

STRAUB OUTDOORS

2024 Summer Camp Information



Summer is the best time to explore nature in Oregon!

Our annual summer science camp series is a purposefully small program led by experienced, caring, college-educated instructors. It's a chance for your child to explore nature and STEAM subjects (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) in a safe, welcoming environment through field trips brimming with engaging activities. See the next pages for camp descriptions, policies, and other helpful information.

Who: Ages 6-13 (See age ranges for each camp in the corresponding descriptions.) Our camp program is designed for children who will be entering Grades 1-8 in the fall. Most of our 2024 day camps will comprise three cohorts of nine campers each, segregated by age (6-8 years, 8-10 years, and 9-11 years), for a total of 27 spaces in each camp. The Far-out Fossils adventure camp for middle schoolers (August 5-9) has one cohort with nine spaces, and the Carnivorous Critters day camp (August 5-9) will have two cohorts of nine spaces each.

Where: Local and state parks and other natural areas in the Willamette Valley (day camps) and in Central Oregon (for three days and two overnights during the Far-out Fossils camp). The drop-off/pick-up location for all camps is the Willamette Heritage Center, 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, Oregon 97301.

Camp Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm for all day camps. Check-in at the Eco Hub is between 8:30 and 9:00 am each day. Pick-up is between 4:30 and 5:00 pm. See the Far-out Fossils overnight Adventure camp description for camp hours.

Tuition: See camp descriptions for tuition information. A 50% deposit is required to finalize your child's place at camp. Balance payments are due on or before Monday, June 17, at 5:00 pm. We offer a 10% discount for siblings registering for the same camp session. Due to increased program costs, we are unable to offer discounts for multiple weeks this summer. A limited number of partial and full scholarships are available. Call 503-779-5227 or email Info@StraubOutdoors.org for details.



STRAUB OUTDOORS

2

2024 Summer Camp Descriptions



Swamp Creatures! Discovery Camp | June 24-28, 2024 | Ages 6-11

Explore marshes, swamps, and other wetlands habitats to learn about the cool creatures that live above and below the water! Discovery Camps begin and end at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem with daily field trips to nearby natural areas for hands-on, science-based investigations and recreational activities. Learn about the different types of wetlands—including bogs, fens, marshes, and swamps—and explore wetlands areas within approximately one hour of Salem, including Silver Falls State Park, Ankeny Wildlife Refuge, Baskett Slough, and Champoeg State Park. We'll be on the look-out for pond turtles, beaver, ducks, and the now-famous

“Stumptown scud!” The campers will also have opportunities to take water samples and study even smaller wetlands-dwelling creatures under microscopes. Tuition: \$479 per child.



Fruit Fare Discovery Camp | July 8-12, 2024 | Ages 6-11

Pick local berries and other fruits and learn how to make pies, parfaits, and other treats using fresh, healthy ingredients! Discovery Camps begin and end at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem with daily field trips to nearby natural areas for hands-on, science-based investigations and recreational activities. Visit several local farms and farm stands, including Olsen Farms, EZ Orchards, and Minto-Island Growers, to pick fruit and learn how farmers maintain soil health, prevent erosion, and attract helpful pollinators like bees. Spend afternoons at the Willamette Heritage Center or a local commercial kitchen facility creating low-sugar, wholesome

culinary delights using fresh fruit and whole grains, with common allergen-free options. Campers will receive a Straub Outdoors apron and instruction on safe food handling procedures. Tuition: \$479 per child.



Rockin' Reptiles Discovery Camp | July 15-19, 2024 | Ages 6-11

Explore forests, streams, lakes, and rivers in search of lizards and snakes and their amphibian cousins, frogs, newts, and salamanders! Discovery Camps begin and end at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem with daily field trips to natural areas, including McDowell Creek Falls and Drift Creek Falls, for hands-on, science-based investigations and recreational activities. Learn about the differences and similarities between reptiles and amphibians while exploring regional habitats for species that are native to Western Oregon, including the Northern alligator lizard, Northwestern fence lizard, common garter snake, Pacific chorus frog, rough-skinned newt, and

the Cope's giant salamander. This camp also includes a visit to Reilly's Reptopia in Albany to see reptiles and amphibians from around the world! Tuition: \$479 per child.

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STRAUB OUTDOORS

3

2024 Summer Camp Descriptions



Herbivore Hijinks Nature Camp | July 22-26, 2024 | Ages 6-11

Deer, rabbits, and field mice all eat plants. This means they're members of a very special club: the herbivores! Learn about what herbivores like to eat, where they live, and how they raise their young. Explore forests and meadows for signs of wildlife, including black-tailed deer, Townsend's voles, and Douglas squirrels. Nature Camps begin and end at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem with a daily shuttle to Smith Creek Village at Silver Falls State Park for ecology explorations, arts & crafts, wilderness skills, and other fun activities. Tuition: \$429 per child.



Pedal Power! Discovery Camp | July 29-August 2, 2024 | Ages 6-11

This week is all about using our bodies to power everything from bicycles to tractors to boats! Discovery Camps begin and end at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem with a daily field trips to natural areas for hands-on, science-based investigations and recreational activities. Learn about bike safety—including kid-friendly bike repair and maintenance and navigating urban areas safely—and train on an easy agility course before embarking on a guided cycling trip at a nearby state or municipal park. (Bikes and helmets are not included, but can be provided upon request for those campers who do not have a bike.) Pedal Power! Camp will also include a half-

day outing on the Nestucca River in a Hobie (pedal-powered) kayak, and trip to the Great Oregon Steam Up at Antique Powerland to watch a pedal tractor pull competition. Tuition: \$479 per child.



Far-out Fossils Adventure Camp | August 5-9, 2024 | Ages 11-13

This five-day, two-overnight science camp geared to middle schoolers will include fossil-digging in (you guessed it) Fossil, Oregon and visits to the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center (Kimberly, OR), the Museum of Natural & Cultural History (Eugene, OR), and the Paleontology Lab at OMSI. Meet a paleontologist and a natural science illustrator to learn about the important work they do in preserving and interpreting animals that lived on Earth (and especially in Oregon) in the distant past.

The overnights for the Far-out Fossils camp will take place August 7-9 at Cottonwood Canyon State Park near Wasco, Oregon. Campfire dinners, wholesome breakfasts, and healthy sack lunches will be prepared by our staff and volunteers onsite at the campground. Note: All meal preparers will have current Oregon food handler's cards and will employ safe food handling and sanitization practices at all times. Hand washing stations will be provided for campers at each location. Common allergen-free meal options will be available upon request. Tuition: \$679 per child.

Continued on next page . . .



STRAUB OUTDOORS

4

2024 Summer Camp Descriptions



Carnivorous Critters Nature Camp | August 5-9, 2024 | Ages 6-11

What do coyotes, bobcats, cougars, and river otters all have in common? They all eat other animals to survive and feed their young. Learn about the differences between carnivores and omnivores, including physical adaptations, where they live, and how they hunt their prey. Nature Camps begin and end at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem with a daily shuttle to Smith Creek Village at Silver Falls State Park for ecology explorations, arts & crafts, wilderness skills, and other fun activities. Tuition: \$429 per child.



Super Smart Scavengers Nature Camp | August 12-16, 2024 | Ages 6-11

Turkey vultures can ride air currents like expert paragliders to scope out their next meal and crows can solve puzzles to get food! Learn about the ways that avian (bird) scavengers help keep ecosystems clean, and go on mini bird-watching expeditions to see crows, ravens, and vultures in action. Nature Camps begin and end at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem with a daily shuttle to Smith Creek Village at Silver Falls State Park for ecology explorations, arts & crafts, wilderness skills, and other fun activities. Tuition: \$429 per child.



Diggin' With Detritivores Nature Camp | August 19-23, 2024 | Ages 6-11

Did you know that some insects, worms, crabs, and other animals eat dead plants and animals? Find out what they eat and why they are the superheroes of our forests, farms, and oceans! Nature Camps begin and end at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem with a daily shuttle to Smith Creek Village at Silver Falls State Park for ecology explorations, arts & crafts, wilderness skills, and other fun activities. This camp also includes a field trip to the D River Recreation Site for an intertidal scavenger hunt and food web game. Tuition: \$429 per child.



Chill Out! Discovery Camp | July 26-30, 2024 | Ages 6-11

August is the perfect time to cool off with some awesome ice science activities and a dive into Oregon's prehistoric Ice Age! Discovery Camps begin and end at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem with daily field trips to nearby natural areas, museums, and interpretive centers for hands-on, science-based investigations and recreational activities. Visit the Museum of Natural & Cultural History (Eugene, OR) to explore Oregon's prehistory through investigations into the animals and plants that lived in this region thousands or millions of years ago. Meet a volunteer from the The Willamette Valley Pleistocene Project and learn about the ancient bog near

Woodburn in which scientists have discovered the bones of mammoth and bison. Each day, campers will also conduct fun, frosty experiments with frozen liquids (and make glowing ice cubes)! Tuition: \$479 per child.



STRAUB OUTDOORS

5

2024 Summer Camp Policies

Registration policies & procedures:

Because we hire staff, order educational materials, and reserve admission-based activities based upon registrations, we ask that you complete a camp registration for your child after you feel confident of your summer plans. Once you submit your registration, you'll receive two emails within 48 hours: the first will confirm that we've reserved a place for your child in the selected camp(s) and the second will include a link to pay the deposit online (alternatively, you can print the invoice and mail or drop off a check Tuesday-Saturday, between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm). Deposits are due within five days from the date the invoice is received. If a selected camp cohort is full at the time of your registration, we'll notify you via email within 48 hours as well.

Registrations will be closed for the cohorts in each camp individually (when all of the spaces in a particular cohort have been allocated). Feel free to call 503-779-5227 or email Info@StraubOutdoors.org to check on the status of a particular camp/cohort before submitting a registration. We are unable to hold spaces in camps without a registration and deposit. Spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first served basis, based upon the date and time your registration is submitted.

Cancellation policies:

Should you need to cancel your child's registration after paying the deposit and/or balance, your tuition payments will be applied to our scholarship program and you'll receive a donation receipt for the full amount for tax purposes. If your child experiences a medical emergency, communicable disease, or bereavement for an immediate family member before or during camp—or in the event of a force majeure circumstance that necessitates a change to or cancellation of the camp session—all applicable tuition payments will be refunded on a prorated basis or they can be applied to another camp at your discretion, pending availability.

Camp expectations & rules:

Please refer to the Code of Conduct on the next page for the expectations we have for camp participants, parents/guardians, and our staff members. If your child is unable to meet these expectations consistently while at camp, they may not be permitted to continue in our camp program at the sole discretion of our staff and all tuition payments will be applied to our scholarship program.

The Code of Conduct has been developed first and foremost with everyone's safety in mind. Following directions, being respectful of the natural world and fellow campers, and participating in the camp activities in positive, constructive ways are important for the health and wellbeing of your child and of all of the participants. Thank you in advance for reviewing the Code of Conduct with your child(ren) before registering.

A special note about our program:

Nature can be a source of joy and peace for some children and contain triggers or challenges for others. We take care to ensure each camper is welcomed, supported, and respected. However, we also realize that our camp program is not for everyone. If your child is neuro-sensitive, has anxieties or fears about being outdoors or away from home, has an IEP, 504, or behavior plan at school, has moderate to severe environmental allergies, or isn't especially interested in science, please contact Catherine Alexander at ExecutiveDirector@StraubOutdoors.org or at 503-302-4645 to make sure a Straub Summer Camp experience is a good fit for your child.



Summer Camp Code of Conduct

Straub Outdoors staff will make reasonable and good faith efforts to provide positive, realistic, and consistent expectations and guidelines for every child. All children must agree to follow the rules and expectations listed below and all parents and guardians must agree to support them in doing so.

This doesn't happen very often, but please be aware that children who cannot follow the Straub Summer Camp Code of Conduct may lose their opportunity to continue in our camp program at the discretion of our staff. If this occurs, it is the parent or guardian's responsibility to pick up their child immediately. If a child is expelled for not adhering to camp rules and expected behaviors, no refunds will be granted for that week of camp.

Items not permitted at camp:

The following items are not permitted at camp or are allowed per the restrictions listed below. Participating in Straub Summer Camp implies consent for Straub Outdoors staff to search a child's belongings when there is suspicion that your child possesses one or more of these items:

1. Candy, sugary drinks, or highly-processed junk food
2. Cell phones & other electronics (allowed but must be kept in the child's backpack at all times, except in emergencies or during van transportation to and from field trip locations)
3. Knives, sharp objects, guns, or other weapons
4. Objects or materials that explode, emit noises, scents, or substances
5. Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, herbal remedies, or medications other than those listed on your health form
6. Publications or other materials containing derogatory or violent language or images

Camp safety rules:

1. Follow all safety instructions provided by Straub Outdoors staff. (This is very important.)
2. Keep a Straub Outdoors staff person within eyesight at all times, except when using the restroom or clothes changing station; never go places alone or out of sight.
3. Transition from one activity to another with your group when a staff member asks you to.
4. Ask before using the restroom or changing station and go with a buddy or in a "truddy" (group of three).
5. Tell a Straub Outdoors staff member immediately if a stranger approaches you or talks to you; Don't talk with or follow instructions from strangers.

Positive behavioral expectations:

The core values of Straub Summer Camp are kindness, honesty, respect, curiosity, participation, and joy. These are the behavioral guidelines that we expect everyone (including our staff) to follow at camp:

1. Be kind; do not hurt other people, animals, plants, or yourself.
2. Be honest; admit and apologize when you make mistakes.
3. Be respectful; treat all people, places, and things as you would like to be treated; apologize for hurtful or disruptive words or actions and don't repeat these behaviors.
4. Be curious; ask questions but also ask first before you pick up, carry, or play with equipment or living things.
5. Be an active participant; join in group discussions if you feel comfortable doing so, share your ideas and observations, and work together with others politely and respectfully.
6. Be joyful! Camp is a time when you explore new places, makes new friends, and have fun!