Summer Earth Adventures: It’s for the Birds!

Camp FAQs

Summer Earth Adventures is a day camp at Aullwood Audubon that offers exciting hands-on learning that allows children to explore the world of nature and sustainable farming. Through outdoor adventures, children develop awareness and care for the Earth.

Each week has a different theme. Activities are scaled based on student ages and abilities.

Camp begins on June 26 and ends on August 11. There is no camp the week of July 3.

Camp hours are 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for most classes. Programs for 4-5 year-olds are a half-day: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Extended Care early drop off at 8:00 a.m. and late pick up to 5:30 p.m. is available for additional fees.

Camp Policies:

- Campers may not arrive more than 15 minutes before camp begins (early drop off excluded).
- Hand washing will be conducted throughout the day.
- Campers must be picked up promptly at the end of the day (late pickup excluded).
- Children must be signed in and out each day by a designated adult who must present a picture ID.
- Please apply sunscreen and bug spray to your camper before they are dropped off as our camp staff are not permitted to apply these products.
- Children in full day programs must bring a sack lunch, 2 snacks and 2 bottles of water. Children in half-day programs must bring a hearty snack and water. We encourage the use of reusable lunch bags, food containers and water bottles. Please make sure your camper’s name is marked on all items.
- All children must be independent in the six activities of daily living: using the restroom, eating, bathing, dressing, transferring (i.e., walking), and continence. If your camper requires an accommodation to participate, please contact the Manager of Public Programs at education@aullwood.org before you register.
Registration Information:

- All programs require pre-registration and full payment at time of registration.
- A limited number of scholarships are available. Please email the Manager of Public Programs at education@aullwood.org to ask for details and an application.
- Registration is online through Audubon’s CampDoc system. You will be required to create an account, select your classes, complete medical information, liability forms and more online. We are unable to take off-line registrations.
- Please provide an email address that you check frequently to ensure the receipt of important camp correspondence and reminders for camp.
- Each camp registration includes one t-shirt.

Wait list and cancellation/transfer policies

- Campers who are wait-listed during registration will be contacted by email in the order their registrations were received. Please be sure to provide a preferred email address so you can be reached if an opening becomes available. If registration does not take place within 24 hours of email contact, the next camper on the waitlist will automatically be contacted. If the program opening is within 1 week of the program’s start date, the 24-hour response policy will not apply.
- All requests for cancellation/transfers must be emailed to the Manager of Public Programs at education@aullwood.org and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. No refunds will be issued for cancellations made the week before the start date of a program.

What age should my camper be?

Campers are grouped by age with appropriate experiences for each level. Children must register for classes that correspond to their age as of June 1, 2023.

What is the minimum/maximum for each program?

Groups are limited to a maximum of 10-12 campers, age dependent. Minimum class size is 5 campers.
**How much does camp cost?**

All half-day and full-day programs include two staff, a volunteer assistant, craft and activity supplies and a surprise or two. Base program rates are $130 for half-day programs and $275 for all-day programs. Specialized programs with more supplies are $300. Friends of Aullwood members receive a $25 discount on all programs with a special member coupon.

**What is Extended Care?**

Early drop off extended care is from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Late pick up is from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Extended care will be inside one of our classrooms, with two staff members in attendance. We will provide puzzles, coloring pages, and some basic board games. Campers are encouraged to bring non-electronic entertainment such as a book or game. Picking up after these hours will incur an additional fee.

- Early drop off 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. - $20 per week with registration or $5/day on site.
- Late pick up 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. - $40 per week with registration or $10/day on site.
- Early drop off and late pick up - $50 per week with registration or $12/day on site.

**Where should I drop off my camper?**

All programs meet at the Marie S. Aull Education Center, 1000 Aullwood Road, Dayton, 45414 unless “Meet at Farm” is in the program description. Farm programs meet at 9101 Frederick Pike, Dayton 45414.

**What will my camper be doing all day?**

Your camper will be spending the majority of their time outside, with some indoor activities. We will use indoor space during extreme weather such as thunderstorms or excessive heat. Every day, all campers will come together to begin camp with a morning circle to sing a song, play a quick game, and to set the expectations for the day. There is plenty of time for outdoor exploration, hands-on discoveries, arts, crafts, and other activities. Of course there will be a lunch break, followed by free play, then it’s back to focusing on the goals for the day, a Book Nook quiet time, more adventures and activities, and finally a camp-wide wrap up circle at the end of the day.

**What should my camper wear and bring?**

Campers should dress in comfortable clothes and shoes that can get wet/muddy. Wear shoes that can be worn all day. No flip flops or slide-in sandals. Bring a backpack, lunch, snacks and a refillable water bottle. Bring a rain poncho or rain jacket if rain is in the forecast.

Lunch should be food that can be eaten along the trails and be able to fit into your camper’s backpack for the day. We also suggest two snacks such as a Power Bar or a fresh fruit, one to eat before lunch and one in the afternoon. Camp makes for hungry campers. We suggest two water bottles, one of which is frozen to use as an icepack so your camper has more cold water when the ice melts. Please avoid sending drinks with caffeine and/or sugar. Aullwood has fountains where water bottles can be refilled. No refrigeration or cooking appliance available.
Please make sure all items, including backpacks, lunches, and water bottles, are labelled with your camper's name.

**Inclement Weather**

Classes will be held rain or shine, so please dress campers accordingly. In case of thunderstorms or excessive heat, activities will be moved indoors.

**Behavior/Accommodation**

*All children must be independent in the six activities of daily living: using the restroom, eating, bathing, dressing, transferring (i.e., walking), and continence. If your camper requires an accommodation to participate, please contact the Manager of Public Programs at education@aullwood.org before you register.*

Campers explore the natural world outdoors and should be able to move themselves along gravel, wood, grassy and dirt trails, up and down hills, across boardwalks and over flat and uneven ground with minimal assistance. Each camper should be capable of staying with their assigned group with minimal reinforcement. Campers interact with peers in collaborative games and activities. To ensure safety for both campers and staff, each camper should be capable of maintaining appropriate self-control in social situations.

We are happy to make reasonable accommodations for children with individual needs, depending on their requirements and staff availability. Parents and guardians with questions regarding the ability of camp staff to meet a child’s needs should contact the Manager of Public programs before registering for a program. You can reach our staff at education@aullwood.org.

**Non-discrimination Policy**

Aullwood Audubon does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, income, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital or family status.
Summer Camp Schedule at a Glance

Week 1 - June 26 – June 30: Nature Rocks

**Mud Pies – ages 4-5 • 9:30 am – 12:00 pm • $130 (NM)/$105 (M)**
Create the most fantastical creations out of mud, stick, stones, and plants. Each day we will explore, learn and create. Warning: Campers guaranteed to get muddy!!

**Are There Rocks in Your Head? – ages 6-7 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $275 (NM)/$250 (M)**
Learn how rocks end up inside of people! You'll learn all about the different types of rocks, the characteristics of rocks, and create a small rock collection of your own. Discover how rocks tell us about what plants, birds and animals live in a particular habitat.

**Geology and Fossils – ages 7-8 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $275 (NM)/$250 (M)**
350 million years ago, Ohio was covered by a shallow sea. Discover the creatures that lived during that time by looking for their fossilized remains. Learn about the Ice Age and its effects on Ohio’s soil, habitats, birds and wildlife. Create your own fossil collection to take home at the end of the week.

**Puffins, Plovers & Killdeer, Oh My! – ages 9-12 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $275 (NM)/$250 (M)**
Discover the many ways birds use rocks - from helping to digest their food to nesting on rocky cliffs - you will be amazed! Create your own rock collection as you explore prairie, stream, pond and woodland.

No camp the week of July 3
**Week 2 - July 10 – July 14: Art Week**

**Nature Art Hide & Seek – ages 4-5 • 9:30 am – 12:00 pm • $130 (NM)/$105 (M)**

Find inspiration in nature and make some unique art with a variety of natural objects. Learn how birds and other animals use camouflage to survive in their habitats and then camouflage yourself!

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**Earth Art – ages 8-9 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $275 (NM)/$250 (M)**

Use a variety of earth arts as we explore the natural wonders at Aullwood. Make natural collages, something out of clay and paint works of art using soil, leaves, berries and other natural pigments and materials

**Paint like a Naturalist – ages 9-12 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $300 (NM)/$275 (M)**

Assist Chris Rowlands in creating stunning bird art on Aullwood's restroom doors. Observe birds in prairie, woodland, and wetland; learn field marks that help with bird identification and surprising bird facts. Fee reflects additional supplies.

**Week 3 – July 17 – 21 – Junior Naturalists**

**Fin, Feathers & Fur – ages 4-5 • 9:30 am – 12:00 pm • $130 (NM)/$105 (M)**

Discover fascinating facts about Ohio wildlife. Meet snakes, turtles and a bird of prey. Explore prairie, woodland, stream, and pond in search of the animals that make their homes at Aullwood. This program will include reading age-appropriate books aligned with this topic.

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A Parliament of Owls – ages 7-8 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $300 (NM)/$275 (M)

Whoooo thinks owls are mysterious and cool? Explore various habitats at Aullwood where owls live, learn about the lives of owls, meet a real owl, and dissect an owl pellet. We will also be reading Book 1 of the Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole during the week, and each participant will receive their own copy to take home. Fee reflects additional supplies.

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Week 4 – July 24 – July 28: Bird Nerds

Birds of a Feather – ages 6-7 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $275 (NM)/$250 (M)

What makes a bird a bird? Learn all about feathers, how birds use them and how people have use feathers in the present and also the past. Make your own binoculars and search for birds all over Aullwood. Meet Aullwood’s live bird ambassadors and design your own set of wings!

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Junior Ornithologists – ages 8-9 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $275 (NM)/$250 (M)

If you like looking for birds, this camp is for you. Every day, we will try to find as many different bird species as possible. Along the way, you'll learn how to use binoculars and a spotting scope. Learn about neo-tropical migrants and the challenges these birds face as they travel from the southern hemisphere to Aullwood. Everyone will create their own birding journal to take home at the end of the week.

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Week 5 – July 31 – August 4: Outdoor Explorers

Animal Friends – ages 4-5 • 9:30 am – 12:00 pm • $130 (NM)/$105 (M)

Why are vultures special? What can frogs tell us about wetlands? Why are skunks so stinky and porcupines so prickly? Learn about the different roles animals have in nature as you explore wetland, prairie and woodland, and meet some live animals.

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Camouflage Kids – ages 7-8 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $275 (NM)/$250 (M)

Learn how to thrive in the woods from master survivalists - animals! Discover what special tools animals use to survive outside. Practice the art of camouflage and see if you can disappear!

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**Survive to Thrive! – ages 9-12 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $300 (NM)/$275 (M)**

Test yourself against nature! Learn how to make an outdoor shelter, methods of fire-by-friction, cook over a wood fire, and learn to navigate the woods without a compass. Fee reflects additional supplies.

**Week 6 – August 7 – 11: Wildcard Week**

**Water Magic – ages 6-7 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $275 (NM)/$250 (M)**

Learn about the magic of water! Play water games. Use nets to catch aquatic insects, look under rocks and find animal tracks. Dress to get wet.

**Bubble Science – ages 7-8 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $275 (NM)/$250 (M)**

Discover amazing bubble facts. Did you know that some wildlife use bubbles to help them survive? Take to the trails and dip into watery habitats in search for these creatures. We will even try to stand in a life-size bubble! Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet, muddy or soapy.

**Splish Splash! – ages 8-9 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $275 (NM)/$250 (M)**

Nothing beats a hot summer day when you get to run, jump and splash in the water. Play water games, perform water experiments, and explore Aullwood's different water habitats. Dress to get wet.

**Farmer for a Week – ages 9-12 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm • $275 (NM)/$250 (M)**

Learn what it takes to be a farmer! Assist with a variety of farm chores, learn about our livestock ambassadors and explore the farm's pastures and waterways. Discover how a farm can co-exist with wildlife and birds.