



2026 Summer Day Camps at Placer Nature Center

Experience, Discover & Explore the Great Outdoors!

Our camp sessions focus on different nature-related themes with hands-on science investigations



Our camp schedule has changed!

Camp at Placer Nature Center means:

- **Small Groups:** Small camper to counselor ratio to ensure safety and engagement with counselors.
- **Inclusive Environment:** Each camper gets individualized attention and encouragement.
- **Fun Learning:** Each camp incorporates art, structured and unstructured play, music, and theme-related science experiments.

PNC Junior Naturalist Program: Additionally, campers will have the opportunity to participate in a unique program throughout the summer – our PNC Junior Naturalist program!

This program is an optional but encouraged experience and campers who complete the program receive a personalized certificate and pin!

Campers are asked to do the following each day:

- dress appropriately for playing outside - clothes that can get dirty; comfortable closed-toed shoes for light hiking and playing
- bring a reusable, durable water bottle
- bring a sack lunch (we provide snack)



Camp programs will run **9am-2pm Tuesday to Thursday**

Extra care, before and after camp from **8:30am-2:30pm**

Session #	Dates	Theme
1	June 23–25	Dirt Made My Lunch
2	June 30–July 2	Bugs
3	July 7–9	Howlers
4	July 14–16	Rocks & Fossils
5	July 21–23	Water Worlds
6	July 28–30	Wild About Nature

Pricing	Per session/child
Camp only	\$150-200
Extra Care	\$200-300

- Camp fees due at time of registration. Pricing is dependent on membership status, registration date, and financial need.
- Extended care is provided for an additional cost.
- See pricing details on the registration form.
- Limited scholarships available.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Complete a [Camper Registration Form](#)

Email: programs@placernaturecenter.org

Or call: (530) 878-6053

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Camp schedule details

- Daily programs will run 9am-2pm Tuesday to Thursday, with opening activities starting at 9am and closing activities ending at 2pm.
- Before and after care is now available for families that would benefit from an extended camp day.
 - In order to better serve our families, this year we are debuting a new schedule option! **Extra Care**, 8:30am-2:30pm, gives caretakers the option to drop off campers a full 30 minutes earlier, and pick up a full 30 minutes after our camp program (9am-2pm).
 - **Extra Care** may include: arts & crafts, story time, birdwatching, games and free play.
- Families can choose between sending campers to PNC for **Camp Only** (9am-2pm) or for our **Extra Care** (8:30am-2:30pm). *Children can also be dropped off or picked up within camp hours, though this will shorten their experience of the camp program.*
 - In order to support our staff, we are implementing a fee for campers picked up more than 15 minutes late or dropped off more than 15 minutes early.

TEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Placer Nature Center is looking for teens to help
at our Summer Day Camps!

Are you 13 to 18 years old and ...

- ... do you want to enrich your leadership skills?
- ... do you want experience working with children?
- ... do you want to have fun and learn at the same time?
- ... do you want to earn community service hours?
- ... do you want to spend your summer outdoors?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions,
then consider being a teen counselor this summer!



2026 TEEN COUNSELOR TRAINING:
June 16th & 17th, 9:30am-12pm (required)

Learn about camp activities, the nature trail,
and your role as camp counselor.

Teen camp counselors guide the camp participants through nature investigations, nature games and crafts, and lead nature songs and puppet shows for the children. We will explore the foothill ecosystems so we can share Earth's natural phenomena with younger generations!



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Counselor Registration Form

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Each week has a different nature-based theme. Every camp is appropriate for children 6-12 years old.



Wild about nature (Session 6) is designed for serious nature-lovers who are looking to interact with nature on a new level, and learn skills that will help them when engaging with the wilderness.

Session 1: June 23-25 Dirt Made My Lunch

Plant Power and Green Thumb Gardening: Come learn about the flora and fungi that sustain us and the ecosystem, and all the ways they benefit our lives. We will get our hands dirty in the garden, learning about different plant parts, how plants transform solar energy into chemical energy, and how we can help plants grow with sustainable practices.

Session 2: June 30-July 2 Bugs

Invertebrate Pollinators, Pests, and Predators: Do you know the order of the honeybee hive or what their dance means? Get your insect nets and bug viewers, because we're going on a scavenger hunt! We will learn about life cycles, inspect insects and explore the pollinators' habitats. We'll also be learning about other important invertebrates: the predators and decomposers! *We will trap insects to study but always release them.*

Session 3: July 7-9 Howlers

Mammal-mania: Can you howl like a coyote or walk like a fox? Explore with our local foothill mammals! Learn to identify animal trails, tracks, scat and more! Examine different mammal skulls, teeth and adaptations. Feel the fur of our mammals big and small! Predator vs. Prey, who is best equipped to survive in the Sierra Foothills?

Session 4: July 14-16 Rocks & Fossils

Formally Geology Rocks and Dino Discoveries: Dig this! From earthquakes to erupting volcanoes, and meteorites to crystals, rocks are all around us. We will dig into geological studies of the rock cycle, collections and minerals, and how they have shaped the living world around us. What's the difference between fossils and descendents of dinosaurs? Do you know the difference between dinos and other prehistoric creatures? Come learn about the dinosaur descendants that may be living in your backyard, as well as the many prehistoric creatures that once roamed the land.

Session 5: July 21-23 Water Worlds

Aquatic Animals and Habitats: Immerse yourself in the world of water! We will learn about how humans are a part of the water cycle, and how we influence the Earth's most limited resource. Exploring our local watershed, we gain insight into how we can help protect and conserve the water that gives us life.

Session 6: July 28-30 Wild About Nature

Advanced Natural Skills: Curious about living in the wild? This week is all about gaining natural skills: leveling up skills like tracking wildlife and building tools. Kids can learn from the land, doing activities and crafts that teach them how to survive and interact with the wilderness. This "advanced" camp theme will show how to read signs in the land, where to find materials for survival, and why we use but don't abuse the beauty found in the wild.

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