world around them.

Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Morning and Afternoon Sessions

Please note, for sessions labeled "morning" or "afternoon" you may sign your child up for a morning ***or*** afternoon session each week, but not both. This also applies for Week 2, for the morning and afternoon sessions for kids aged 7-9 years old.

2026 Guided Discoveries Summer Camp

Week Three: July 6 to July 10

Insect Adventure, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6
Back by popular demand! Join us for a week where campers will transform into young entomologists, as we learn some bug basics and about the importance of insects. We'll search for insects across the SLNSC campus and meet some special ambassador animals who rely on insects for survival.
Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Junior Animal Keepers I, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Ages 10 to 13 ✶ **Offered twice this summer!**
Do you love animals? Do you wonder what the Science Center's animals eat for dinner? What do you think it takes to keep a bear busy? Join us this week and learn what it takes to be an Animal Care Specialist here at the Science Center. Campers will help prepare diets, create enrichment, learn some medical triage, and of course scoop some poop! At the end of the week, campers will get the opportunity to share with family some of their favorite animal-husbandry activities.
Cost: $378/member; $420/non-member

World of Birds, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 7 to 9
From soaring eagles to flittering hummingbirds, New Hampshire is home to some incredible bird species! Join us for this week of camp to discover the world of birds and become young ornithologists. Through up-close encounters with some of our ambassador birds, along with time spent at our Raptor Exhibits, campers will gain a new appreciation for our feathered friends!
Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Week Four: July 13 to July 17

Turtle Time!, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6 ✶ **Brand new session!**
Do you love turtles? Well, we do! Come to this week of camp and discover what makes turtles (and other reptiles) such amazing animals! During this week of camp, campers will get the chance to see some live turtles up-close, explore the natural spaces turtles might live, create some turtle-inspired art, and transform themselves into turtles through fun activities and games.
Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Earth Camp, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Ages 10 to 13 ✶ **One of our most engaging sessions!**
Take action to help the planet! Join us this summer as we explore the natural world at the Science Center, on the lake, and in the community. Through investigations and data collection, we will examine the effects of climate change and human impacts on local ecosystems. Then we turn that learning into action through meaningful projects that benefit our local environment, all while gaining skills to make real-world change in your community.
Cost: $378/member; $420/non-member (full scholarships available for students from local schools funded by *Squam Lakes Connected Learning Ecosystem*, call to inquire)

Discovering Reptiles & Amphibians, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 7 to 9
Small but mighty, there are dozens of species of turtles, snakes, and amphibians found throughout New Hampshire! Join us for this week of camp and become young herpetologists, where we will learn all about what makes these groups of animals amazing and unique. We'll explore the many habitats they might live in, and get the chance to meet some animals up-close.
Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Registration

Priority Member Registration opens on Tuesday, February 3 at 9:00 a.m. You must have an active Two-Person or higher membership to access this early registration. Membership must be purchased by January 30, 2026.
General registration is available at nhnature.org beginning Friday, February 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
If a session is full, you may select to join the waitlist.

2026 Guided Discoveries Summer Camp

Week Five: July 20 to July 24

Animal Superheroes - morning, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6
You may not consider animals to be superheroes, but they do have superpowers! We call them adaptations, and they help animals survive and thrive in the wild. In this week of camp, campers will explore the world of amazing animal adaptations through games, activities, and up-close animal encounters.
Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Nature of Clay I, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 10 to 13 ✶ **One of our most popular sessions!!**
Want to take earth and turn it into art? This week, under the guidance of Community Clay Center instructors, campers will explore a variety of ceramic techniques to create functional and sculptural projects using clay. With the animals and natural beauty of the Science Center as inspiration, campers will transform their ideas into ceramic treasures.
Cost: $264/member; $300/non-member (additional shipping fee applies for non-local residents)

Animal Superheroes - afternoon, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6
See morning session for description. Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Powerful Pollinators, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 7 to 9 ✶ **New this summer!**
This week of camp will focus on the beauty and importance of pollinators, from bees to hummingbirds, butterflies and moths. With fun games, activities, and crafts, campers will gain an appreciation for the wonderful world of plants and their pollinators! We'll spend plenty of time in our beautiful Kirkwood Gardens looking for as many pollinator species as possible, and also think of ways in which we can help protect pollinators.
Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Week Six: July 27 to July 31

Have to Have a Habitat – morning, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6
Ever wondered about the importance of food, water, shelter and space? We'll spend this week discovering the importance of habitats and habitat requirements. Campers will explore the different habitats here at the Science Center and get the chance to meet some live animals and wonder about where they might like to live.
Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Nature of Clay II, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 7 to 9 ✶ **One of our most popular sessions!!**
See description for *Nature of Clay I* week of July 20-July 24.
Cost: $264/member; $300/non-member (additional shipping fee applies for non-local residents)

Have to Have a Habitat – afternoon, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6
See morning session for description. Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Nature Guides, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 10 to 13 ✶ **New this summer!**
Join us for a week of discovery and wonder, as we spend time exploring the woods and enjoying the great outdoors. Through thoughtful activities such as nature-journaling and soundscapes, campers will be able to appreciate the natural beauty found all around them. There will also be plenty of time for orienteering and fort building, for those who are feeling a little bit more adventurous. There will be something for everyone in the fun-filled week of camp!
Cost: $224/member; $260 non-member

2026 Guided Discoveries Summer Camp

Week Seven: August 3 to August 7

Sky Hunters - morning, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6

Campers will explore the world of flying predators in this exciting week of camp. We'll talk about birds of prey, like the hawks and owls found on our exhibit trail, but campers will be surprised to discover that it's more than just birds who command the skies! Join us for a week of fun activities, games, crafts, and up-close animal encounters where we'll learn all about different aerial predators.

Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Junior Animal Keepers II, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Ages 10 to 13 ✶ **So nice we've offered it twice!**

Do you love animals? Do you wonder what the Science Center's animals eat for dinner? What do you think it takes to keep a bear busy? Join us this week and learn what it takes to be an Animal Care Specialist here at Science Center. Campers will help prepare diets, create enrichment, learn some medical triage, and of course scoop some poop! At the end of the week, campers will get the opportunity to share with family some of their favorite animal-husbandry activities.

Cost: $378/member; $420/non-member

Sky Hunters - afternoon, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6

See morning session for description. Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Week Eight: August 10 to August 14

Marvelous Mammals, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6 ✶ **One of our favorites!**

What makes a mammal a mammal? Are people mammals? How about a porcupine? A bat? In this week of camp, campers will learn all about mammals, and what makes them different from other types of animals. Throughout the week campers will walk the exhibit trail to see some New Hampshire mammals, and get the chance to meet some up-close in our classroom, where we'll discover what makes them unique, but still a marvelous mammal.

Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Art in Nature I, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 7 to 9 ✶ **One of our most creative sessions!**

In this week of camp, animals and nature will serve as our inspirations as we create art under the direction of local artist Jadi Mercer. Explore the Science Center grounds to study form, examine color, and observe light to inform the art we create. Focus on detail through up close encounters with animal ambassadors. Use a variety of media to create two-dimensional and three-dimensional art, and share your work at an art show for family and friends at the end of the week.

Cost: $254/member; $290/non-member

Marvelous Mammals, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6

See morning session for description. Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Art in Nature II, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 10 to 13

See morning session for description. Cost: $254/member; $290/non-member

Scholarships

Partial scholarships are available for 50% of the cost of a session. To apply for a scholarship, complete the scholarship application form during the online registration process. Select "Applying for Scholarship" at check-out and pay the required $25 deposit. This will hold your child's spot. **Scholarship applications are due by March 22**; award notifications will be made by March 25. Remaining balances must be paid by June 1. See the *Guided Discoveries Handbook* for more details.

Earth Camp Scholarships - A separate scholarship fund is available to local students for *Earth Camp* the week of July 13. Call 603-968-7194 x112 for more info.

2026 Guided Discoveries Summer Camp

Week Nine: August 17 to August 21

Nature Explorers - morning, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6

Join us for an amazing week of camp, where campers will get the chance to explore the natural spaces found all around the SLNSC. From forest to ponds, and beautiful Kirkwood Gardens, campers will get the chance to see and learn about all different types of animal and plant life found in these different spaces. Join us for lots of fun, laughter, and time spent outside!
Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Junior Naturalists, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Ages 7 to 9 ✴ **New and improved!**

Returning for a second summer, but now as a full day camp, we're excited to offer campers the opportunity to become Junior SLNSC Naturalists! Campers can join us this week and get the chance to explore the Science Center through the eyes of a Science Center naturalist; learning something new every day and having fun doing it. Fun activities, games, and up-close encounters with our ambassador animals will give campers new opportunities to appreciate the natural world.
Cost: $378/member; $420/non-member

Nature Explorers - afternoon, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Ages 5 to 6

See morning session for description. Cost: $224/member; $260/non-member

Camp T-Shirts

During the registration process, you will have the option to purchase one or more camp t-shirts for your child. These custom Guided Discoveries Camp shirts are available in youth and adult sizes for $10 each. We cannot guarantee availability of shirts ordered after May 30th.

Guided Discoveries Cancellations... Yours and Ours!

A $25 administration fee will be charged for all cancellations. Cancellations made more than 30 days prior to the start of a session will be issued a full refund (less $25 fee). Cancellations made 14-30 days prior to the session start date will be issued a 50% refund (less $25 fee). Cancellations made less than 14 days prior to the start of a session will not be refunded. If there is low enrollment, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center will cancel week-long programs on the Wednesday prior to the scheduled start date and will fully refund your payment at that time. The Science Center will make every effort to alert participants to possible cancellations one month in advance. Registration and payment may be transferred to an alternative session at no additional cost if space allows.

First Guides Volunteer Program for Ages 14 to 17

First Guides is a volunteer program for teens interested in helping to engage and educate Science Center visitors along the Live Animal Exhibit Trail.

Counselor in Training Program for Ages 14 to 17

New this year, we will be offering the opportunity for teens to work closely with our Guided Discoveries Instructors to help our campers have a fun and educational summer!

Visit nnnature.org for more information and to complete an application.
Questions? Reach out to Volunteer Manager Carol Raymond at carol.raymond@nhnature.org.