

2026 Summer Camps Catalog



Online Registration Opens — January 27



Create Your Online
Family Account—Now

Register early!
Camps fill up fast!



ELLIS HOUSE & EQUESTRIAN
C E N T E R
LESSONS • WEDDINGS • PARTIES



Fun moments captured in previous programs & camps!



How to Register:

Online registration begins Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

1. Choose a camp based on the age of your child, or the grade that your child will be entering in the 2026-2027 school year.
2. Online registration is the quickest & easiest way to register your child for summer camps. Registering online provides real-time camp availability, secure online payment, and immediate confirmation of registration, and is accessible 24/7 from any device with internet access.
3. To register for a Summer Camp, you must create an online account through the District's DaySmart Recreation Program. To create an online account, visit the District's website, kendallforest.com, and click on the "Create an Account" button. If online registration is not available to you—you can mail in your registration forms or bring your forms in to our office.
4. If you have questions about a nature camp, call (630) 553-2292 or email: kcfpdeducation@kendallcountyl.gov.
5. If you have questions about an equestrian camp, call (815) 475-4035 or email: ellisequestrian@kendallcountyl.gov.

Nature Camps are held at Hoover Forest Preserve 11285 W Fox Rd Yorkville, IL 60560

Equestrian Camps are held at Ellis House and Equestrian Center 13986 McKenna Road Minooka, IL 60447

Cancellation Policies:

No refunds for cancellations **with less than two weeks notice** prior to the first day of the program.

Summer Camps Offered:

Ages 1 - 3 (Mon., Wed., Fri.) & (Tues., Thurs.)	Pg. 4
Ages 4 - Entering Kindergarten	Pg. 5
Entering Grades 1st - 3rd	Pg. 6
Entering Grades 4th - 6th	Pg. 7
Grades 1 - 3 & Grades 2-4 Four Day Camps	Pg. 8
Grades 5-7 Night Camp	Pg. 9
Entering Grades 7th - 9th "Nature Quest"	Pg. 10
Counselor in Training Program - Grades 8 - 10	Pg. 11
Ellis House & Equestrian Center - Pony Camps	Pg. 12

Summer Camps 2026



Ages 1 - 3

These 2-day or 3-day camps provide a first nature camp experience for the very young. Camp time includes stories, songs, discovery time, nature explorations & hikes.

\$60 Mon, Wed, Fri camp
\$40 Tuesday, Thursday camp
Time: 9 am - 10:30 am

A caregiver must stay for the class.

Colors of Nature

Colors are the smiles of Nature.

In this camp your child will engage the sense of sight to explore all hues around! Each day will be filled with fun activities and hikes that will allow your child to explore different shades of nature at Hoover Forest Preserve. We will play hide & seek in the prairie and test how it feels to camouflage. We will go on a forest safari to hunt for color and (plushy) animal friends. We will splash with water, creating our own rainbows and use natural pigments to paint.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: June 22, 24, 26

Tuesday, Thursday: June 23, 25

Sounds of Nature

The earth has music for those who listen.

In this camp your child will engage the sense of hearing to explore all tones around! Each day will be filled with fun activities and hikes that will allow your child to explore different sounds of nature in our forest preserve. We will follow and learn bird calls in the woods, explore babbling brooks and frog choruses, tune into the rustle of quaking grasses in the prairie wind.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: July 6, 8, 10

Tuesday, Thursday: July 7, 9

Feels of Nature

To touch the earth is to have harmony with nature.

In this camp your child will engage the sense of touch to explore all surfaces around! Each day will be filled with fun activities and hikes that will allow your child to explore different textures of nature in our forest preserve. We will reach into mystery boxes filled with feathers, furs, and flowers and explore the creek and its creatures to get a feel for life underwater. We will also dig in the mud, soil and garden, and feel our way through natural cycles.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: July 20, 22, 24

Tuesday, Thursday: July 21, 23



Summer Camps 2026

Ages 4 - Entering Kindergarten

This is not... *Half Day*

This is not a stick, it's a bridge to a new world.

It's not a box, it's a den for a fox.

It's not a rock, it's a building block.

Natural objects can be so many things when we let our unfiltered imaginations run wild. In this nature-based STEAM camp we will tinker with the concepts of engineering while manipulating open ended materials collected throughout our daily hikes at our Forest Preserve

Session I: June 8 - 12

Session II: July 6 - 10

9 am - 12 pm

Fee: \$155

What in the wild?! *Half Day*

Did you know that Hoover is home to over 400 animals and plants?

Join us as we embark on a nature safari!

Let's discover together native animals and their amazing features!

How many can you find?

Foray into the forest, parade into the prairie, and stroll the streams, while learning about the relationship between plants and animals!

Fall in love with your surroundings and become a keeper of the woods!

Session I: June 22 - 26

Session II: July 20 - 24

9 am - 12 pm

Fee: \$155



Summer Camps 2026

Entering Grades 1 - 3



Wild Things *Full Day*

You don't need to go on an overseas safari to see wildlife—there are tons of wildlife species to see here at Hoover Forest Preserve. During this camp, we will take the time to look closely for life that is hidden under logs, in the trees, under stones, in the prairie grasses, even in the mud.

Campers will use tools like nets, buckets, binoculars, and shovels, we'll search high & low, on land and in the water for these Wild Things!

Session I: June 8 - 12

Session II: July 6 - 10

9 am - 2:30 pm

Fee: \$240

Nature's Superpowers *Full Day*

In this fun camp, we will study the secret and not so secret powers of the animals that live here in Illinois. We will investigate their tricks for hiding from predators, finding food, protecting their babies, and we will learn about the awesome physical adaptations various animals have to help them leap, fly, and swim.

Session I: June 22 - 26
Session II: July 13 - July 17
9 am - 2:30 pm

Fee: \$240



Summer Camps 2026

Entering Grades 4 - 6

Nature's Laboratory *Full Day*

Explore nature through the eyes of a scientist!

We will conduct exciting and interesting experiments all week long using different habitats in the forest preserve as our laboratory.

Session I: June 8 - 12

Session II: July 13 - 17

9 am - 2:30 pm

Fee: \$240

Predator vs. Prey *Full Day*

Through hands on activities and games our Campers will discover the differences between the life of predators as they hunt for food and prey as they try to survive in the wild.

We will analyze a predator's razor sharp talons, pointy teeth, body coordination and physical agility. Campers will also study the wild animals who are prey; we will discover which animals use fast escape speed, great jumping ability, and surprising camouflage to thrive and survive.

Session I: June 22 - 26

Session II: July 20 - 24

9 am - 2:30 pm

Fee: \$240



Summer Camps 2026



A Week of Magic



Entering Grades 1 - 3

Quests of Bravery

4-day Camp

Monday-Thursday, June 15-18

9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Fee: \$190

Each day our campers will embark on different quests throughout our Forest Preserve to sharpen their survival skills and enjoy magical adventures.

Can our Wizard Campers construct an enchanted fort in the forest? We will discover which plants are edible in nature will help us make potions and tinctures. We will harness the powerful magic of fire—as we enjoy story telling around a campfire.

Entering Grades 2 - 4

Water Wizards

4-day Camp

Monday-Thursday, June 15-18

9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Fee: \$190

Discovering the Secrets and Wonders of Water

"Water Wizards" invites campers to explore the magical world of water. Through hands-on activities, enchanting games, and experiments, children will learn about the properties, significance, and mysteries of water; transforming them into young water wizards. Join us for a magical camp filled with fun, learning, and the wonders of water!

Summer Camps 2026



A Week of Magic, continues



Entering Grades 5–7 **Magic of the Night**

3-evenings — Night Camp

June 15, 16, 17
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Fee: \$90

When the sun goes down, Campers will discover the illusion of a darkened Forest Preserve. Each night we will take a night hike into different habitats to find those nocturnal animals that make themselves seen and heard under the light of the moon.

Can we spot some Harry Potter Owls?

Will we see the bats swooping around in the night's sky?

What spells are the bull frogs casting as they croak and sing by the creek?

Will we be able to capture and study the bright illumination of Fire Flies?

Campers will also enjoy a campfire and learn about Astronomy, as we look up at the stars in the night's sky.



Summer Camps 2026

Entering Grades 7 - 9 “Nature Quest” Camp



We are offering a jam-packed schedule of fun, including an environmental stewardship project, group and teambuilding games, canoe trip on the Fox River, and travel to a different forest preserve to explore new trails.



Wednesday night will include a campfire cookout for all, and an optional overnight tent camping experience.

Dates: June 29 - July 2

Monday / 29th: 9 am - 2:30 pm

Tuesday / 30th: 9 am - 2:30 pm

Wednesday /1st: 9 am - Overnight (*7:00 pm pickup for campers not staying overnight*)

Thursday / 2nd: Pickup at 11:00am, for Campers who tent-camped overnight

Fee: \$260 (all travel & cookout meal included)

Important Tent Camping Requirements:

If you choose to have your camper spend the night on Wednesday, you will need to provide the following: Your own tent, sleeping gear (sleeping bag, pillow), flashlight, pajamas & a change of clothes for the next day, basic hygiene items: toothbrush, tooth paste, hairbrush, etc.

**** Must Complete & Submit the Overnight Tent Camping Permission Slip****

Notes: *Siblings/family members are allowed to share a tent and sleep together. (Our tent camp sites do not have electrical outlets available)*

Summer Camps 2026

Ages 14 - 16 / Grades 8 - 10 Counselor in Training Program (CIT)

Do you love being outside and working with children? Join us this summer and become a Summer Camp Assistant!

All CIT's are expected to:

- * Attend a CIT training, which will provide the CIT the tools needed to work with campers.
- * Participate fully in the summer camp programs, for 4 weeks and demonstrate a growth mindset.
- * Present themselves as positive role models.
- * Assist the camp staff with activities, hikes, crafts, games, setting up, cleaning, etc.; and to provide the best possible camp experience for our campers and their families.



CIT's assist with camps offered for Kindergarten – 3rd grades.

This program helps teens develop leadership skills, and build a solid work ethic.

Application deadline: May 4, 2026

Fee: \$230

If you would like more information on the CIT program please email:
KCFPDeducation@kendallcountyil.gov

Equestrian Summer Camps 2026

Summer Camps at Ellis Equestrian Center provide children with the opportunity to learn the basics of horse care and horse behavior. All camps include fun, hands-on activities that teach safe, responsible care for horses.

Children learn confidence around the horses by feeding, grooming, leading, and riding the animals each day! In addition to getting hands on with the horses, our camps provide a daily craft and a variety of games and activities to keep your child busy and having fun.



Day Camp Options and Pricing

PARENT AND TOT DAY CAMPS

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Explore the wonderful world of horses with your tot! This is a two hour, **one day camp** offered for our younger horse lovers and the parent!

Ages 3 to 5

Session 1: Mon. June 8

Session 2: Mon. July 6

Session 3: Mon. August 3

Fees:

\$75 (Kendall County residents)

\$80 (Out-of-County residents)

THREE DAY CAMPS

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Camps will provide students with hands-on experiences with horse care, feeding, handling, and riding. Each camp also includes a daily craft and other explorations of Baker Woods Forest Preserve.

Ages 6 to 8

Session 1: June 16 - 18 (Tues. - Thurs.)

Session 2: July 14 - 16 (Tues. - Thurs.)

Ages 9 to 13

Session 1: June 23 - 25 (Tues. - Thurs.)

Session 2: July 21 - 23 (Tues. - Thurs.)

Fees:

\$275 (Kendall County residents)

\$285 (Out-of-County residents)



OVERNIGHT CAMP

This exciting overnight camp will teach every aspect of what it is like to own a horse. It will include classroom lessons on basic horse knowledge; daily horse care, different disciplines of riding, horse crafts, movie nights & more!

Ages 8-14

Dates: July 26 - 28 (Sun. - Tues.)

Overnight Camp Times: Sunday, 3:00 pm drop off to Tuesday, Noon pick up

Fees:

\$475 (Kendall County residents)

\$525 (Out-of-County residents)

Kendall County Forest Preserve District
2026 Summer Camp Registration Forms (3 Pages)

Camper Information & Waiver of Liability Form

Name of camp:			
Date of camp:			
Child's name:			
Date of Birth:			Grade Entering in Fall 2026:
Parent/Guardian Name:			
Home Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	
Cell Phone:		Other Phone:	
Email Address:			
<p>1. I am an adult over the age of 18 and I affirm that my minor child/ward ("Child"), has voluntarily chosen to participate in this Kendall County Forest Preserve District Program. I, on behalf of myself and my minor child, voluntarily understand and consent to the following:</p> <p>2. Risks: I understand that participation in the Program may involve risks not found in my Child's daily life. These include, without limitation, illnesses, injuries, and even death. I understand these risks and assume them knowingly and willingly. My Child and I will take every precaution to safeguard my Child's health, safety, and personal belongings. I agree to instruct my child to obey all rules, regulations, and instructions given by instructors and/or authorized personnel. I further agree that no instructor or other authorized personnel will be held responsible or liable for injuries or other mishaps caused by my child's deliberate disobedience of rules, regulations, or instructions. I understand the Kendall County Forest Preserve District ("KCFPD") cannot eliminate all risks or guarantee my Child's safety.</p> <p>3. I understand that state law mandates Program staff report any suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities for investigation. General Release: Knowing the risks described above, I agree, on behalf of my Child and my Child's family, heirs, and personal representative(s), to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding my Child's participation in the Program. To the maximum extent permitted by law, I, on behalf of myself and my Child, release, hold harmless and agree to indemnify and defend (with counsel of the KCFPD's own choosing) the KCFPD as well as their commission members, officials, employees, and agents, from and against any present or future claims, losses, liabilities, costs and expenses (including, but not limited to attorneys' fees, expert fees and court costs) for injury to person or property, or for any other damage, which myself or my Child may suffer, or for which my Child may be liable to any other person, related to my Child's participation in the Program, resulting from any cause, including but not limited to negligence on my Child's part or on the part of any of the released parties. Any attorney representing the KCFPD is subject to review and approval by the Kendall County State's Attorney and must be appointed a Special Assistant State's Attorney prior to performing any work for the KCFPD. The KCFPD's participation in its defense shall not remove the duty to indemnify, defend, and hold the KCFPD harmless, as set forth above. The KCFPD does not waive its defenses or immunities under the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act (745 ILCS 10/1 et seq.) by reason of indemnification or insurance.</p> <p>4. Photograph, Film and Vocal Recording Release: I grant to the KCFPD the right and authority to photograph, film or record my Child as part of the Program. I consent to the KCFPD's use of these photographs and recordings for educational, promotional or publicity purposes and agree that these photographs and recordings may be displayed during presentations or published in mass media publications, newspapers, social media promotions, or websites. I agree that my Child's legal name may be used. My Child and I release the KCFPD from any expectation of confidentiality.</p> <p>5. I, the undersigned as parent or legal guardian of my Child listed above, do hereby consent to his or her participation in the Program. I, as the parent or legal guardian of my Child and on behalf of my Child and myself, accept and agree to all assurances, assumptions, waivers, releases, and statements identified in the Assumption of Risk and General Release Form.</p> <p>6. Cancellation Policies: No refunds for cancellations with less than two weeks notice prior to the first day of the program. A \$20 non-refundable registration fee is included in this program fee.</p>			
Signature:		Date:	

HEALTH INFORMATION: (TO BE FILLED OUT BY PARENT/GUARDIAN)

Child's Name:	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary
Name of Summer Camp:	Date of Camp:

Please indicate if your child has any health concerns we should be aware of:

Does your child require any special considerations to fully participate in camp activities?

Medications: Please note any medications camper is taking and special instructions for staff.

Emergency Contact Information— Someone Other than the Parent/Guardian listed on Pg.#1	
Emergency Contact Name:	Relationship:
Primary Phone:	Alternate Phone:

Health Insurance; Medical Care; Health and Safety Concerns: I affirm my Child carries valid and current medical insurance and I will be solely responsible for payment, in full, of all costs of medical care my Child may receive for all injuries or illnesses that my Child may sustain while participating in the Program or as a result of the Program.

I authorize the Program staff to administer basic first aid and to obtain health care for my Child if needed, as determined by Program staff, while participating in the Program. I authorize Program staff to transport my Child to receive such medical care. I give the Program staff authority to contact the provided Emergency Contacts if the child experiences serious health problems, suffers an injury, or is otherwise in a situation that raises significant health and safety concerns and Program Staff are unable to reach a parent/guardian.

I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure all emergency contact information is kept up-to-date and accurate. I understand Kendall County Forest Preserve District staff will not administer prescription or non-prescription medications under any circumstances other than medications that may be administered with physician instructions and parental consent include and are limited to inhalers to treat asthma; epinephrine pens, Benadryl, and other similar treatments to address severe allergies and/or allergic reactions. I consent for my child to receive epinephrine from program staff should my child present signs of anaphylaxis. Staff will not apply sunscreen or bug spray to children; it must be applied by a parent, guardian, or the program participant.

Parent Agreement: The above medical information is complete and accurate to my knowledge. Also, my child is fit to participate in all camp activities except for the limitations noted in this health form.

Signature:	Date:
(Page 2 of 3)	

Summer Camp Payment Information

Online registration is the quickest & easiest way to register your child for summer camps. Registering online provides real-time camp availability, secure online payment, immediate confirmation of registration, and is accessible 24/7 from any device with internet access.

To register for a Summer Camp, you must create an online account through the District's DaySmart Recreation Program.

To create an online account, visit the District's website, kendallforest.com, and click on the "Create an Account" button. If online registration is not available to you—you can mail in your registration forms or bring your forms in to our office.

Child's Name: _____

Name of Summer Camp: _____

Date of Camp: _____

Camp Fee: _____

Payment Option (check one):

Cash (In person drop-off only)

Check (Make payable to Kendall County Forest Preserve District—Mailed or drop-off)

Credit card (Easiest method: Register on-line or Fill out information below and mail or drop-off)

Credit Card Information (3.5% processing fee will be applied)

Name on Card: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Card Type (circle one): Visa Master Card Discover Card

Card Number: _____

Security Code: _____ Expiration Date: _____

I authorize Kendall County Forest Preserve District to charge my credit card the amount indicated on the dates as noted. Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you are not registering online: Mail, or drop off your completed registration form, payment form, health form & payment to Kendall County Forest Preserve District, Attn: Summer Camp, 110 W. Madison St., Yorkville, IL 60560

Once registration forms & payment are processed, you will receive a confirmation email. Summer Camp letters with details & instructions about the camp for which you are registered, will be sent 1 week prior to camp. If you have any other questions or need assistance, please contact the Kendall County Forest Preserve District Environmental Education Coordinator at 630-553-2292 or email kcfpdeducation@kendallcountyil.gov

If you have questions regarding equestrian camps contact the Kendall County Forest Preserve District Equestrian Program Coordinator at 815-475-4035 or email ellisequestrian@kendallcountyil.gov
Thank you!

(Page 3 of 3)

Office Use Only:

Forms rec'd: _____

Date Registered: _____

Confirmation Email: _____



Nature Quest—Overnight Tent Camping Permission Slip

2026 Summer Camp Programs

Nature Quest Camper Information

Name & Date of camp:	Nature Quest June 29—July 2	
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Overnight Camping Experience on Wednesday evening , July 1, 2026

Child's name:		
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Date of Birth:	Grade Entering in Fall 2026:	
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Parent/Guardian Name:	
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Overnight Emergency Phone Number	
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Your signature below indicates that you have read and agree to the following, #1-#7 statements and that your child has your permission to attend the Overnight Tent Camping Experience in the Nature Quest Camp:

1. I have been informed of the details of this program. My child has my permission to participate in this supervised program. (More details listed on page # 10 of this Camp Catalog)
2. I am aware that my Camper who is tent camping over night, will be promptly picked up at 11:00am on Thursday morning.
3. I understand that I will need to provide the following for my Camper to use: My own tent, Sleeping Gear (sleeping bag, sheet, pillow), Flashlight, Pajamas & a Change of Clothes, Basic hygiene items: tooth brush, tooth paste, hairbrush, glasses case if needed , I understand that showers are not available . I understand that my child's phone will not be allowed on the boat trip; camper's phones will be locked in our Rookery Building and will be accessible upon returning from canoeing. Counselors will have their cell phones on them at all times for communication purposes.
4. I understand that the Kendall County Forest Preserve will provide two meals: the Wednesday evening campfire cookout meal for all campers and the Thursday morning breakfast meal. If your Camper has any food allergies, please indicate this on the Health Form and you are welcome to pack extra (non perishable) foods that are safe for your camper to eat.
5. If your Camper is known to sleep walk, please indicate this on the Health Form; our staff will situate their tent closer to a counselor so if they get up in the night there is a better chance the counselor will awaken and be aware of the situation .
6. I authorize the instructors to take my camper on hikes and special excursions off site. I also authorize the camper to ride as a passenger in a vehicle owned or leased by the Kendall County Forest Preserve District organization.
7. **If Applicable for your Family:** I consent that my child (Name shown above) is allowed to share a tent with and sleep over night with our family member.
(list name of family member who will share the tent):_____

Signature:	Date:
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(Page 1 of 1)