

2026 River Bend Summer Nature Camps!



Summer camps are offered from June 15 – August 14 from 8a-1p Daily

Campers will be placed into age-appropriate groups of ages 4-6, 7-9 and 10-11 years.

All camps include canoeing. Camps for ages 7-11 also include archery.

Week-Long Camp Fees: \$205 Members / \$225 Non-members

Extended Camp Available Until 5:30pm · Extended Care Camp Fees: \$115/week · \$8/hr.



Little Naturalists ➔ Ages 4 - 6 June 22-26 · July 13-17

Young naturalists will explore the woods, ponds, and prairie of River Bend. Campers will discover a whole new wild world through outdoor activities, stories, lots of time exploring the trails, and a canoe ride on the Root River!



Frontier Day Camp ➔ Ages 7 – 11 June 15 – 19

We are in uncharted territory! Who knows what is lurking in the big woods of River Bend! Join us as we explore and discover new lands and establish new settlements at River Bend. Campers will get their hands dirty enjoying fun pioneering activities while building their own town deep in the woods of River Bend!



Tall Oaks Camp ➔ Ages 7 – 11 June 22 – 26

The Potawatomi were the ultimate survivalists in southeastern Wisconsin. Join us as we explore how the native Potawatomi Indians lived and interacted with the forest, ponds, river and prairie!



Fur, Fins, & Feathers ➔ Ages 7 – 11 June 29 – July 3

Campers will explore and learn about the animals at River Bend through exploration of habitats, surveys, and the skulls, skins, and scat of more than 30 different species!



The Grub Club ➔ Ages 7 – 11 July 6 – 10

Do you have an appetite for exploring River Bend? If so, you'll eat up this camp! Campers will love the sweet tastes and smells of campfire cooking as we explore recipes made around the fire!

More Camps on Reverse Side ➔



Bushcraft



Ages 7 - 11

July 13 - 17

Bushcraft is the discipline of applying one's understanding of the natural world to skills that help one survive in the wild. Campers will enjoy learning how to craft natural tools to help them live comfortably in the big woods of River Bend!



River Week



Ages 7 - 11

July 20 - 24

Prepare to get wet! There's water *everywhere* at this camp! Campers will explore the river and ponds at River Bend and get their feet wet with activities such as canoeing, fishing, netting, wading, and water games!



Wilderness Survival



Ages 7 - 11

July 27 - 31

Wilderness survival skills enhance campers' ability to feel comfortable and confident in the natural world. Activities including fire-building, shelter construction, tracking, plant and animal identification, and wilderness first-aid are highlights of this week's camp.



Diggers, Drillers, & Builders



Ages 7 - 11

August 3 - 7

Nature is the grand architect of shelters! Campers will enjoy exploring different kinds of animal homes at River Bend and trying their hand at building their own! Can we make them as well as the animals do?

Bugs!



Ages 7 - 11

August 10 - 14

Bugs are *everywhere* at this camp! Get to know those colorful fliers, crawlers, and hoppers as we explore the wonderful world of bugs and the important role they play in our environment!

Level Up!



Age 12

June 29-July 3

If you're 12 and love camp, you don't want to miss this one-week only, multi-themed camp! It's time to level up your skills! Campers will enjoy age-appropriate activities and challenges related to survival, water, bushcraft, camp cooking, and more! Sorry, this one's for campers 12 years old only!



see you *at*

20 **CAMP** 26

Ages 14+



\$105/week Members

\$115/week Non-members

Can't get enough of camp? Teens ages 14+ who have attended at least one week of summer camp at River Bend are eligible to apply for this camper-leadership blended position. Assistants will experience a soft introduction to the responsibilities of the working world while enjoying the same games and activities they loved as a camper.

How to apply:

Complete a camp registration form and return it to River Bend

Staff will contact you and your son/daughter to set up an interview

*Camp Assistants are expected to arrive to camp by 7:30a and may depart camp by 1:30p.

For more information, please call the River Bend Office at 262-639-1515

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in Summer Nature Camp at River Bend Nature Center! The information provided in this guide will help you and your child prepare for a fun-filled experience at camp.

To register for camp, please complete all 4 pages of the registration packet. Use a separate form for each child. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to River Bend with a check. Forms can also be emailed to info@RiverBendRacine.org (**PDF format only!**)

Please contact us at 262-639-1515 if you have any questions.

Parent Information for River Bend Nature Center Summer Camp

Sign In & Sign Out

Camp times for all camp sessions are:

8:00am - 1:00pm

You may arrive **up to 15 minutes** prior to camp start time to sign-in.

It is our policy that each camper be signed in every morning and signed out every afternoon. Please make sure that everyone who is authorized to drop off or pick up your child is aware of the need to do this. When you drop your child off, please list any additional person/s authorized to pick up your child on the daily sign-in sheet. For safety reasons, River Bend staff may ask for identification when picking up campers.

Extended Camp Option: 1p-5:30p

During after-camp hours, children can participate in outdoor activities, or just relax after an active day at camp.

Cost of Extended Camp:

\$115 per week / \$8.00 per hour

Camp Forms

River Bend requires the following forms for each child before attending camp:

- 1 medical form per child
- Emergency contact(s)
- Authorized adult(s) for pick-up
- Photo and emergency care permissions

Camp Refund Policy

There will be no charge to move registration to a different session. Cancellations less than 2 weeks prior to the session will incur a \$25 fee. No refunds after the program begins. In the case of medical or family emergencies, credits will be given for future programs.

Weather Information

All camps will be held rain or shine, so please be sure your child is dressed appropriately. River Bend does not cancel camps due to inclement weather. In the event of thunder, lighting, or other serious weather conditions, outdoor activities will be moved indoors for the safety of our campers. If rain is in the forecast, we recommend sending your child with a raincoat and/or a change of clothes (no umbrellas, please).

Bugs & Sun

Since your child will be spending time outside, please be sure to apply bug spray and sunscreen to your child prior to camp. You may also choose to

send these to camp with your child (please write your name on them). If you wish River Bend staff to re-apply or assist in re-applying these to your child throughout the day, please make sure to check the box on the medical form allowing staff to do this for your child. River Bend staff cannot apply these to your child without written authorization. Deep Woods Off! is provided by River Bend.

It is possible that while exploring the habitats of River Bend, your child may come into contact with ticks, mosquitoes, other biting/stinging insects, or poison ivy. Parents / guardians should check their child each night for ticks as a precaution.

Lost & Found

Please label everything with your child's name. We make an effort to match lost items with their owners. Any items left behind are collected at the end of each day and held through the summer until claimed. Please let us know if your child is missing something. At the end of the summer, any unclaimed items will be donated to charity. River Bend is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

What To Wear

While at River Bend, your child will be taking part in outside activities where they will probably get wet and dirty—we can almost guarantee it! Please send your child in weather-appropriate clothes and shoes that are okay to get dirty!

What To Bring

We recommend your child bring the following, *labeled* items to camp:

- **Snack and bag lunch** – please pack a nutritious morning snack and a healthy lunch each day.
- **Water bottle** – send your camper with fresh water every day, in a reusable water bottle marked with their name. We recommend freezing 1/4 – 1/2 of the bottle's water the night before camp!
- **Long sleeved shirt** – long sleeved shirt is to wear over a t-shirt for insect/sun protection when necessary – a loose, button down shirt works best!
- **Complete change of clothes**, including underwear and socks – our campers are likely to get wet & dirty.
- **Backpack** to hold extra clothing, etc.
- **A bag** for wet and/or muddy clothing.
- **Rain coat / Rain poncho**
- **Closed toe, comfortable shoes** that can get wet – sneakers are fine. Please, no crocs, flip flops, or sandals!!!
- **Hat** – to protect from sun & insects.
- **Sunscreen** – please apply sunscreen on your child before dropping them off at camp. You may pack sunscreen in their bag to reapply mid-day.
- **Bug Spray** – this is not required, but highly recommended.

Please leave at home: personal items and valuables including toys, electronics (including game systems, cell phones, collectibles, etc.), and pocket knives.