

Nature Camp is a residential, non-profit, coeducational summer camp specializing in outdoor education in natural history and environmental studies.

Founded by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and now owned and operated by Nature Camp, Inc., in conjunction with the Nature Camp Foundation, Nature Camp has since 1942 sought to train a corps of interested and knowledgeable youth to conserve and protect the environment and to become wise stewards of the natural resources of the earth. We hope to foster an appreciation for and love of nature through direct experience and to inspire the young people of today to become environmentally responsible and conscientious citizens of tomorrow.



The Nature Camp Foundation was formed in 1989 by alumni and other supporters to support the goals and activities of Nature Camp. This 501(c)3 non-profit organization seeks to enhance the experience of all Nature Campers, past, present and future.

for more information:

[www.naturecampfoundation.org](http://www.naturecampfoundation.org)

for more information on adult session:

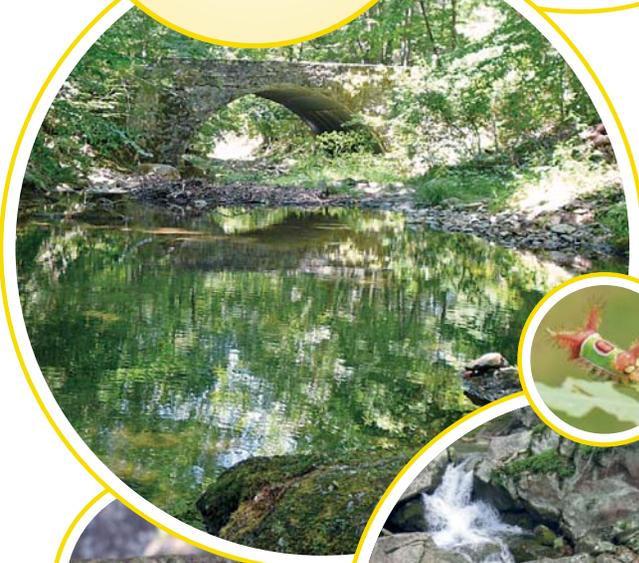
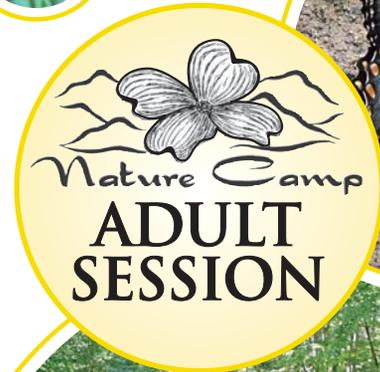
[dates & specific details about the schedule & program]

[www.naturecamp.net](http://www.naturecamp.net)

or contact: **Connie Sancetta** • 3988 Wiltshire Road  
Moreland Hills, OH 44022  
440-247-1618  
[csancetta@yahoo.com](mailto:csancetta@yahoo.com)



Nature Camp exists to educate a community of interested individuals and to inspire a commitment to conserve and sustain the environment and its natural resources as responsible stewards of the Earth.



for more information about the youth sessions, visit

[www.naturecamp.net](http://www.naturecamp.net)

or contact the camp director

**Philip P. Coulling** • 835 Sugar Creek Road  
Lexington, VA 24450  
540-460-7897 • [director@naturecamp.net](mailto:director@naturecamp.net)

Nature Camp is located about halfway between Lexington and Staunton and is easily accessible from Interstate 81/64. Directions and maps are available at [www.naturecamp.net](http://www.naturecamp.net)

## JOIN US

for an exciting environmental education experience in the cool green mountains of the George Washington National Forest of Virginia.



Nature Camp's annual Adult Session alternates between early June (in even-numbered years) and mid-August (in odd-numbered years). After a brief run in a different format in the 1970s and early 1980s, Adult Session was

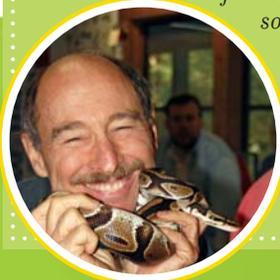
revived by the Nature Camp Foundation in 1990 and is now a program of Nature Camp, Inc., which also offers programs every summer for youth aged 11 to 18.

Each Adult Session begins on Friday afternoon and ends after breakfast the following Tuesday morning.

Three full days of classes, field trips and other activities are organized around a particular nature theme.

In past years themes have included "Pollination Ecology," "Rarity," "Water in Nature," "Metamorphosis," and "Alien Invasives."

*"Nature Camp is far from the stressors of traffic, telephone calls and TV sitcoms. At camp the whip-poorwill sings out in the evening. In the early morning many birds add their songs, including one songster who calls out, "Drink your tea!" Always available for listening pleasure is the gentle sound of Big Mary's Creek as it flows over the rocks. And of course the campers make their own pleasant sounds with music and laughter."*



Helen Sanders  
Fredericksburg, VA

Volunteer instructors, many of whom are former campers or counselors and now professionals in the sciences, have offered such theme-based classes as:

- The Sounds of Nature
- Dragonflies: Life in the Fast Lane
- Weather and Climate: What's the Difference?
- Why are No Stars Green?
- Getting to Know Your Watershed
- Standing Tall: The Architecture of Trees
- Adapting to Sudden Shock in Aquatic Environments

Scientific presentations are balanced by a variety of art and craft projects, such as making silver jewelry from clay, sand sculptures, soap-stone carving, basket weaving, and building primitive musical instruments.



Most classes last one to two hours, with much of the time spent on hands-on activities or outdoors, taking advantage of the range of habitats—forested slopes, mountain streams, and old fields—in the Nature Camp vicinity. Structure is informal, with questions and input from other instructors and attendees encouraged. A concurrent schedule generally allows two or more options at any particular time, and many classes are repeated during the session.



Participants stay in rustic, screened, single-sex bunkhouses; adjacent bathhouses are furnished with hot showers. Tent space is also available, and several motels and bed-and-breakfast establishments are located within a 10-mile radius in the Vesuvius/Raphine area. Meals are served family-style in a large, central dining hall; vegetarian options are always available.

In addition to thematic classes, other activities typically include:

- Early Morning Birdwalks
- Evening Walks to Find Salamanders and Other Nocturnal Animals
- Nighttime Stargazing
- Folk Singing
- Nature Journaling
- Sharing of Favorite Nature Books
- Evening Slide Shows
- Non-sectarian Chapel Service on Sunday Morning
- Short Hikes in the Nature Camp Area



Each session usually includes a half-day field trip (transportation provided) to a natural area or other site of interest in the area, such as another location in the George Washington National Forest. A picnic lunch is sometimes included. Although these trips may present options for extensive hiking, physical exertion is not required, and there are always some participants who elect to engage in minimal walking.



*"Every year I look forward to living in the natural beauty of Nature Camp. I am eager each year to explore the beautiful diverse Appalachian woods of hemlock, oaks, hickories, mountain laurel, salamanders, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, ginseng, great spangled fritillaries, tiger beetles, whip-poorwills, millipedes, red-tailed hawks, and a multitude of other intricately beautiful and fascinating creatures. Each year is an adventure.*

*Each year is a joy. For those of you who have yet to experience Adult Session, come join us next year."*

Betsy Delicate Bangley  
Georgetown, PA

