



**20
24**

Blandford Nature Center

**SUMMER
DAY CAMP**



Camperships

WE ARE ABLE TO OFFER A LIMITED NUMBER OF CAMBERSHIPS!

Due to the generosity of our donors, we're able to offer a limited number of camp scholarships – camperships! Apply for a campership and we will send you a confirmation before registering.

Campership awards are designed to increase the accessibility of our summer day camp program. If you have a dependent that would benefit from a one-week summer camp experience at Blandford Nature Center, please complete this application.

Applications for our Campership and Diversity Scholarship programs will open on **Monday, December 4th, 2023**. Please keep in mind that availability of both camps and camperships are limited, and acceptance and processing are time-sensitive! Visit our website for more information and to apply for a Campership at: www.blandfordnaturecenter.org



Camp Aide Volunteers

Summer Camp Aides are an integral part of Blandford Nature Center's summer camp team! Camp Aides are teens ages 13-18 who assist Summer Camp Educators in camp activities. Blandford Camp Aides provide supplemental supervision, lead games and activities, assist at lunchtime, maintain program spaces, and mentor campers. Through volunteering and leadership training, Camp Aides gain valuable job experience, develop leadership skills, stay active, and have fun with friends!

Whether you are new to Blandford or you're a seasoned veteran, one of the first steps in becoming a Camp Aide is completing an online form. The Camp Aide application can be found under the 2024 Summer Day Camp tab on our website and will be available beginning **Monday, December 4th, 2023**. Camp Aide applications need to be submitted by **Friday, May 3rd, 2024**. Applications received after May 3rd will be considered on a rolling basis.



- Spend 1-4 weeks of your summer outdoors!
- Share your love of the environment with campers ages 4-12!
- Learn valuable leadership skills!
- Earn up to 35 community service hours a week!



Senior Camp Aide Position

If you have volunteered as a camp aide before and are 16 years of age or older, you can apply for our **Senior Camp Aide Position**! Our Senior Camp Aide will assist Camp Educators in the creation, implementation, and leading of outdoor summer day camp activities using environmental education/recreation curricula for children ages 4-12 years old. This internship may also assist in mentoring, supervising, and coaching new Camp Aides in youth development best practices.

This position is 30-40 hours per week from June 10th-August 16th and will be paid a total stipend of \$2,500. If you're interested in more information or are looking to apply, please email your inquiry or cover letter and resume to our Camp Manager at camp@blandfordnaturecenter.org.

Camp Warm Up & Cool Down

Do our drop-off and pick-up times conflict with your work schedule? Check out our Camp Warm Up and Camp Cool Down add-ons!

With **Camp Warm Up**, campers can be dropped off one hour earlier than normal. Campers can gently ease into the day of camp with quiet activities, stories, and music. This add-on is available to all campers and will run from 8-9 am. During **Camp Cool Down**, campers will unwind with stories and games while you enjoy an extra hour of time before pick-up. This add-on is for full day campers only and will run from 4-5:15 pm.

Advanced registration is required for both Camp Warm Up and Cool Down. They can be purchased together or separately during camp registration.



Pricing & Age Groups


	CAMP GROUP	AGES	TIME	COST PER WEEKLY SESSION*
	Camp Warm Up	4-12	8-9 am	\$40 Members / \$60 Non-members
	Camp Cool Down	6-12	4-5:15 pm	
●	Nature Buds	4-5	9 am-12 pm	\$125 members / \$145 non-members
○	Wild Sprouts	6-7	9 am-4 pm	\$250 members / \$290 non-members
➤	Trail Blazers	8-9	9 am-4 pm	\$250 members / \$290 non-members
◆	Outdoor Explorers	10-12	9 am-4 pm	\$250 members / \$290 non-members
★	Specialty Camps	6-12	9 am-4 pm	\$270 members / \$310 non-members

*Each session is purchased as a weekly camp. Memberships must be valid at the time of registration in order to receive member pricing and priority registration.

Registration

Follow the step by step instructions below to register your child for 2024 Summer Day Camp:

- 1** Pick your camper's age group using the chart to the left.
- 2** Review this brochure and select which camp session(s) work best for your child's schedule and interest. For your convenience, all camp programs are organized by age group.
- 3** Visit our website to register and pay for your selected camps session(s). Click on the applicable age group to enter our online registration program. Find the session, click on the "Register" button and complete the registration.
- 4** Watch your email for purchase confirmation. Your child will be enrolled once we have received your completed online registration and payment!
- 5** Look for another email **one week prior to each session that you have registered for**. This will contain important camp details including session information and camp preparation tips to best prepare your camper for their adventure!



Can't register online?

Contact our Camp Manager at camp@blandfordnaturecenter.org or call **(616) 735-6240** to request a form be emailed to you, or pick-up and drop-off paper registration at our Visitor Center during our business hours Monday-Saturday from 9 am-5 pm.

Camp Cancellation & Refund Policy

Each individual camp sessions will have a \$30 non-refundable deposit which covers the cost of internal processing fees. Refunds will be processed as follows:

- Registrants who cancel more than 30 days before their camp session start date will receive a full refund, minus the \$30 deposit.
- Registrants who cancel 14 to 29 days before their camp session start date will receive a 50% refund of the session cost, minus the \$30 deposit.
- Registrants who cancel within two weeks of their session will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis:
 - Cancellations due to camper illness, injury, or other emergency will require a physician's written verification before a refund, minus the \$30 deposit, will be issued.
 - Cancellations due to personal reasons will not be refunded.
 - No-shows without prior communication will not be refunded.
 - Session fees will not be refunded if a camper is sent home due to behavioral or health issues.
- Transfers from one camp session to another requested more than 30 days before their session(s) will be done at no additional cost. Transfers from one camp session to another requested less than 30 days before their session(s) will have a \$30 processing fee associated.

Questions about our camp registration or cancellation policy? Contact our Camp Manager at camp@blandfordnaturecenter.org or **(616) 735-6240**.



Week 1: June 10 - 14

● Nature Buds | Ages 4-5

Fantastic Forts

A camp favorite, now for our youngest campers! Grab some sticks and your imagination, it's time to build a fort! Explore the woods and fields of Blandford to gather the perfect materials to make your fort a fortress. Campers will learn how to safely build human-sized habitats with nature's materials.

○ Wild Sprouts | Ages 6-7

Farmyard Friends

Let's get to know the animals at Blandford Farm! We'll work to keep the Blandford livestock happy and healthy and learn how to feed, clean, and entertain goats, chickens, and sheep. Grow and harvest food for our animals and become a Blandford farmer for a week as we learn and play at the farm!

Fairy Tales

See the Blandford woods through the eyes of your favorite fairy tales: walk through the woods like Little Red Riding Hood, build homes for fairies and trolls, and discover what's at the top of the beanstalk. Fairy tales awaken the most wonderful parts of our imagination, and combined with nature play, this makes for a week of never ending stories and lasting memories.

Hooray for Herptiles

Campers will discover the slimy and scaly world of toads, turtles, salamanders, and snakes as we explore Blandford's froggy ponds, muddy marshes, flourishing forests, and curvy creek! As herpetologists in training, we will interact with BNC's resident reptiles and amphibians and come up with ways to improve the wild habitats of these amazing animals.

➤ Trail Blazers | Ages 8-9

Camp Classic

Come explore nature at Blandford and have a blast! From the creek to the farm, we'll get to meet Blandford's ambassador animals, create art, build forts, and much more! Whether you are a returning camper, or a first-timer learning what Blandford Summer Camp has to offer, this camp will be packed full of fun!

Animal Instincts

Animal survival depends on strength, stealth, and speed! This week, we will build these skills for ourselves as we explore the many ecosystems of Blandford. Camouflage, animal yoga, fox walking, and turtle sprints will help us practice our animal instincts in the wild!

Game Makers

We're breaking out our big book of fun and games here at Blandford! Join us for an exciting week of art projects, scavenger hunts, trail games, and team-building challenges that will help prepare you to create your own camp game!

Nature Art ★

From the biggest landscapes to the smallest creatures, nature has always inspired artists. This week campers will draw inspiration from nature around them and explore a variety of media, both natural and traditional, to create works of art fit for a gallery. The week will conclude with an art show to share our creations with family and friends.

◆ Outdoor Explorers | Ages 10-12

Marsh Madness

Have you ever wondered what things live below the murky waters of the marsh? We'll use special tools and skills to explore Blandford's marsh and discover the many organisms who call it home! We'll have a splash searching and learning about the insects, birds, frogs and everything in between that live in the marsh!

Cycles of the Farm

Life on the farm awaits! We'll nurture a love of farming through hands-on fun in our gardens and animal barns. Roll up your sleeves and get ready to explore the path our food takes from seed to plate as well as assist in taking care of Blandford's resident farm animals.

Week 2: June 17 - 21

● Nature Buds | Ages 4-5

Adventures at Polliwog Pond

Have you ever wondered what critters live inside the murky waters of a marsh or wanted to hop with frogs around a pond? We'll use nets, buckets, magnifiers, and our curiosity to explore the waters of Blandford and the creatures that call them home.

○ Wild Sprouts | Ages 6-7

Nature Art ★

Making art comes naturally! Budding artists will find inspiration as we traverse through the forest, stream, and meadow. Using a variety of natural and traditional media, campers will create art fit for a gallery! Camper artworks will be on exhibit for family and friends during our Friday Art Show.

Nature's Magic ★

Have you ever felt like there is a whole magical world hidden all around us? Campers will put their extraordinary imaginations to the test as they practice their wand skills, draft potions, and explore Blandford's enchanted forest.

Camp Classic

Come explore nature at Blandford and have a blast! From the creek to the farm, we'll get to meet Blandford's ambassador animals, create art, build forts, and much more! Whether you are a returning camper or a first-timer learning what Blandford Summer Camp has to offer, this camp will be packed full of fun!

Insect Investigators

Have you ever wondered what life would be like as a bug? Come explore the tiniest of ecosystems under logs and out in the meadows here at Blandford to find out! Campers will catch bugs, learn about different kinds of insect homes, and enjoy a week outside discovering what it takes to be a six-legged survivor.

➤ Trail Blazers | Ages 8-9

Nature Photography ★

Do you have an eye for the unique beauty that others miss in nature? Do you want to try your hand at special techniques and tools to help you get a different perspective? From close-ups in the forest to framing a landscape shot, we'll practice capturing the essence of the world around us through the camera's lens.

Marsh Madness

Have you ever wondered what things live below the murky waters of the marsh? We'll use special tools and skills to explore Blandford's marsh and discover the many organisms who call it home! We'll get our splash on with animal searches near and far from the pond, and get our hop on with fun froggy games too!

Farm Art ★

Bring out your inner artist at the Blandford Farm! We'll find inspiration in our farm landscape, resident farm animals, and famous works of art through the ages. We'll create art from natural materials found around the farm and show off our final products at our Friday Farm Art Exhibition.

◆ Outdoor Explorers | Ages 10-12

Farm Art ★

Bring out your inner artist at the Blandford Farm! We'll find inspiration in our farm landscape, resident farm animals, and famous works of art through the ages. We'll create art from natural materials found around the farm and show off our final products at our Friday Farm Art Exhibition.

Farm Fort Building

All the fun of forts, but at the Farm! This week we will be exploring the farm while using some of our farther fort building spaces to create new and exciting builds. Using the farm as our home base, this twist on a classic camp is sure to be fun!

Week 3: June 24 -28

● Nature Buds | Ages 4-5

Mornings at the Farm

Farm life is the life for me! Our youngest farmers will help grow and harvest food in the Children's Garden, feed friendly chickens, and play goat games as we learn all about life on the Blandford Farm. As the sun helps our crops to grow, we'll learn about what plants and animals need to survive and even try our hands at using small farm tools.

○ Wild Sprouts | Ages 6-7

Farm Olympics ★

Get ready to run, jump, toss and tumble through the week as we create and compete in the Blandford Summer Camp Farm Olympics! Individuals and teams will create fun obstacle courses, events, and races to test themselves amongst the plants and animals on the farm. You need not be the fastest or most flexible; there will be fun events for everyone!

Aqua Explorers

As summer gets warmer, let's cool down by the edge of the water! Prepare to get wet as we explore the marsh, pond, and creek. Look for water creatures, conduct water experiments, and discover the fun of H₂O in this splash packed week.

Fort Building

A camp favorite: Grab some sticks and your imagination, it's time to build a fort! Explore the woods and fields of Blandford to gather the perfect materials to make your fortress. Campers will safely build human-sized habitats with nature's materials and team-members too!

➤ Trail Blazers | Ages 8-9

Nature Art ★

From the biggest landscapes to the smallest creatures, nature has always inspired artists. This week campers will draw inspiration from nature around them and explore a variety of media, both natural and traditional, to create works of art fit for a gallery. The week will conclude with an art show to share our creations with family and friends.

Cycles of the Farm

Life on the farm awaits! We'll nurture a love of farming through hands-on fun in our gardens and animal barns. Roll up your sleeves and get ready to explore the path our food takes from seed to plate and assist in taking care of Blandford's resident farm animals.

Wild Wizarding Wonders ★

Have you ever felt like there is a whole magical world hidden all around us? Campers will put their extraordinary imaginations to the test as they practice their wand-dueling skills, play quidditch, draft potions, write with ink and quills, and explore Blandford's enchanted forest. Points will be tallied to see who will win the Cabin Cup at the end of the week!

◆ Outdoor Explorers | Ages 10-12

Marsh Madness

Have you ever wondered what things live below the murky waters of the marsh? We'll use special tools and skills to explore Blandford's marsh and discover the many organisms who call it home! We'll get our splash on with animal searches near and far from the pond, and get our hop on with fun froggy games too!

Nature Photography ★

Do you have an eye for the unique beauty that others miss in nature? Do you want to try your hand at special techniques and tools to help you get a different perspective? From close-ups in the forest to framing a landscape shot, we'll practice capturing the essence of the world around us through the camera's lens. We'll even try making our own cameras and learn how the sun can create an image for us!



Week 4: No Camp July 1 - 5

Week 5: July 8 - 12

● Nature Buds | Ages 4-5

Nature Art

Making art comes naturally! Budding artists will find materials as well as inspiration as we traverse through the forest, stream, and meadow. Using a variety of natural and traditional media, campers will create art fit for gallery walls and forest floors. Camper artworks will be on exhibit for family and friends during our Friday Art Show.

○ Wild Sprouts | Ages 6-7

Camp Classic

Come explore nature at Blandford and have a blast! From the creek to the farm, we'll get to meet Blandford's ambassador animals, create art, build forts, and much more! Whether you are a returning camper, or a first-timer learning what Blandford Summer Camp has to offer, this camp will be packed full of fun!

Dino Stomp

It's time for a dinosaur dance! Experience life as herbivorous and carnivorous dinos, discover the ancient tropical habitats they called home, and go on a dinosaur dig to learn about life long ago!

Farm to Table ★

Have you ever wondered where the foods we eat come from before we buy them at the store? During this culinary adventure at the farm, campers will learn how fruits, veggies and herbs grow, and we'll harvest some of these foods and prepare them for eating. Get ready to roll up your sleeves to work in the garden and learn basic cooking skills. We will get to taste and enjoy the results of our hard work!

Nature Play

The best place to play is outdoors! Will you be the fastest frog in the pond, the silliest salamander under the log, or the most creative bug in the meadow? We'll play the animal way, create cool crafts, explore different habitats, and have all kinds of fun in the sun!

➤ Trail Blazers | Ages 8-9

Cycles of the Farm

Life on the farm awaits! We'll nurture a love of farming through hands-on fun in our gardens and animal barns. Roll up your sleeves and get ready to explore the path our food takes from seed to plate as well as assist in taking care of Blandford's resident farm animals.

Fort Building

A camp favorite: Grab some sticks and your imagination, it's time to build a fort! Come to Blandford and venture into the woods to create human-sized habitats for dwelling & defense from the elements. Learn proper structure and function of fortress foundations as well as ways to ensure our time in the woods is warm, dry, and as fun as can be!

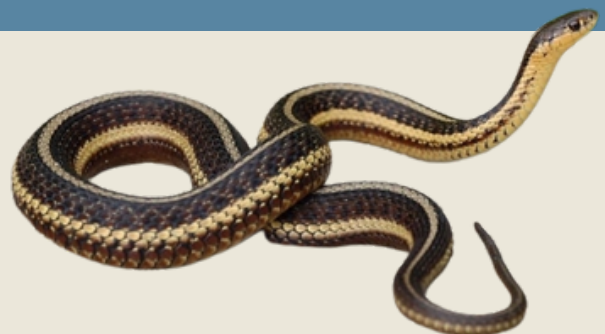
Beautiful Birds & Radical Raptors

Do you have what it takes to be the ultimate ornithologist? Using binoculars and field guides, we will explore the property from top to bottom looking for signs of birds in action. Campers will have the opportunity to meet and learn about Blandford's owls, kestrels, and hawks that call Blandford home.

◆ Outdoor Explorers | Ages 10-12

Wild Wizarding Wonders ★

Have you ever felt like there is a whole magical world hidden all around us? Campers will put their extraordinary imaginations to the test as they practice their wand-dueling skills, play quidditch, draft potions, write with ink and quills, and explore Blandford's enchanted forest. Points will be tallied to see who will win the Cabin Cup at the end of the week!



Week 6: July 15 - 19

● Nature Buds | Ages 4-5

Dino Stomp

Time for a dinosaur dance! Experience life as herbivorous and carnivorous dinos, discover the ancient tropical habitats they called home, and go on a dinosaur dig to learn about life long ago!

○ Wild Sprouts | Ages 6-7

Aqua Explorers

As summer gets warmer, let's cool down by the edge of the water! Prepare to get wet as we explore the marsh, pond, and creek. Look for water creatures, conduct water experiments, and discover the fun of H2O in this splash packed week.

Farm Fairy Tales

Lots of our favorite fairy tales include farm animals and plants! Find out what Chickens do when the sun sets, discover what lies at the top of a beanstalk, and learn about all the magic that happens at the farm! Imaginative play will take us to the farm and beyond in search of adventure.

Fort Building

A camp favorite: Grab some sticks and your imagination, it's time to build a fort! Campers will work together and learn how to safely build forts with nature's materials found in Blandford's forests.

➤ Trail Blazers | Ages 8-9

Game Makers

We're breaking out our big book of fun and games here at Blandford! Join us for an exciting week of art projects, scavenger hunts, trail games, and team-building challenges that will help prepare you to create your own camp game!

Beautiful Birds & Radical Raptors

Do you have what it takes to be the ultimate ornithologist? Using binoculars and field guides, we will explore the property from top to bottom looking for signs of birds in action. Campers will have the opportunity to meet and learn about Blandford's owls, kestrels, and hawks that call Blandford home.

Farmer's in Training

Do you like to dig in and get your hands dirty, but also have fun working as a team? Then the farm is the place for you! Help us harvest produce, assist with taking care of our farm animals, all while learning how to run a farm! Campers will spend the week exploring the ins and outs of daily life at Blandford's farm!

Wilderness Scouts ★

It takes hard work and determination to become a true Wilderness Scout! Together we will practice survival techniques, bond through team-building challenges, and learn to respect nature and each other. The week will end with a long hike that will test our knowledge and preparedness. If we master these survival skills, we will be ready to take it to the next level and become Wilderness Leaders!

◆ Outdoor Explorers | Ages 10-12

Wilderness Leaders ★

Blaze a trail into the great outdoors! Wilderness leaders know that wilderness survival is something that takes preparation, patience and practice. This week, we'll create survival kits, bond through team-building challenges, and practice the basics of survival while also learning ways to respect nature. The week will end with an adventure to a local natural area to test our knowledge and preparedness. See if you have what it takes to become a wilderness leader!

Nature Art ★

From the biggest landscapes to the smallest insects, nature has always inspired artists. This week campers will draw inspiration from nature around them and explore a variety of media, both natural and traditional, to create works of art fit for gallery walls. The week will conclude with an art show to share our creations with family and friends.

Week 7: July 22 - 26

● Nature Buds | Ages 4-5

Little Blandford Safari

Hop like a toad, walk like a fox, and run like a deer as we explore the habitats of Blandford! We'll search high and low through the forest, meadow, and stream and use scientific tools to discover animals large and small. Find your wild side as we discover the natural world around us!

○ Wild Sprouts | Ages 6-7

Farm to Table ★

Have you ever wondered where the foods we eat come from before we buy them at the store? During this culinary adventure at the farm, campers will learn how fruits, veggies and herbs grow, and we'll harvest some of these foods and prepare them for eating. Get ready to roll up your sleeves to work in the garden and learn basic cooking skills. We will get to taste and enjoy the results of our hard work!

Nature Play

The best place to play is outdoors! Will you be the fastest frog in the pond, the silliest salamander under the log, or the most creative bug in the meadow? We'll play the animal way, create cool crafts, explore different habitats, and have all kinds of fun in the sun!

Forest Forensics

Investigation is our middle name, and detection is how we play this game! The week will be full of Blandford mysteries and cases for our campers to crack. By the end of the week, we will have earned our badge in forest forensics, discovered a mysterious new species, and solved a few of the great mysteries of the Blandford woods.

Nature Art ★

Making art comes naturally! Budding artists will find inspiration as we traverse through the forest, stream, and meadow. Using a variety of natural and traditional media, campers will create art fit for a gallery! Camper artworks will be on exhibit for family and friends during our Friday Art Show.

➤ Trail Blazers | Ages 8-9

Fort Building

A camp favorite: Grab some sticks and your imagination, it's time to build a fort! Come to Blandford and venture into the woods to create human-sized habitats for dwelling & defense from the elements. Learn proper structure and function of fortress foundations as well as ways to ensure our time in the woods is warm, dry, and as fun as can be!

Farm Olympics ★

Get ready to run, jump, toss and tumble through the week as we create and compete in the Blandford Summer Camp Farm Olympics! Individuals and teams will create fun obstacle courses, events, and races to test themselves amongst the plants and animals on the farm. You need not be the fastest or most flexible, there will be fun events for everyone!

Hooray for Herptiles

Campers will discover the slimy and scaly world of toads, turtles, salamanders, and snakes! Together we will explore Blandford's own frog ponds, muddy marshes, flourishing forests, and curvy creek to learn about the wild and resident reptiles and amphibians that call Blandford home.

◆ Outdoor Explorers | Ages 10-12

Wild Culinary Adventures ★

Come along on an edible adventure -- harvesting garden veggies, discovering wild forest foods, and creating delicious snacks! Along the way, we'll practice basic culinary skills like reading a recipe, dicing, and measuring ingredients. Using newfound confidence in the outdoor kitchen, campers will whip up special creations each day.

Camp Classic

Come explore nature at Blandford and have a blast! From the creek to the farm, we'll get to meet Blandford's ambassador animals, create art, build forts, and much more! Whether you are a returning camper, or a first-timer learning what Blandford Summer Camp has to offer, this camp will be packed full of fun!

Week 8: July 29 - August 2

● Nature Buds | Ages 4-5

Bug Buddies

Let's explore the smaller side of the animal kingdom! Our buggy adventures will have us netting butterflies in the meadow and finding beetles under logs. Live your best six-legged life as we learn what makes insects so special!

○ Wild Sprouts | Ages 6-7

Feathery Friends

Binoculars up! We're going on a bird hike like no other, searching for songbirds, raptors, waterfowl and more! We'll create egg-cellent art, explore the forests and meadows in search for flighted friends, and collect data like real ornithologists as we learn about this amazing class of animals.

Big Blandford Safari

Hop like a toad, walk like a fox, and run like a deer as we explore the habitats of Blandford! We'll search high and low through forest, meadow, and stream and use scientific tools to discover animals large and small. Find your wild side as we trek further into the natural world around us!

Farmyard Friends

Let's get to know the animals at Blandford Farm! We'll work to keep the Blandford livestock happy and healthy and learn how to feed, clean, and entertain goats, chickens, and sheep. Grow and harvest food for our animals and become a Blandford farmer for a week as we learn and play at the farm!

➤ Trail Blazers | Ages 8-9

Wild Culinary Adventures ★

Come along on an edible adventure -- harvesting garden veggies, discovering wild forest foods, and creating deliciously healthy snacks! Along the way, we'll practice basic culinary skills like reading a recipe, dicing, and measuring ingredients. Campers will put these skills into action when they recreate our recipes from this week on their own on Thursday.

Nature Art ★

From the biggest landscapes to the smallest creatures, nature has always inspired artists. This week campers will draw inspiration from nature around them and explore a variety of media, both natural and traditional, to create works of art fit for a gallery. The week will conclude with an art show to share our creations with family and friends.

Farm Fort Building

All the fun of forts, but at the Farm! This week we will be exploring the farm while using some of our farther fort building spaces to create new and exciting builds. Using the farm as our home base, this twist on a classic camp is sure to be fun!

◆ Outdoor Explorers | Ages 10-12

Fort Building

A camp favorite: Grab some sticks and your imagination, it's time to build a fort! Come to Blandford and venture into the woods to create human-sized habitats for dwelling & defense from the elements. Learn proper structure and function of fortress foundations as well as ways to ensure our time in the woods is warm, dry, and as fun as can be!

Farm Stand ★

Do you like to dig in and get your hands dirty, but also have fun working as a team? Then the farm needs you! Help us harvest and prepare produce, then work as a team to create your own business plan, marketing your goods! Make a commercial, hang out with chickens, pick zucchini- this camp is the best of all worlds! This week includes a field trip to Fulton Street Farmers Market where campers will see the product of a farmer's hard work and planning!



Week 9: August 5 - 9

● Nature Buds | Ages 4-5

Fantastic Forts

A camp favorite, now for our youngest campers! Grab some sticks and your imagination, it's time to build a fort! Explore the woods and fields of Blandford to gather the perfect materials to make your fort a fortress. Campers will learn how to safely build human-sized habitats with nature's materials.

○ Wild Sprouts | Ages 6-7

Nature Art ★

Making art comes naturally! Budding artists will find inspiration as we traverse through the forest, stream, and meadow. Using a variety of natural and traditional media, campers will create art fit for a gallery! Camper artworks will be on exhibit for family and friends during our Friday Art Show.

Dino Stomp

Time for a dinosaur dance! Experience life as herbivorous and carnivorous dinos, discover the ancient tropical habitats they called home, and go on a dinosaur dig to learn about life long ago!

Ecosystem Explorers

Harness the energy of the sun, discover the importance of plants, experience what it's like to be a predator or prey, and dig in the mud while looking for decomposers! Campers will experience all of this and more as they spend the week learning about how different Michigan organisms fit into the food web.

➤ Trail Blazers | Ages 8-9

Fort Building

A camp favorite: Grab some sticks and your imagination, it's time to build a fort! Come to Blandford and venture into the woods to create human-sized habitats for dwelling & defense from the elements. Learn proper structure and function of fortress foundations as well as ways to ensure our time in the woods is warm, dry, and as fun as can be!

Camp Classic

Come explore nature at Blandford and have a blast! From the creek to the farm, we'll get to meet Blandford's ambassador animals, create art, build forts, and much more! Whether you are a returning camper or a first-timer learning what Blandford Summer Camp has to offer, this camp will be packed full of fun!

◆ Outdoor Explorers | Ages 10-12

Wild Culinary Adventures ★

Come along on an edible adventure -- harvest garden veggies, discover wild forest foods, and create deliciously healthy snacks! Build your culinary skills like reading a recipe, dicing, and measuring ingredients. Using newfound confidence in the outdoor kitchen, campers will whip up special creations each day.

All About Animals

Let's explore Blandford for animals that call this place home! Grab some magnifying glasses and come logrolling to find creepy crawlers. Look up to the sky with binoculars and search for birds. We'll go to the marsh and explore to find turtles, frogs, and muskrats. We'll get to meet Blandford's animals, and see what it like to be an animal caregiver



WEEK 10: AUGUST 12 - 16

● Nature Buds | Ages 4-5

Dino Stomp

Time for a dinosaur dance! Experience life as herbivorous and carnivorous dinos, discover the ancient tropical habitats they called home, and go on a dinosaur dig to learn about life long ago!

○ Wild Sprouts | Ages 6-7

Fairy Tales

See the Blandford woods through the eyes of your favorite fairy tales: walk through the woods like Little Red Riding Hood, build homes for fairies and trolls, and discover what's at the top of the beanstalk. Fairy tales awaken the most wonderful parts of our imagination, and combined with nature play, this makes for a week of never ending stories and lasting memories.

Gross Nature

Investigate creepy-crawly creatures, muddy marshes, and wondrous woods at Blandford. Campers will be getting dirty as we play in mud, search under logs, and seek out the weirdest fungi, plants, and animals.

➤ Trail Blazers | Ages 8-9

Fort Building

A camp favorite: Grab some sticks and your imagination, it's time to build a fort! Come to Blandford and venture into the woods to create human-sized habitats for dwelling & defense from the elements. Learn proper structure and function of fortress foundations as well as ways to ensure our time in the woods is warm, dry, and as fun as can be!

Animal Instincts

Animal survival depends on strength, stealth, and speed! This week, we will build these skills for ourselves as we explore the many ecosystems of Blandford. Camouflage, animal yoga, fox walking, and turtle sprints will help us practice our animal instincts in the wild!

◆ Outdoor Explorers | Ages 10-12

Nature Art ★

From the biggest landscapes to the smallest insects, nature has always inspired artists. This week campers will draw inspiration from nature around them and explore a variety of media, both natural and traditional, to create works of art fit for gallery walls. The week will conclude with an art show to share our creations with family and friends.

Camp Classic

Come explore nature at Blandford and have a blast! From the creek to the farm, we'll get to meet Blandford's ambassador animals, create art, build forts, and much more! Whether you are a returning camper, or a first-timer learning what Blandford Summer Camp has to offer, this camp will be packed full of fun!



About Us

Blandford Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with the goal of providing a place for our community to enjoy, explore, and learn in nature. We offer a wide variety of experiences to support our mission through innovative programming for all ages. We have been a resource to the West Michigan community for more than 50 years and we hope to continue providing a safe space in nature for all to enjoy for years to come.

Support our mission and become a member today! For more membership information, visit our website at: blandfordnaturecenter.org



BLANDFORD FARM



COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship between community members who prefer locally-grown food and the farmers that grow it. CSA members support and invest in the farm by purchasing a “share” of the harvest that they can pick up weekly. Blandford members receive early registration and discounted pricing! To sign-up for a CSA share or learn more, visit our website at: www.blandfordnaturecenter.org

Vegetable Shares

Enjoy 20 weeks of fresh, naturally-grown seasonal vegetables! Half and full shares are available.

Flower Shares

Enjoy 10 weeks of gorgeous flowers! Members will receive a weekly bouquet including seasonal flowers.

Herb Shares

Enjoy 10 weeks of delicious herbs! Members will receive 3-4 bunches of fresh herbs.



FARM PROGRAMS

The Blandford Farm is a short walk west of the Visitor Center and has many things to offer besides naturally-grown produce. Come greet the goats, say “hello” to the sheep, explore the children’s garden, and play in the farm-themed playscape – the opportunities are endless!

The Blandford Farm animal ambassadors are featured in unique programs designed to give you a hands-on, behind-the-scenes opportunity to learn and help out on the farm. These programs allow children to learn about livestock chores and farm animal care while having fun!

Check our Community Calendar to see what programs and events are happening at Blandford this season by visiting our website at: www.blandfordnaturecenter.org



WILDLIFE EXPERIENCES

BLANDFORD ON THE ROAD

Unable to make it out to Blandford? Let us bring the wonders of wildlife to you! We offer 30 to 60 minute long live wildlife presentations that help students discover who they share this great, big planet with.

All of the programs are designed to integrate science standards while engaging students' natural sense of inquiry. Program curriculum can be customized for groups and are taught by our knowledgeable, experienced educators.

Themes Include:

- **Blandford's Wildlife**
- **Story Time With The Animals**
- **Birds of a Feather**
- **Wildlife with a Backbone**
- **All About Owls**
- **Slimy Skins & Scales**



Visit our website for more information and to schedule a Blandford on the Road program at: www.blandfordnaturecenter.org

WILDLIFE CARE EXPERIENCES

Wildlife Care Experiences are a fun, hands-on way to explore the world of wildlife care! Participants will get a chance to assist with the daily tasks of a Blandford wildlife technician, including feeding of the animals.

1 Hour Option

\$50 Members / \$60 Non-members
+ \$25 for each extra observer

What's Included:

- One hour filled with hands-on experiences
- A behind the scenes tour of the Wildlife Department
- Participation in the feeding of the animals
- A photo opportunity with a wildlife ambassador of your choice
- A Blandford vintage logo sticker

2 Hour Option

\$100 Members / \$120 Non-members
+ \$50 for each extra observer
+ \$100 for 1 extra participant

What's Included:

- Two hours filled with hands-on experiences
- A behind the scenes tour of the Wildlife Department
- Participation in the feeding of the animals
- A screen-printed Blandford t-shirt
- A photo opportunity with a wildlife ambassador of your choice
- A Blandford vintage logo sticker

To schedule a Wildlife Care Experience, contact us at registrar@blandfordnaturecenter.org or call (616) 735-6240.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Join us for hands-on activities, games, wildlife introductions, and learning in nature! We offer a variety of family-friendly and adult-only programs that are both educational and fun. Check our Community Calendar to see what programs and events are happening at Blandford this season by visiting our website at: www.blandfordnaturecenter.org

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2024 EVENTS!

Snowshoe with Your Sweetie	February 10th 6 - 8 pm
Sugarbush Festival	March 23rd 10 am - 2 pm
Spring Nature Makers Market	May 4th 9 am - 3 pm
Spring Migration Bird Bonanza	May 18th 9 am - 1 pm
Summer Solstice: An Evening of Ambient Music ...	June 20th 7 - 10 pm
Firefly Festival	July 11th 8 - 9 pm
Harvest Festival	September 28th 10 am - 2 pm
Blandford Date Night: Carves & Crafts	October 19th 6 - 8 pm
Fall Nature Makers Market	November 9th 9 am - 3 pm



SUMMER NATURE DISCOVERY

Looking for an exciting, guided adventure for your group this summer? Experience the nature of summer in this fun, exploratory program at Blandford Nature Center! We will meet some of Blandford's resident wildlife, take a hike to see what kinds of plants and animals inhabit Blandford in the summertime, and play in the great outdoors.

Depending on the size of your group and ages of participants, we may go bug netting, pond dipping, or bird watching. Come explore this beautiful, lively time of the year! For more information on our guided summer programs and other private program options, please see our website or contact registrar@blandfordnaturecenter.org.





1715 Hillburn Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 | www.blandfordnaturecenter.org | (616) 735-6240