

2022 SUMMER NATURE CAMP

Ages 3-12 and
CIT ages 13-16

**Registration begins
February 24, 2022.**

**Registering online is
quick and easy!**

**Ages 13-16 can apply
to be CITs! (See Page 9)**

Summer Nature Camp at Irvine is THE place for kids who love being outdoors, are naturally inquisitive, learn best through hands-on experiences, and like to have fun! We have 211 acres of extensive *woodlands, streams, meadows, and wetlands* to explore and over 8 miles of trails to hike. In our daily excursions, we immerse ourselves in the sights, sounds, textures, and smells of the natural world around us. Each weeklong camp session focuses on a unique, creative theme; activities in all sessions take place almost exclusively outdoors. We hope your child will join us for a truly enjoyable summer of learning about the diversity of habitats and the cool critters that dwell within the Maryland Piedmont through environmental games, nature crafts, animal encounters, mud-mucking, stream searching, and more!

CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

- Weeklong day camps from June 20 – August 26.
(Note: There will be NO camp during the weeks of July 25 and August 1.)
- Camper Day runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. for **Saplings** (3- and 4-year-olds) and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m for **Discovery, Explorers and Adventurers**
- Camps are designed by professional educators and experienced naturalists, with your child's enjoyment and safety in mind.
- Every camp features daily animal encounters and plenty of outdoor exploration.
- Each camper will receive a **Summer Nature Camp T-shirt**.
- Small group sizes (camper-to-staff ratio of 8:1) to allow for individualized attention, hands-on learning and a great bonding experience.
- Summer Nature Camp is a **Maryland State-Certified Youth Camp**.
- We strive to give you the greatest value a summer day camp can offer!

Visit www.explorenature.org/summercamp to register for Summer Nature Camp! More information can be found at the end of this brochure.

IRVINE MEMBERS SAVE!

Irvine depends on its members. Their contributions help cover the cost of programs, trail maintenance and animal care.

Pacesetter members receive 10% off Summer Nature Camp fees.

Explorer members and above receive 20% off.



OUR STAFF

Camp sessions will be led by a mix of year-round educators and seasonal camp counselors. These energetic leaders provide a safe, fun, and educational outdoor experience for campers of all ages. All counselors are First Aid and CPR certified, required to pass a background check, and receive training in Early Childhood Education, Maryland Natural History, and more. They inspire kids to *explore, respect, and protect* nature.

BEFORE CARE (Member discounts DO NOT apply)

Before care is available 8:15 – 9 a.m. Monday through Friday. Campers participating in before care may be dropped off as early as 8:15 a.m. and will be supervised in their separate camp group until camp begins. Doors will not open before 8:15 a.m. Cost: \$50 per week or \$15 per day.

COVID-19 SAFETY INFORMATION

At Irvine, the health and safety of our community is always our highest priority. As the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic is constantly changing, we cannot be sure what regulations will be in place when summer rolls around. Regardless, we will abide by the Maryland Department of Health Youth Camp Directive at that time and have in place safety precautions which may include face masks, social distancing, and/or daily health screenings. More specific information will be sent to camp families in the late Spring.

3-4 year olds //

SAPLINGS CAMPS

Plant those roots early; you can never start cultivating an interest in nature too soon! Our half-day **Saplings** camps introduce the beauty and mysteries to be found in the great outdoors. Curious kids thrive in these camps, as they are hands-on, experiential, and centered around that favorite question “Why?” Sapling campers **MUST** be potty trained. Choose from five weekly themes:

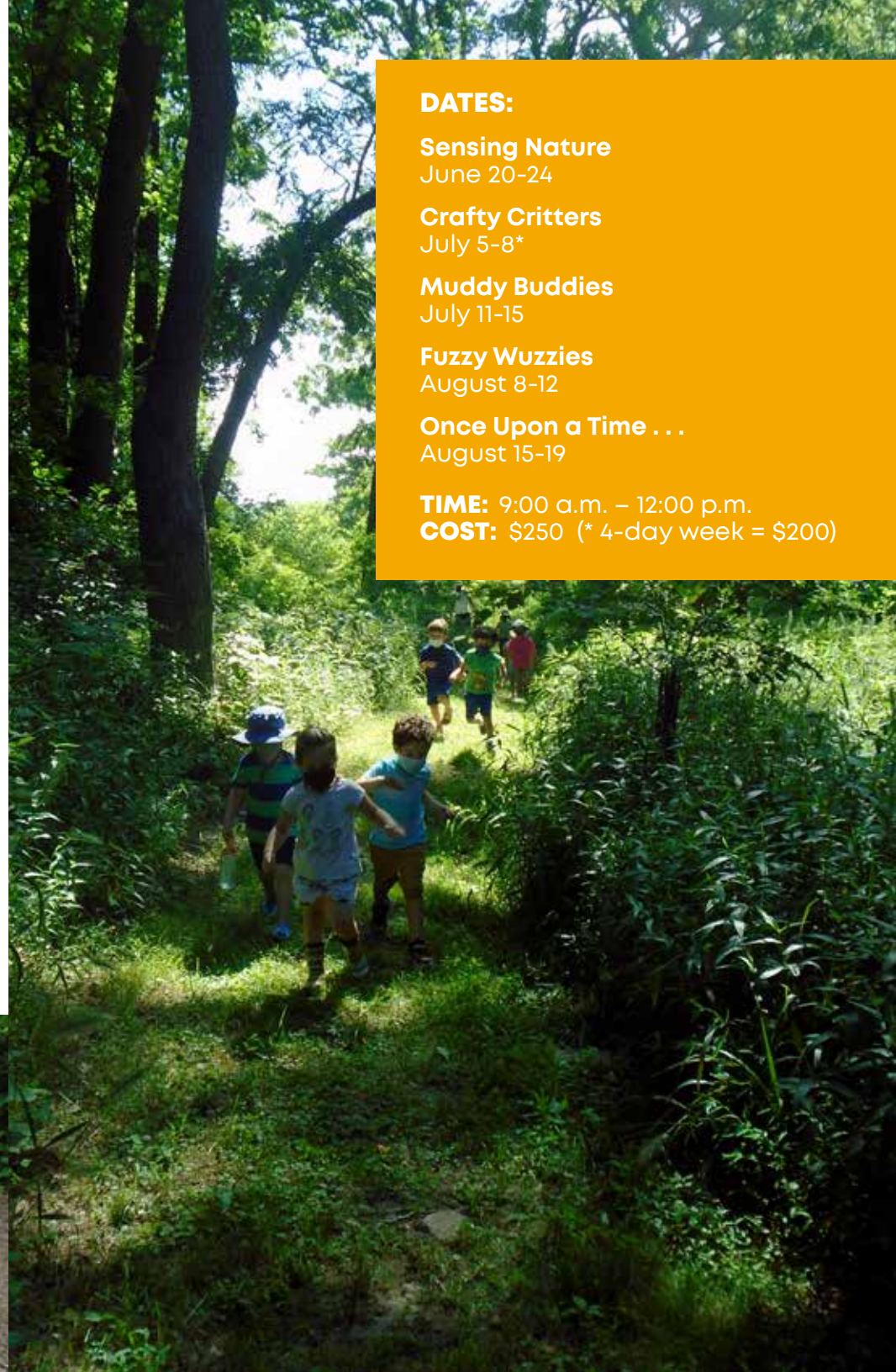
SENSING NATURE: In this camp children will use all of their senses to explore nature. We will listen for bird calls, smell flowers, see wildlife, touch interesting plants, and taste sweet berries. Campers will even learn how animals use their different senses!

CRAFTY CRITTERS: Come color with the creatures, paint with the ‘possum, and unleash your inner artist! Throughout the week campers will create masterpieces out of natural materials and have opportunities to marvel at nature’s beauty and celebrate it through their own creative expressions.

MUDDY BUDDIES: Jump right in as we trek our way into the wetlands and streams in search of wonderful squishy mud. Campers will get down and dirty as they experience a new outdoor adventure every day!

FUZZY WUZZIES: From cute & cuddly to grouchy & prickly, your child will get a closer look at the animals that call Irvine home. Campers will explore wild places in search of local creatures and interact with Irvine’s animal ambassadors every day!

ONCE UPON A TIME... Does your child love stories? Do they get lost in a world of imagination? This camp is for them. Campers will transform our forest into a wonderland of dragons, fairies, unicorns and more!



DATES:

Sensing Nature
June 20-24

Crafty Critters
July 5-8*

Muddy Buddies
July 11-15

Fuzzy Wuzzies
August 8-12

Once Upon a Time . . .
August 15-19

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
COST: \$250 (* 4-day week = \$200)

5-6 year olds

DISCOVERY CAMPS

Eye-opening revelations await **Discovery** campers as they will engage in a sensory approach to unearthing many of nature's secrets. Tactile learners will love investigating by digging in dirt, stomping through streams, and trekking for tracks, all for the sake of observing natural phenomena up close. We will have a midday quiet time for campers to rest and recharge before continuing our full day of adventures. Choose from eight weekly themes:

DOODLEBUGS: If animals inspire your budding artist, then join us for a week of creativity! Campers will enjoy nature walks, animal encounters and hands-on discovery, while reflecting on the beautiful, weird and funky aspects of wildlife through art projects.

ROOKIE RANGERS: Who left those tracks? What animal made that scat? What bird says, "Who cooks for you all?" Just like park rangers, campers will investigate the evidence of animal activity and discover how plants play a major role in an ecosystem. Games and other activities will amplify the training of Irvine's Rookie Rangers!

JOURNEY THROUGH TIME: Jump in our time machine and visit the prehistoric age of the dinosaurs or discover what Native American life was like in the early Woodland Period. Campers will enjoy daily games and activities while on an epic adventure through history.

GREEN THUMB: While exploring Irvine's gardens and forests, campers will dig deep to learn all about how plants grow. Get an up-close look at how people and animals use plants in different ways. Campers will even grow a garden of their own to take home!

ANIMAL OLYMPICS: Run as fast as a cheetah and jump farther than a bullfrog! Meet Irvine's amazing animals and learn about their astounding adaptations. Campers will participate in challenges and learn new skills, while discovering the creatures that live in our area.

LEGENDS OF THE HIDDEN FOREST: Each day campers will embark on an epic quest, whether it's following the tracks of Bigfoot, hunting for garden gnomes, or searching for mermaids. This camp is sure to spark your child's imagination!

WIGGLY WORMS: Does your child love digging in the dirt and exploring the wonderful world of worms? In this camp we will answer the questions "Where does soil come from?", "How do plants grow?", and "What lives under a log?". Please make sure campers are dressed for messy nature and art exploration!

EARTHLY ELEMENTS: Water, earth, fire, air —Explore our winding creek, dig into the soil, build a roaring fire, and breathe in the fresh air. Campers will experience all of the Earth's finest elements while making memories and enjoying all that Irvine has to offer.



DATES:

Doodlebugs
June 20-24

Animal Olympics
July 18-22

Rookie Rangers
June 27-July 1

Legends of the Hidden Forest
August 8-12

Journey Through Time
July 5-8*

Wiggly Worms
August 15-19

Green Thumb
July 11-15

Earthy Elements
August 22-26

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **COST:** \$450 (* 4-day week = \$360)

7-9 year olds

EXPLORERS CAMPS

Children in our **Explorers** camps will cultivate a deeper understanding of the relationships between wildlife and their natural surroundings. A variety of environmental games, nature crafts, and interactive STEM activities will help illustrate the interconnectedness of the natural world and reinforce ecological concepts we've encountered in our daily explorations. Choose from eight weekly themes:

INSECT INSPECTORS: Grab your magnifying glass and peer into the wonderful world of bugs! How strong is an ant? What are honeybees' favorite flowers? Where are crickets' ears located? Campers will find the answers to these questions and many more that have bugged them in the past.

WILDERNESS EXPLORERS: Campers will visit forests, tiptoe through gardens, and splash in wetlands in search of animal clues and unusual plants. Adventurous campers will love blazing a trail of fun as we swing nets, build shelters, and play in the woods!

ANIMAL ARCHITECTS: Beavers, birds, and bugs—oh my! All of these animals are incredible engineers. Campers will participate in animal encounters to discover how they construct their homes. Then we will work together as a team to create our own structures, using the building techniques we learned from the animals themselves!

CHILD VS. WILD: This week is all about surviving and thriving outdoors! In between building shelters and fording streams, campers will practice fire safety, learn knot-tying techniques, and hone their skills at identifying plants & animals.

TREASURE SEEKERS: Search for buried treasure while learning how to read maps, make a compass, and navigate with the sun. Explore Irvine's trails like a pioneer and discover the sense of wonder that surrounds us when we venture into new natural places.

AMAZING ARTISTS: Does your child enjoy creating wonderful works of art? In this camp we will enjoy making memories and masterpieces while learning new techniques like natural dyeing, working with clay, and painting with plants.

MESSTIVAL: Celebrate the festival of messes, while exploring nature with lots of hands-on investigations! Roll up your sleeves and get elbow deep while enjoying activities like dissecting owl pellets, getting the scoop about animal poop, and even making your own slime!

ESCAPE ROOM: Can you figure out the code and piece together the puzzle? Campers will work collaboratively and see if they have what it takes to escape, while enjoying daily challenges and mysteries.



DATES:

Insect Inspectors
June 20-24

Treasure Seekers
July 18-22

Wilderness Explorers
June 27-July 1

Amazing Artists
August 8-12

Animal Architects
July 5-8*

Messtival
August 15-19

Child vs. Wild
July 11-15

Escape Room
August 22-26

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **COST:** \$460 (* 4-day week = \$368)

10-12 year olds

ADVENTURE CAMPS

Adventure campers will connect with the great outdoors through exciting, more specialized topics. Food is an initial focus, as we investigate both the environmental challenges of modern agriculture and some more sustainable alternatives. For techies and artistic types, we offer a first course in nature photography, using Irvine's stunning property as a backdrop. Lastly, our always popular Animal Caretakers camp provides a rare opportunity to participate in the many tasks associated with providing a healthy diet, clean spacious living conditions, and appropriate enrichment activities for a wide range of native wildlife species.

FARM 2 TABLE: Cook up some fun while traveling through the forest and farmland to discover where our food comes from. Campers will learn how to prepare delicious dishes out of local foods and explore how our eating habits impact the world around us. Hit the trails with an experienced forager and learn what kinds of edibles you can find right out in nature!

PICTURE PERFECT: Connect with nature and notice new details while interacting with animals, plants, and landscapes through a creative lens. Campers will learn photography tips and tricks while they capture special moments in the places they live and visit. Note: Cameras not provided.

ANIMAL CARETAKERS (Same program offered on two separate weeks): If your child dreams of being a veterinarian or a naturalist, this camp is for them! Our animal care professionals will provide campers with hands on experience, tending to the daily needs of the many species we have at Irvine!

Depending on COVID conditions at the time, each week of Adventure Camp will include either

- An evening program on Thursday, including campfire activities and dinner. Campers would need to be picked up at 8 p.m. that evening, and then Friday's camp session would run only until noon OR
- A full-day (9:00-4:00) off-site field trip to further investigate the week's theme at another appropriate location in Central Maryland.

DATES:

Farm 2 Table
June 27-July 1

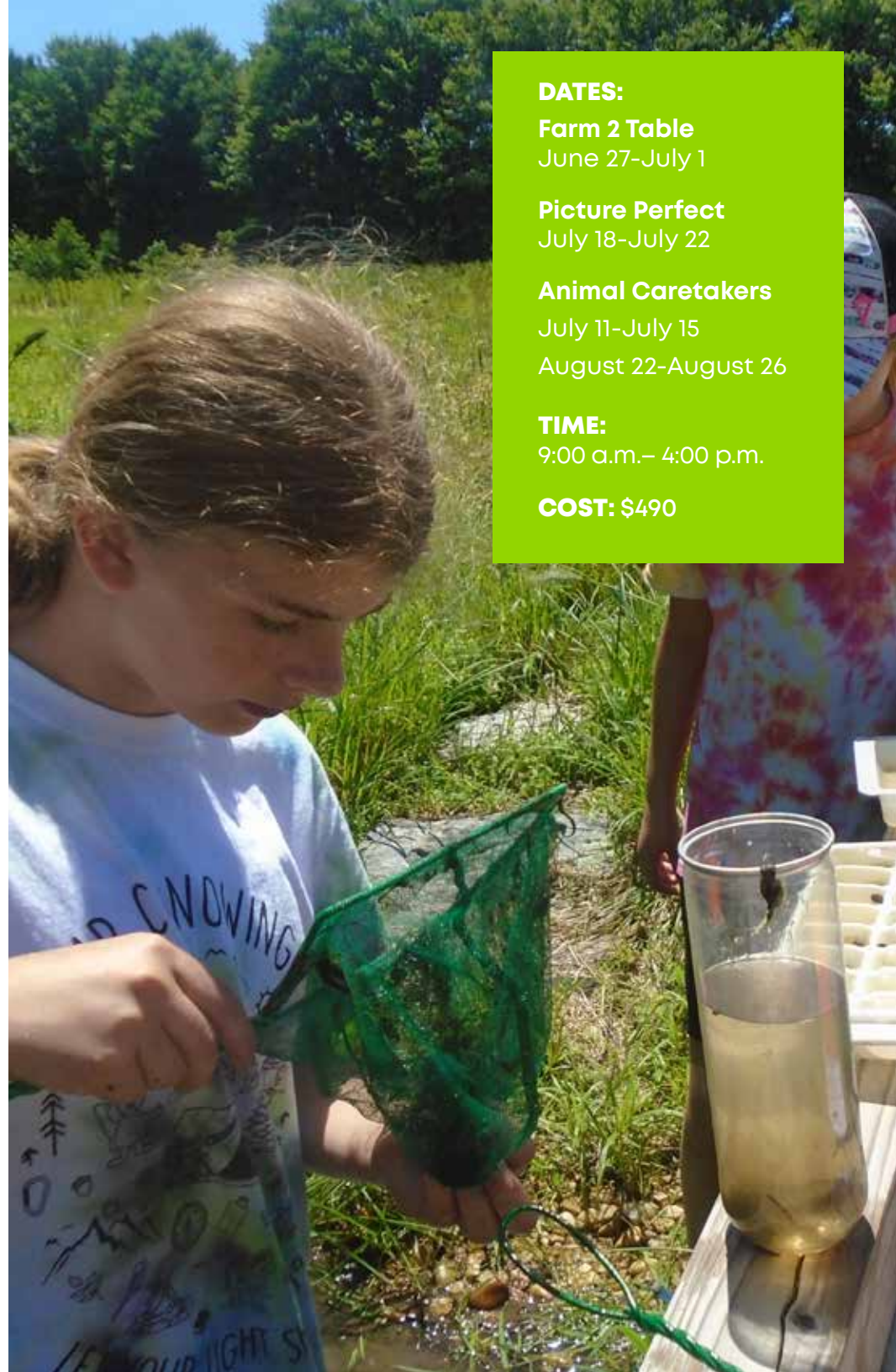
Picture Perfect
July 18-July 22

Animal Caretakers
July 11-July 15
August 22-August 26

TIME:

9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

COST: \$490



13-16 year olds

COUNSELORS IN TRAINING (CIT)

Too old for our Nature Camps but wishing you could still attend?

Why not apply to become one of our select Counselors in Training?

CITs commit to attending for a period of either two or three consecutive weeks. During an initial training period, CITs learn about the ins and outs of summer camp childcare and are introduced to basic team-building, leadership, and camp management skills. Basic instruction in animal handling will be included. Thereafter, CITs assist counselors with leading young campers through games, crafts, hikes, and other means of nature exploration.

CITs must be 13-16 years of age and need to complete a simple application and an interview before being selected.

If you are interested in becoming a CIT, please contact Maggie Winkler at WinkerM@ExploreNature.org

DATES:
Negotiable

TIME:
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

COST: Free



CALENDAR

Dates	Age Group	Theme	Cost
June 20-June 24	Saplings	Sensing Nature	\$250
	Discovery	Doodlebugs	\$450
	Explorers	Insect Inspectors	\$460
July 27-July 1	Discovery	Rookie Rangers	\$450
	Explorers	Wilderness Explorers	\$460
	Adventure	Farm 2 Table	\$490
July 5-July 8 (4-day week)	Saplings	Crafty Critters	\$250
	Discovery	Journey Through Time	\$450
	Explorers	Animal Architects	\$460
July 11-July 15	Saplings	Muddy Buddies	\$250
	Discovery	Green Thumb	\$450
	Explorers	Child vs. Wild	\$460
	Adventure	Animal Caretakers	\$490
July 18-July 22	Discovery	Animal Olympics	\$450
	Explorers	Treasure Seekers	\$460
	Adventure	Picture Perfect	\$490
Aug 8-Aug 12	Saplings	Fuzzy Wuzzies	\$250
	Discovery	Legends of the Hidden Forest	\$450
	Explorers	Amazing Artists	\$460
Aug 15-Aug 19	Saplings	Once Upon a Time...	\$250
	Discovery	Wiggly Worms	\$450
	Explorers	Messtival	\$460
Aug 22-Aug 26	Discovery	Earthly Elements	\$450
	Explorers	Escape Room	\$460
	Adventure	Animal Caretakers	\$490

SAVE SOME GREEN!

Get discounts on camps, programs & more at Irvine

Become an Irvine Member

Benefits of membership include free admission to Irvine for the entire household for 12 months, special members-only events, discounts on programs, and merchandise and more.

If you plan to send your child to multiple weeks of camp, your Irvine membership pays for itself.

www.ExploreNature.org/membership



Irvine
NATURE CENTER

REGISTRATION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Go ONLINE for easy and paperless registration
- Campers must be the required age at the time of the camp session.
- A 50% deposit is due at the time of registration. Remaining payment amount is due **May 1st**. You will be sent a reminder of your payment due prior to the due date. You may set up an automatic payment, or pay in full at the time of registration, if you wish. Remaining payments will be paid through your account on the registration portal.
- Registrations received after **May 1st** must be paid in full.
- Your child's spot will be forfeited if full payment is not received by **May 1st**.
- Online registration includes a **health form and waiver**. If you choose to participate in Before Care, an additional agreement will be included at the time of registration. All forms, waivers, and agreements must be completed in order to register. You may also sign up for Before Care at a later date.
- If you have any questions, please call (443) 738-9215 to reach the Education Program Coordinator or email MunschM@ExploreNature.org with 'Summer Camp Registration' in the subject line.

ONLINE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:

1. Visit our website: www.explorenature.org
2. Click on the Summer Camp Banner
3. Choose the appropriate age group
4. Continue to Online Registration – you must have or create an account
5. Complete camper's health history and medication (**ALL** medications **MUST** be **Self-Administered**) and waiver; you must fill out all information to proceed
6. Check out!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1. You will automatically receive a receipt for your payment.
2. You will also receive a confirmation e-mail with details about camp at Irvine.
3. If more health information is needed, someone from our camp team will contact you.
4. You will be able to register for Before Care.
5. Two weeks before camp starts you will receive a First Day Letter via e-mail. This will include topics for each day of camp and more information to prepare your child for Summer Nature Camp.

CANCELLATION POLICY

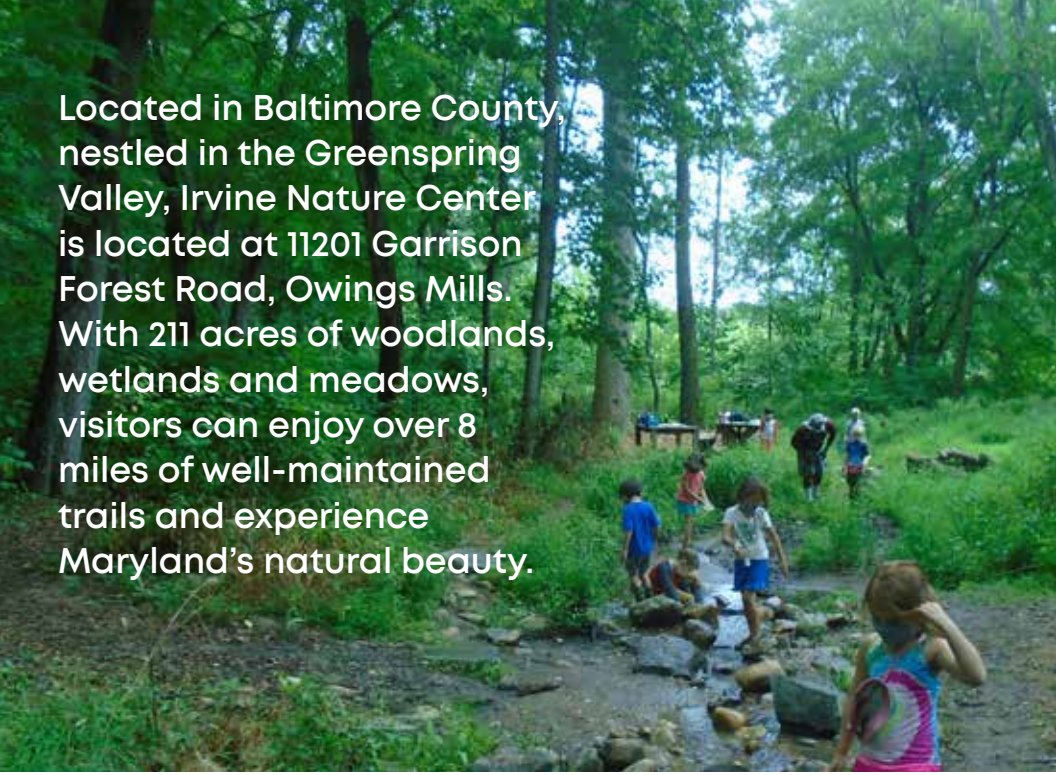
Irvine reserves the right to cancel a camp session due to insufficient enrollment. If Irvine cancels a session, all fees will be fully refunded. If you remove your child from a camp session before it begins, membership fees are non-refundable and camp refunds are as follows:

Number Days Before Non-Refundable Session Begins	Portion of Camp Fees Refunded
21+	50% of camp fee
20-14	25% of camp fee
13-0	No Refund

Sorry, we cannot make exceptions.



Located in Baltimore County, nestled in the Greenspring Valley, Irvine Nature Center is located at 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills. With 211 acres of woodlands, wetlands and meadows, visitors can enjoy over 8 miles of well-maintained trails and experience Maryland's natural beauty.



While at Irvine, be sure to visit our brand-new Aviary, play in the Outdoor Classroom, hike to the Native American Site, explore the Meadows and Wetland Ponds and tour the Woodland Garden.

Offering extensive, year-round educational programming, Irvine's goal is to expose children and adults to the importance of environmental literacy and stewardship. "At Irvine, we inspire people to explore, respect and protect nature."



Just minutes away from I-695, I-795, and I-83. Irvine is open to the public Tuesday – Sunday.

www.ExploreNature.org

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