

# SARETT NATURE CENTER 2023 SUMMER CAMPS



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Summer Nature Camps at Sarett offer children an excellent opportunity to learn about Michigan's ecology and natural history by exploring and playing in nearly 1000 acres of woodlands, wetlands, meadows and swamps at Sarett and other Michigan locations. We get up, get active and get outdoors daily!



## REGISTRATION

**PRE-REGISTRATION and PRE-PAYMENT FOR CAMPS ARE REQUIRED.**

Please visit Sarett's online store at [www.sarett.org](http://www.sarett.org) or call us to sign up for camps at (269) 927-4832. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted. Please feel free to call us for more information on any of our camps. It is important for the enjoyment of all students that your child be the appropriate age for the camp. Our naturalists want your child to have a great time so choose the camps your child will enjoy. Campers should dress appropriately, wear a hat, good walking shoes & bring a drink and lunch if class is over the noon hour.

**SIGN UP AT [WWW.SARETT.ORG](http://WWW.SARETT.ORG)  
OR CALL (269) 927 – 4832**

# NATURE DISCOVERY CAMPS – AGES 4–8

## BUDS – AGES 4 – 6

Young campers will use their senses to explore the great outdoors and discover different plants and animals along the way. Fun-filled activities include trail walks, nature games, crafts, stories, and animal encounters. Class limit is 30 children.

## TADPOLES – AGES 7–8

Older campers will investigate their natural surroundings and learn to understand the relationships of plants and wildlife to the ecosystem. Each camp lets your child be a real explorer, using science in fun ways to better understand the natural world! Environmental games, animal encounters, nature crafts, and other nature activities help to illustrate and reinforce the ecological concepts covered in daily adventures. Class limit is 30 children.

**Buds & Tadpoles will be in separate learning groups on the same day and time. Spaces are limited. Please sign up early.**



**Buds/Tadpoles Class prices:**  
**Members - \$12**  
**Nonmembers - \$18**

### Pollinator Powers

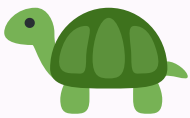
**Tuesday, June 13, 10:00 - 11:30 AM**

Learn about the importance of pollinators like bats, bees, and butterflies while we play a game, make a craft, and visit pollinators in the Butterfly House!

### Animal Sounds

**Wednesday, June 21, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

There are many different and interesting reasons animals communicate; whether it is to find mates, warn of danger, or mark territory. You will learn the songs and calls of birds, insects, frogs, and mammals. Outside you will get to howl like a wolf, hoot like an owl and make many other animal sounds yourself.



### Turtle Time

**Thursday, June 29, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Get to know the turtles at Sarett, have turtle races, and learn about these awesome animals who carry their homes.

### Spinning Spiders

**Wednesday, July 5, 10:00 - 11:30 AM**

Learn how spiders spin, jump, dance, dig, and dive in this creepy crawly class!



### Milkweed Village

**Thursday, July 13, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Monarch butterflies are not the only animals that use milkweed. Discover some of the other animals that use milkweed too and how these animals interact with each other. We will be hiking to the milkweed field so be prepared with water and a hat.

### Spectacular Snakes

**Tuesday, July 18, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Snakes are great! Learn about their habitats, what they eat, and their role in our environment.

### Music in Nature

**Wednesday, July 26, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Come make some NOISE! Music abounds in nature. Learn how nature makes music and get to make some music with things found in nature.



### Bubbles and Bugs

**Thursday, August 3, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Many insects use bubbles for protection and movement. We will see the world through a bug's eye and make some bubbles ourselves! Be prepared to get wet!

### Ooey Goopy Sticky Slimy

**Tuesday, August 8, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Why are some animals slimy? And what is it used for? Let's learn about these sticky slimy critters like salamanders and snails!

### Muckin' in the Marsh

**Friday, August 11, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Explore the marsh off-trail with a naturalist in this unique experience! You must be prepared to get wet and dirty to participate. To participate and protect your legs and arms from sharp grass and stinging nettle, you must wear long pants, tie shoes, and a long-sleeved shirt.

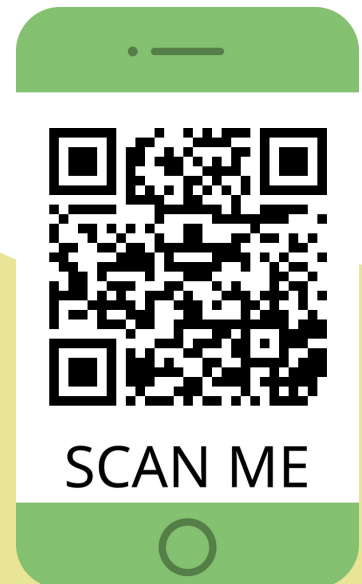


# SUMMER CAMP T-SHIRTS

Available to purchase from Custom Ink.  
**Only \$13.19 each!**



Have it shipped  
to Sarett for  
free or pay for  
direct shipping  
to your home!



**ORDER  
ONLINE**

**LAST DATE TO ORDER MAY 24**

Click the link on our website, [www.sarett.org](http://www.sarett.org).  
Shirts ship after last day and arrive by June 9.

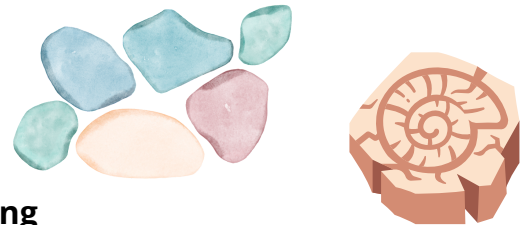
<https://www.customink.com/g/cxy0-00cq-eg7k>



# NATURE EXPLORER CAMPS – AGES 9+

The Nature Explorer Camps are for kids ages 9+ and are designed to engage your camper mentally and physically. Campers should come dressed for the weather, bring a lunch (if camp runs past 12:30 PM), water, hat, sunscreen, and wear walking shoes.

**M = Member Price**  
**NM = Nonmember Price**



## Nature CSI

**Wednesday, June 14, 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

**\$30 M/ \$40 NM**

Can you solve the case? Learn about animal tracks and signs as well as other forensic evidence to uncover clues at a variety of nature “crime scenes” to figure out whodunnit!



## Gardening

**Tuesday, June 20**

**9:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

**\$30 M/ \$40 NM and (Optional) Wednesday, August 9, 9:30 - Noon**

Have you ever wanted to grow your own fruits and vegetables? Or provide food and shelter for native pollinators? Join us in learning how to plant and tend a garden! Kids will learn the basics of plant-care and be sent home with materials to start their own garden. This is a two part class: the first class participants will build and sow a garden bed outside of the nature center. At the end of the summer, kids are invited back to an optional second class where they may collect produce from the garden. Participants are welcome to visit their garden bed throughout the summer to help weed and water.



## Rock Hunting

**Thursday, June 22, 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

**\$30 M/ \$40 NM**

Learn about the different types of rocks and fossils we can find in Michigan and then travel to Pilgrim Haven Natural Area for some of the best rock hunting in southwest Michigan.

## Outdoor Skills

**Wednesday and Thursday, July 5 & 6, 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

**\$60 M/ \$80 NM**

Wilderness survival is a practical skill set for outdoor enthusiasts. Students will learn basic survival techniques including shelter, fire, water, and food as well as bushcraft skills applicable to non-survival scenarios.



## Drawing: Landscapes

**Wednesday, July 19**

**9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

**\$30 M/\$40 NM**

Spend the day observing and drawing inspiration from nature. This class is for beginners and avid artists alike.



## Drawing: Animals

**Thursday, July 20**

**9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

**\$30 M/ \$40 NM**

Spend the day observing and drawing the animals of Sarett with guidance on how to draw animal anatomy in realistic ways.

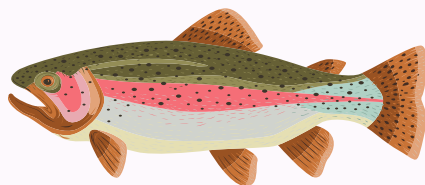


### Fishy Fun

**Tuesday, July 25, 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

**\$30 M/ \$40 NM**

Join us for a fun day learning about fish. We will spend the morning at the nature center learning about fish and then in the afternoon, we will head over to a nearby lake to do a little catch and release fishing from our voyageur canoe. Please bring a sack lunch and a fishing pole if you have one.



### Zoo Day

**Thursday, July 27, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

**\$30 M/ \$40 NM**

Join Sarett Naturalists to spend a day exploring Binder Park Zoo. We will have lunch on property so bring a sack lunch, water, and money for the gift shop/snacks if you would like.

### Extinct Animals

**Tuesday, August 1**

**9:30 AM – Noon**

**\$25 M/ \$35 NM**

What does it mean when a species goes extinct? How does it happen? What happens to the remaining ecosystem it once lived in? How does it affect humans? We'll explore these questions and others about animals that have gone extinct in modern times.



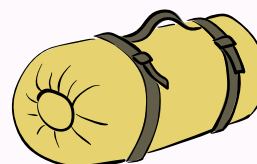
### Sarett Overnight

**Thursday night to Friday morning**

**August 3 and 4, 6:00 PM – 9:00 AM**

**\$60 M/ \$80 NM**

You will spend the evening playing games, making a craft, going on a nature hike, and sitting around a campfire. We will spend the night sleeping in the nature center building. A big breakfast will be provided for you in the morning and then you will be picked up to go home.



### Freshwater Science

**Thursday, August 10, 9:30 – 12:30 PM**

**\$25 M/ \$35 NM**

In this class we'll explore our waste stream and discover how we can be more sustainable in our community!



### Muckin' in the Marsh

**Friday, August 11**

**10:00 – 11:30 AM**

**\$10 M/ \$15 NM**

Explore the marsh off-trail with a naturalist! You must be prepared to get wet and dirty and protect your legs and arms from plants, you must wear long pants, tie shoes, and a long-sleeved shirt.

# NATURE QUEST

Nature Quest is a fantasy adventure – nature science camp in which participants will learn ecological and stewardship practices through a fantastical lens. Over the course of four days, members of nature quest will build their characters, go on nature hikes, and use teamwork to problem solve imagined, ecologically based quandaries. The final day will be an off-site field trip to an as yet determined location. Transportation from Sarett will be provided. Nature Quest is a full day outdoor camp. Participants will need to bring lunch, sturdy shoes, lots of water, insect repellent and sun protection.

**4-DAY CAMP!**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 27 - FRIDAY, JUNE 30  
OR  
TUESDAY, JULY 11 - FRIDAY, JULY 14  
9:30 - 3:00 EACH DAY**

**COST FOR  
MEMBERS: \$120  
COST FOR  
NONMEMBERS:  
\$150**

**SPACE IS  
LIMITED TO 12  
STUDENTS FOR  
EACH WEEK**



# WATER ADVENTURES – AGES 10+



Let's have fun exploring the area's waterways and learning how to kayak or canoe! Paddlers should always dress as if they are going to get wet, especially footwear. PFD's (life vests) will be provided and must be worn the entire time we are on the water. Paddling takes a lot of energy, so bring a good lunch, snacks, and a lot of water. Also wear a hat for sunshade, sunglasses, bug repellent, and sunscreen.

## Beginning Kayaking

Thursday, June 15, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Friday, June 16, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

\$30 Member/ \$40 Nonmember

On the first day you will learn all the basic skills of kayaking: how to use the paddle, how to enter and exit the kayak and how to be safe. We will practice our skills by playing games and exploring North Lake near Grande Mere State Park. You will learn about some of the plants and animals that live there. On the second day we will paddle a 2-hour stretch of the St. Joseph River between St. Patrick's County Park and Niles. We always see many turtles, some herons and usually an eagle or two.

## Beginning Kayaking

Thursday, July 6, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Friday, July 7, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

\$30 Member/ \$40 Nonmember

On the first day you will learn all the basic skills of kayaking: how to use the paddle, how to enter and exit the kayak and how to be safe. We will practice our skills by playing games and exploring North Lake near Grande Mere State Park. You will learn about some of the plants and animals that live there. On the second day we will paddle a 2-hour stretch of the St. Joseph River between St. Patrick's County Park and Niles. We always see many turtles, some herons and usually an eagle or two.

## Introduction to Canoeing

Tuesday, July 18, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

\$30 Member/ \$40 Nonmember



Canoes are embedded within Michigan's history and culture. Students will learn the basics of canoeing in this hands-on course. Proper paddling techniques, steering, and canoe safety will be covered.



## Kayak the Paw Paw River

Friday, July 28, 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

\$20 Member/ \$25 Nonmember

Use your paddling skills to enjoy a stretch of the scenic, meandering Paw Paw River. We will complete the section from County Line Road to the Paw Paw River County Park in Watervliet. Completing a Sarett Nature Center class is a prerequisite for doing this trip.

## Kayak the Kalamazoo River

Wednesday, August 2, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

\$25 Member/ \$30 Nonmember

We will paddle between the Lake Allegan dam access and the M-89 Bridge. This is a nice stretch of river because of we are in the Allegan State Game Area. Many birds and turtles are seen on these trips. You must have completed a beginning kayak class to do this trip.

# Registration Details

*Registration may be done online, in-person or over the telephone.*

## Online

**Step 1:** Visit [www.sarett.org/summer-camp](http://www.sarett.org/summer-camp)

**Step 2:** Choose Sign-Up online

**Step 3:** Choose Nature Discovery, Nature Explorers or Water Adventures

*(For Nature Discovery choose the age group your camper should be in)*

**Step 4:** Click on the camps you would like to register (1 camp or All)

*(Each camp will ask you whether you are a member or non-member, the camper(s) name and in some instances their age too.)*

**Step 5:** Once all of your choices are in the cart, click on the cart to pay for classes.

## Telephone or In-Person

When calling or placing your camp choices in person, please be prepared with the following information:

- Name of camper(s)
- Camper(s) age
- Camp choices
- Payment

## Before the Day of Camp . . .

It is important to fill out the Camp Release Forms **BEFORE** the day of camp. By doing this it will allow a quick check-in the day of camp.

Camp release forms may be found at [www.sarett.org/summer-camp](http://www.sarett.org/summer-camp). This is a fillable pdf, allowing you to fill in the information right on the form without printing it out.

### Here's some help:

1. Download the pdf file.
2. Fill in the blue spaces depending on the number of campers you have. (You only have to fill out one of these forms for all your campers.)
3. Ignore the signature line. Your typed name below it is fine.
4. SAVE your document!
5. Send your document to [sarett@sarett.org](mailto:sarett@sarett.org) as an attachment. Most likely the document will be found in your downloads folder unless you saved it to a different place.
6. Watch your email for a confirmation from Sarett.
7. On the day of your camp, all you will need to do is check-in and get your camper's nametag.





**Sarett Nature Center**  
2300 Benton Center Road  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022



## OUR STAFF

Each session will be led by experienced naturalists. These energetic leaders provide a safe, fun, and educational outdoor experience for campers of all ages. All naturalists are required to pass a background check, have first aid/CPR training, and are knowledgeable in Michigan ecology, natural history and more. Most importantly our naturalists inspire kids to explore, respect, and protect nature!



Pictured from left to right: Carolyn Sundquist, Laura Jasper-Stump, Nate Fuller, Devin Wild, Hannah Breyen, Dane Rasmussen, Rob Pierce, Mike Mahler, Kevin Barrera, Juliet Golob, and River Krieger.