



**GREEN VALLEYS
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION**

Summer ECO Camp 2025

**Weekly Outdoor Adventures
For youth ages 6 to 12
June 16 – August 22**



Summer ECO Camp 2025



Every Child Outside (ECO) Camp at Welkinweir Preserve

Weekly outdoor adventures June 16 – Aug 8
 All Camp WACKY Weeks August 11-22
 Play, explore, and discover on 224 acres!
 Before and After Care Available
 Camp Scholarships Available
 Call or email for application

Dates	Weekly Theme	Bullfrogs Ages 6-7 9:00 – 3:00	Turtles Ages 8-9 9:00 – 3:00	Hérons Ages 10-12 9:00 – 3:00
June 16 - 20	<i>Flora & Fauna</i>	Beasts & Buds	Creatures in the Hood	Campy Creatures (field trip)
June 23 - 27	<i>Water Wows!</i>	Wet & Wild (all camp field trip)	Just Add Water (All camp field trip)	Paddle Quest (2 field trips)
June 30 – July 3 *No camp on July 4th	<i>Far Out Arts</i>	Artarama	Multi-Makers	Innovations
July 7 - 11	<i>ECO Adventure</i>	Wild Child	Stayin' Alive	Born to be Wild (field trip)
July 14 - 18	<i>Flora & Fauna</i>	Hide & Seek	Hidden Treasures	Birds, Bees, Flowers & Trees (field trip)
July 21 - 25	<i>Water Wows!</i>	Water Wonders (all camp field trip)	Water Wanderers (all camp field trip)	H2YO! (2 field trips)
July 28 - Aug 1	<i>Far Out Arts</i>	Creativors	Muse on the Loose	The OC's (Original Campers) (field trip)
August 4 - 8	<i>ECO Adventure</i>	Great Explorations	Lost & Found	Wild Things Field trip)
August 11-15	<i>WACKY Week</i>	(Water, Arts, Creatures, Kooky stuff & You!)	All campers 6 -12	One Group
August 18-22	<i>WACKY Week</i>	(Water, Arts, Creatures, Kooky stuff & You!)	All campers 6 -12	One Group

**Green Valleys Watershed Association,
 1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown, PA 19465.**

Online Registration at www.greenvalleys.org/summer-nature-day-camp
 For assistance or questions, email camp@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-4900

ECO Camp

Unplug the kids and let the outdoors do the teaching! GVWA's ECO camps are the perfect outlet for kids this summer! They'll keep learning and growing through outdoor play, exploration, physical activity, creativity, and friendship. Backed by research, kids will have happier, healthier learning experiences in a camp setting that relies on outdoor activity. While no two weeks of our camp are the same, all weeks include problem-solving, team building, learning about our natural world, and becoming better environmental stewards. Through our wide range of activities, campers will learn valuable skills that may help them academically, socially, and maybe even professionally. When did you know you wanted to be an aquatic scientist? ECO Camp! An environmental engineer? ECO camp! An urban planner? A landscape architect? An environmental lawyer? Turn them on to experiences, adventures, and skills they won't get anywhere else, all provided by kid-friendly, kind-hearted, outdoor-passionate trained staff.

Green Valleys Watershed Association is a member-supported, non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, preserve, and restore the waterways of northern Chester County. Our headquarters, Welkinweir, is a beautiful 224-acre preserve in rural East Nantmeal Township, open for visiting throughout the year. Please visit our website to learn more, or to support our important mission through membership:

www.greenvalleys.org/support

What makes our camp special?

- A camper-to-counselor ratio of 12-to-2
- Special guest presentations that compliment each camp week's theme, including live animal demonstrations, special team-building activities, and experts in nature-based recreational activities (such as birding)
- Unique field trips for campers 10 to 12; 2 weeks of all camp field trips
- A beautiful outdoor location

Our Camp Staff

Camps are staffed by lead (age 18+) and co-lead (age 16+) camp counselors; all of which have previous experience working with or educating children. New this year is our **leader-in-training** week for **13 year olds** and a **two week counselor-in-training program**, for **14 & 15** year olds, to help campers learn about the natural environment, native plants and animals, and how to be caring stewards of the Earth.

All staff and volunteers have passed the necessary background checks and are certified in CPR and first aid.

Interested in working as a counselor or in the LIT or CIT programs, please contact us at camp@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-4900.

Bullfrogs

Children ages 6 and 7; runs 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Beasts & Buds

Week 1: June 16-20

Birds and bees, fish and trees, explore more and all of these! Go birding, dig for worms, catch fish, study trees, collect flowers and see how all of these unique creatures are essential in the natural world. Make pinecone feeders and meet birds and beasts that turn into your best buds!

Wet & Wild

Week 2: June 23-27

Play Drip, Drip, Drench, explore Welkinweir waterways, catch salamanders, tadpoles, and other creatures of the pond and stream. This week, all age groups will take a field trip to Marsh Creek State Park to see turtles (we hope) and play in the lake. Explore and have fun the wet and wild way and compete in the ECO Camp boat race.

Artarama

Week 3: June 30-July 3 (4-day camp week; no camp on July 4th)

Art is all around in the shape of leaves, the color of flowers, and your imagination! Pound leaves onto fabric, create mandalas from natural items, go on a color hike, make leaf and bark rubbings, and create your own clay creatures. Like Willy Wonka sings, "Come with me and you'll be in a world of pure imagination."

Wild Child

Week 4: July 7-11

A wild child meets tadpoles face to face, creates flower bouquets, eats berries off the vine, catches fish, builds shelters, and uses a bow and arrow. Become a Welkinweir wild child and experience the outdoors through exploration, play, archery, and adventure. Get dirty, get messy, be wild!

Hide & Seek

Week 5: July 14-18

Around every bend, under every rock, up in the trees, surprises are waiting! Go on an unnature hike and learn how to look carefully. Then explore under leaves, dig in the dirt, turn over rocks and find signs of creatures that are hiding: pill bugs, earthworms, sapsuckers, groundhogs, owls, salamanders, snakes and more!

Bullfrogs (continued)

Water Wonders

Week 6: July 21-25

Ever wonder what it's like to live in water? Dress like a frog with adaptations needed to live in its watery world. Then explore and catch everything you can in the pond, the stream, and all the Welkinweir wet places! This week features an all-camp field trip to Marsh Creek State Park for hiking and wading in the lake and the ECO Camp boat race!

Creativores

Week 7: July 28-August 1

Find inspiration all around Welkinweir. The colors, the smells, the shapes! Go on a nature scavenger hunt, catch and observe creatures that inspire you to invent your own, and build a tree with imaginative leaves and your own creative critters that live in it!

Great Explorations

Week 8: August 4-8

Explore and adventure all over the Welkinweir property! Build a group shelter, go fishing, catch crayfish, shoot a bow and arrow, build a fire, and explore the nooks and crannies of the property for sights and signs of wildlife!

Bullfrogs Fees

Weeks 1,4,5,7,8

Week 3

Week 2, 6

GVWA Members - \$260	GVWA Members - \$235	GVWA Members - \$275
Nonmember - \$310	Nonmember - \$285	Nonmember - \$325

NEW!

WACKY WEEK (Water, Arts, Creatures, Kooky stuff & You!)

Week 9: August 11-15 Week 10: August 18-22

All campers ages 6-12!

Work with your counselors to decide as a group what you want to do on site. Day one will include some team building and decision-making and the rest of the days will be decided by your group including ponding, creeking, hiking and so much more. This week is reserved for all ages with a maximum of 16 campers.

Fee for members: \$300 / week; non-members: \$350 / week

Turtles

Children ages 8 and 9; runs 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Creatures in the Hood

Week 1: June 16-20

Set an insect trap, look for owl pellets, find berries and wild edibles. Explore the Welkinweir property and see why it's a comfortable home for all sorts of animal and plant life. Go fishing and ponding and be ready to meet your plant pals and beastly neighbors!

Just Add Water

Week 2: June 23-27

Scope out critters from the pond and stream, make your own waterscope, catch and release fish, salamanders, and tadpoles, oh my! Go on an all-camp field trip to Marsh Creek State Park to play in the water and explore the park. Through the week, create your boat for the ECO Camp boat race!

Multi-Makers

Week 3: June 30-July 3 (4-day camp week; no camp on July 4th)

Art is an expression of you! Use all of your senses to explore the natural world. Do tree rubbings, take a blindfolded trust walk, identify the smell of different natural objects, make a naturalized headband, paint with watercolors, and roam the Welkinweir property to collect natural objects for the masterpieces you will create!

Stayin' Alive

Week 4: July 7-11

Learn survival skills by building shelters, building fires, fishing, and creating a way to make fresh water! Learn the basics of first aid and the essentials of reading the land for clues. Practice hunting skills with bow and arrow on our camp target. So much to live for! So much to survive for!

Hidden Treasures

Week 5: July 14-18

Nature has surprises hidden everywhere! Go ponding to see members of the pond food web, do bark rubbings to find clues about residents, search milkweeds for monarch eggs, dig for worms and then go fishing. Play camouflage games to learn how to hide yourself. Look for signs of animals throughout Welkinweir: tracks, owl pellets, sapsucker holes and so much more!

Turtles (continued)

Water Wanderers

Week 6: July 21-25

Don't go home dry this week! Explore the watershed, hike parts of the stream, probe the pond, go fishing, play water games, blow bubbles, and do experiments to learn amazing qualities of water. And don't forget to make your own boat to compete in the ECO Camp boat race. This week features an all-camp field trip to Marsh Creek State Park for fishing and wading.

Muse on the Loose

Week 7: July 28-August 1

What's a muse? It's a person who is the source of inspiration for a creative artist. In this case, the muse is Mother Nature! Let her forms, colors, shapes, and patterns be the inspiration for your creations this week. Create collages from natural items, sketch and paint some of nature's treasures, hammer leaves and flowers to make a reusable cloth napkin and so much more!

Lost & Found

Week 8: August 4-8

Did anyone ever tell you to get lost? Well now you can, knowing that you'll be found! Play camouflage and go on a scavenger hunt, search for signs of animals along the trails, catch whoever is hiding in the depths of the pond and stream. Learn mapping skills and go on a treasure hunt. There's so much to find when you let yourself get lost!

Turtles Fees

Weeks 1,4,5,7,8	Week 3	Week 2,6
GVWA Members - \$290	GVWA Members - \$260	GVWA Members - \$305
Nonmembers - \$340	Nonmembers - \$310	Nonmembers - \$355

NEW!

WACKY WEEK (Water, Arts, Creatures, Kooky stuff & You!)

Week 9: August 11-15 Week 10: August 18-22

All campers ages 6-12!

Work with your counselors to decide as a group what you want to do on site. Day one will include some team building and decision-making and the rest of the days will be decided by your group including ponding, creeking, hiking and so much more. This week is reserved for all ages with a maximum of 16 campers.

Fee for members: \$300 / week; non-members: \$350 / week

Hérons

Children ages 10 - 12; runs 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Campy Creatures

Week 1: June 16-20

Look for signs of animals, identify plants that you can use, go birding, creeking, and crayfish hunting. This week for Herons includes a field trip to French Creek State Park for hiking, playing, fishing, and exploring.

Paddle Quest

Week 2: June 23-27

Start your watercraft skill building this week! Begin the week learning canoeing basics at Marsh Creek State Park on our all-camp field trip and end the week with a canoe trip down the Brandywine Creek! In between, build and race your own miniature paddle boat and join in the fun of the ECO Camp boat race!

Innovations

Week 3: June 30-July 3 (4-day camp week; no camp on July 4th)

Create, innovate, and generate! Use nature to inspire you to create works of art using flowers and bark, seeds and berries. We'll find and decorate walking sticks, explore textures and colors in nature and build a creation from clay. Collage, paint, even create music from natural items. Want to put a little drama into your week? We can do that too!

Born to Be Wild

Week 4: July 7-11

Take a walk on the wild side, or actually a few hikes! Find a geocache treasure, search for creatures of the meadow, stream, pond, and forest. Find plants that you can eat. Learn primitive skills like collecting water and building a fire. Outdoor skills for survival in the wild will be the focus of the week and includes a field trip to Treehouse World!

Birds, Bees, Flowers, and Trees

Week 5: July 14-18

Let us teach you 'bout the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees and the moon up above; let's talk about love. . .of Mother Nature! Go birding, catch insects, collect flowers, plant trees! Dress up in adaptation costumes, play games of Predator-Prey, and see what it's like to have paws instead of hands! This week is all about the vast diversity of the natural world, its creatures and their adaptations. This week's field trip is to the Elmwood Zoo!

Herons (continued)

H2YO!

Week 6: July 21-25

Yo! Yo! H2O! Can't live without it; no doubt about it! This week is full of water adventures from watershed dynamics to crayfish hunting to pond and stream exploration. This week includes an all-camp field trip to Marsh Creek State Park where Herons will practice paddling skills, a walking field trip to run water quality tests on Beaver Run, a Take It Outdoors kayak trip, and the ECO Camp boat race!

The OC's (Original Campers)

Week 7: July 28-August 1

There's nothing better than a week of nature art. Dip your net into the pond and then try drawing what you find. Create musical instruments from natural items and start a camp band. Entertain younger campers with a skit you create teaching about the natural world and our place in it. Build a favorite animal from clay. Take a field trip to Historic Yellow Springs to learn about printmaking. The sky's the limit when it comes to creativity at Welkinweir!

Wild Things

Week 8: August 4-8

What is it like to live in the wild, to live off of the land? Build a shelter, find and taste edible plants, catch some fish, play Hunger Games, and learn to use a bow and arrow to prepare for our archery field trip! Welkinweir Wilds is the place to get in touch with your wild side!

HERONS FEES

Weeks 1,4,5,7,8	Week 3	Weeks 2 & 6
GVWA Members - \$360	GVWA Members - \$335	GVWA Members - \$375
Nonmembers - \$410	Nonmembers - \$385	Nonmembers - \$425

NEW!

WACKY WEEK (Water, Arts, Creatures, Kooky stuff & You!)

Week 9: August 11-15 Week 10: August 18-22

All campers ages 6-12!

Work with your counselors to decide as a group what you want to do on site. Day one will include some team building and decision-making and the rest of the days will be decided by your group including ponding, creeking, hiking and so much more. This week is reserved for all ages with a maximum of 16 campers.

Fee for members: \$300 / week; non-members: \$350 / week

Registration

Registration, forms, scholarships, and job application info are online at www.greenvalleys.org/summer-nature-day-camp

Details

Registration opens in February for GVWA members; general registration opens in March. Weekly camp enrollment is limited. Registration remains open as long as spaces are available.

Scholarships

The ECO Camp Scholarship Fund supports families who cannot financially afford to send their children to camp. Support this fund online or send a check to Green Valleys Watershed Association / 1368 Prizer Rd / Pottstown, PA 19465 / Attn: Summer Camp Scholarship Fund. To apply for a one week camp scholarship, request & complete an application, then email to camp@greenvalleys.org

Before & After Camp Care

Before-care begins as early as 8:00 a.m. (camp starts at 9).; after-care runs until 5:00 p.m. (camp ends at 3:00). We offer a separate registration for this and it must be paid in advance with 24 hours' notice for utilizing these services.

Before Care: Weekly \$60 Daily \$15 After Care: Weekly \$80 Daily \$20

Leader-in-Training & Counselor-in-Training Programs

Leader-in-Training is a **new** category of camp this year designed specifically for **13-year-olds**, focusing on general leadership and skill-building. Leadership training can be ascribed to all areas of life. This one-week training period covers the basics of leadership and teamwork, as well as the fundamental skills needed to work with campers (teaching games, running activities, dealing with campers). Training week is June 16 – 20, with 1- week volunteering required. **Fee is \$125**

The Counselor-in-Training (**14 & 15 year-olds**) program goes beyond Leader-in-Training for more in-depth preparation for working with campers in the camp setting. This 2-week program includes leadership and skill-building (Week 1) alongside the LIT's. Week 2 for CITs focuses on advanced skills for working with campers, including fire building, safety, orienteering, geocaching, and canoeing. This week includes two canoe field trips. Training weeks are June 16-20 and June 23-27, with 2-weeks volunteering required. **Fee is \$225**

During the camp volunteer week(s) LITs/CITs will assist Counselors/Assistant Counselors to run the camp program, help campers learn about the natural environment, native plants and animals, and how to be a caring steward of the Earth – all in an outdoor setting. LITs/CITs may lead a hike, a game, assist with set up or clean-up of an activity, or aid a camper who needs extra help or encouragement. CITs may also co-lead specialty programming learned during Week 2 of their training. For an application please email camp@greenvalleys.org

About Welkinweir ... the home of Green Valleys Watershed Association, this 224-acre permanently preserved property boasts forests, meadows, ponds, and streams open for exploration. Home to abundant wildlife, one can spot a family of beavers, a bald eagle or ospreys, and a variety of birds, at any time. It is an ideal setting for ECO Camp!