Cylburn Nature Camp
Parent’s Guide

About Our Program

Cylburn’s Nature Camp focuses on the environment and teaches children (ages 5 to 10) knowledge of and respect for nature and their surroundings. They will explore our 200-acre park with counselors who will teach them about the plants and animals they encounter, fungi, weather, watershed issues, ecosystem balances, and more!

Children hike the trails, participate in science-oriented mini classes, and partake in activities that combine science with art: homemade sundials, insect houses, and optical illusion spinners, to name a few.

Throughout a week-long session, activities are mixed with eco-oriented games and lunch locales set in our different gardens.

Join the fun and watch your children learn to be good stewards of our environment.
Drop Off/Pick up Location: Vollmer Visitor Center
Drop off: 9:00 a.m.
Pick up: 3:00 p.m.

Because the Arboretum is closed to the public on Mondays, the front gate will be locked on Mondays. You can access the Arboretum through the Service Entrance on Cylburn Ave. Come up the road and make the first right which will lead you through the lower Vollmer Parking Lot. Take a left at the stop sign and pull in front of Vollmer. The director and counselors will be there to welcome the campers. Please allow a little extra time on Mondays since we will check registration and make sure we know who is picking up the camper. We may ask you to complete any missing paperwork and make sure we have the best phone number to reach you, just in case.

Tuesday through Friday, use the main gate and come directly to the Vollmer Center. Please be prompt on both ends of the day.

For all guardians: For your child’s safety, please sign them in and out each day. At no time should you let the child join or leave the camp without one of the counselors being aware. Campers will be permitted to leave only with authorized adults (as listed on the Registration Form).

Before/After Care

Drop-off/ Pick-up Location: parent or guardian may park in the visitor center parking lot or the greenhouse classroom parking lot.

Early Drop off: 8:00 a.m.
Late Pick up: 5:00 p.m.

With before or aftercare, all drop off and pick up will be at the Mansion. Park in the Greenhouse Classroom Parking Lot and walk up the path to the Mansion.

Pick up and drop off will be from the mansion. Children will not be able to be dropped off before 8 a.m. After 5 p.m. $1 a minute will be charged. Late payments will be due Friday afternoon of the camp week.

Before Care 8-9 a.m. $60 (per one week session)
After Care 3-5 p.m. $100 (per one week session)
Before and After Care Combination $140 (per one week session)
Weather & Clothing

Camp is held rain or shine. Please dress children accordingly. In the case of inclement weather, activities will be modified and moved indoors. Please dress your child in clothes that can get dirty! Hats, camp t-shirts, and sneakers are strongly encouraged. Flip Flops and open-toes shoes are NOT permitted. Water shoes are appropriate to wear on water days. Campers will be given a camp T-shirt on the first day of camp. Please be sure that your child is covered with sunscreen and insect repellent before their arrival to camp.

What to Bring

Campers should bring a lunch (peanut free), a peanut-free snack, and refillable water leak proof bottle marked with their name to camp each day. A backpack or small bag may be helpful in carrying these items. Less is more! Be sure to label all items with your child’s name. Please do not bring toys, phones, cameras, electronic devices, money or valuables to camp. The fewer items that your child carries with them the better! Cylburn Arboretum is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

Other items:
- sunglasses (to act as safety goggles)
- hat
- spare T shirt, shorts, socks, underwear, shoes
- plastic bag (for dirty/wet clothes)
- rain jacket
- rain/mud boots
- towel

Camper Behavior

Our camp environment is informal but structured. Campers will be informed of Arboretum rules and etiquette on the first day of camp. All campers are expected to respect each other, as well as the Arboretum plants and wildlife. Disruptive behavior affects the fun, safety, and overall quality of the camp experience in the group. In the event of repeated misbehavior, counselors will notify the parent/guardian and request that the camper be picked up or dismissed. No refunds will be given to campers who are dismissed.

Safety & Medical information

Cylburn's Nature Camp is under the care of Sinai Hospital should anyone need medical attention. The camper’s medical form is shared with our nurse OnCall prior to the beginning of camp and all counselors are trained in administering first aid and CPR and will contact authorized medical personnel in the case of an emergency. In the event of a family emergency during camp hours, please contact (410) 367-2217, or find the Camp Director or a counselor in the Cylburn Mansion.

Sun, Mosquitoes & Ticks

If you choose for your child to use sunscreen and/or insect repellent, please apply it prior to camp. Counselors will apply as needed with permission (see Registration Waiver Form). Campers will be hiking through grass, wooded areas, and trails—all places where ticks may be found. While ticks have not posed a problem in the past, we suggest that tick checks be done when campers are home. Cylburn will provide Repel brand insect repellent.
Registration Policies

Online registrations will be processed as they are received. A completed Registration Waiver Form, must be submitted within two weeks after an online registration has been completed in order to hold a camper’s place in the program. Please email naturecamp@cyburn.org to be placed on a waiting list. Cancellations occasionally occur.

Cancellation Policies

The Cylburn Arboretum Friends reserves the right to cancel a camp session due to insufficient enrollment. If a session is canceled, all fees will be refunded. If you withdraw a camper before a session begins, you must submit your request in writing to the camp office no less than one month prior to the expected arrival date.

If you must cancel your reservation, the following policy applies:

- **May 1**, 75% of your registration will be refunded
- **June 1**, 50% of your registration will be refunded
- After **June 1**, 25% of your registration will be refunded.

Frequently asked questions

1) **Can I be added to a wait-list?**
   Yes. If a camp week is indicated as full on the on-line registration page, please contact Kelly Smit (naturecamp@cyburn.org) to be placed on our waiting list.

2) **What should I do if my child cannot attend camp one day?**
   If your child is sick, please notify the camp counselors or call (410) 367-2217 ext. 1.

3) **What happens if it rains?**
   In the event of inclement weather, campers will play games, and conduct experiments indoors.

4) **Can I send my child home with another parent?**
   Campers can be sent home with those listed on the Registration Form. Alternates can be arranged ahead of time by calling (410) 367-2217 ext. 1 or by emailing Kelly Smit (naturecamp@cyburn.org)

5) **What happens if I am late dropping off or picking my child up?**
   Drop off begins at 8:45 a.m. each day. If a camper will be late, please call (410) 367-2217 ext. 1 and leave a message. Pick up is at 3:00 p.m. Campers picked up more than two times after 3:15 p.m. will be charged a late fee of $1/minute.

6) **Can I stay at the Arboretum after I drop my child off?**
   Yes, only but only Tuesday through Friday. The Arboretum is closed to the public on Mondays.

**More questions?**
Please call Kelly Smit 410-367-2217 ext. 1, or via email naturecamp@cyburn.org