



2018 Louisville Summer Camp “Camp Experience” Descriptions

This document contains descriptions for each unique “Camp Experience” offered by Thorne Nature Experience. Please use this document in conjunction with Thorne’s Summer Camp Brochure, to determine dates, rates, and locations. You can also use Thorne’s Online Catalog if you want to view all of this information in one place, plus determine current availability. The Brochure and Online Catalog as well as wealth of information including FAQ’s and registration information are available online at www.thornenature.org.

Wanderers "Camp Experiences"

Ages 6-8

Thorne's six-hour, week-long "Camp Experiences" for the Wanderers age group are packed with fun! These "Camp Experiences" are playful, experiential, and discovery-based. Experienced environmental educators will help your child foster a personal connection to the natural world through lively games, nature crafts, and exploration of different ecosystems each day. To accommodate the needs of some of our youngest campers, these "Camp Experiences" involve less than one mile of hiking per day and remain close to bathroom facilities, shade, and water. With a variety of themes for this age group, campers can focus on the aspect of nature that they love most, or spend an entire summer exploring diverse topics like bugs, amphibians, mammals, and more! The Wanderers age group even includes art-themed "Camp Experiences," as well as the ever-popular At Home in the Woods, which teaches campers how humans and other animals live safely in nature.

Wanderers "Camp Experiences" meet each day at Coal Creek Elementary School in Louisville. Campers travel from Coal Creek on a BVSD school bus to a different natural area each day including Coal Creek Trail, Chautauqua, South Mesa Trail, and Walden Ponds. Parents can drop-off at 8:30am and pick up is at 2:30pm. For parents needing full-day care for their child, Extended Care is available until 5:30pm at Coal Creek Elementary School.

At Home in the Woods

Campers will learn how to comfortably survive in nature with respect for and awareness of animal friends. They will make mini debris shelters out of sticks, purify drinking water, cook with a solar oven, practice plant and wildlife identification skills, and more. Campers will focus on learning important safety and survival techniques as they go on wild adventures through the woods to practice and strengthen their skills.



Colorado Creatures

Attention all future wildlife biologists: this is the class for you! Campers will become nature detectives as we search for signs of life using tools such as nets, magnifying glasses, and field guides to learn which animals call Colorado home! We'll study these masters of survival and learn about the adaptations that enable bears, snakes, birds, bugs, and many more creatures to hide in plain sight!

Wanderers "Camp Experiences"

Ages 6-8 (cont.)

Mud Mucking

Campers will strap on their sturdy sandals as they venture into the wet-n-wild of Front Range ecosystems search for all the critters that live in the mud. As they find amphibians, reptiles, fish, insects, and birds, they will learn why such creatures live near water and how they survive all year long. Campers will explore, play, investigate tracks, and make crafts using mud. Campers should get ready to get MUDDY!



Nature Ninjas

Each day, campers will enter the ancient, secretive world of the Nature Ninja! As a master of stealth and invisibility, Nature Ninjas will activate their bodies and senses all while embarking on secret missions and challenges to earn ninja badges. Campers will learn from our animal friends, like foxes and weasels, who are masters of the ninja way, so that they too can travel silently and fluidly through the forest undetected, all while exploring the magical trails of the Front Range. This "camp experience" will be full of Wild Nature Play, imagination, creativity, games, storytelling, and exploration of the natural world, while focusing on the extraordinary ninja powers of nature's creatures.

Scrapbook of Summer

Stalking through the woods and sloshing through wetlands, campers will use their senses as tools to interpret observations through drawings, crafts, music, and stories. In this "Camp Experience," campers will also learn how to use natural art techniques such as nature rubbings, painting with natural dyes, and sculpting out of clay. Campers will add their creations to our nature journals to make a collection of accomplishments and memories.



Talking Stones & Fossil Bones

Campers will look for old secrets locked in stone and find evidence of the ocean that once covered Colorado and the prehistoric animals that roamed this same land. They will get the chance to look at real fossils, study the dinosaurs of Colorado, and learn how mountains are made through the motion of tectonic plates. Campers will uncover the mystery of how our environment was shaped, learning basic geology and local natural history.

Pathfinders "Camp Experiences"

Ages 9-11

For the Pathfinders age group, Thorne's six-hour, week-long "Camp Experiences" focus on skill-building. These "Camp Experiences" build upon campers' earlier experiences with the natural world to develop new tracking, identification, and observation skills in areas like photography and outdoor survival. Our Pathfinders campers venture further from trailheads, so that they can see and experience more of the natural world.

Pathfinders "Camp Experiences" meet each day at Coal Creek Elementary in Louisville. Campers travel from Coal Creek on a BVSD school bus to a different natural area each day including Coal Creek Trail, Chautauqua, South Mesa Trail, and Walden Ponds. Parents can drop-off at 8:30am and pick up is at 2:30pm. For parents needing full-day care for their child, Extended Care is available until 5:30pm at the Coal Creek Elementary in Louisville.

Aquatic Explorers

Campers will investigate the organisms that live along the banks of streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes as they explore the wet and wild riparian zones in Boulder County, visiting a variety of different ponds and streams throughout the week. They'll catch and examine water striders, follow stoneflies through their many life changes, and conduct pollution studies using water testing kits. They'll learn about the local watershed, search for and learn about the animals that live in these areas, and learn why it is so important to protect our waterways. Get your kids ready to get wet!

Minecraft - Unplugged

In this "Camp Experience," campers will unplug from the virtual world of Minecraft and make the game a reality through imaginative role playing. Campers will work together in a self-directed quest for survival by collecting resources, crafting natural tools, and building mini shelters, all while using their imaginations to uncover the magic that hides along the trails of Boulder County's Open Spaces. Campers will have opportunities to test their survival skills and micro-fortress against the elements and will work as a team to face the challenges of the natural world, including things like natural disasters and noxious creatures. Technology and video games will be left at home, but campers will come home with greater skills and knowledge of how to survive in a real life Minecraft world.

Wild Skills

Campers will practice the expertise needed to live primitively in the wild as they learn the important and fun skills of survival. They will build debris shelters, locate and filter water, and practice safe fire-building outside with primitive tools. Campers will also learn wilderness navigation skills, tracking, and plant and wildlife identification. Through interacting with nature to find the things humans need to survive, campers will develop an appreciation for the bounty that the natural world provides.



Extended Care

Ages 6-11

Thorne's flexible, low-cost Extended Care option allows campers to spend the whole day with Thorne in a safe, fun, and educational environment. Parents can pick up their kids any time between 3:15 and 5:30pm, leaving time to run errands, work, exercise, or simply relax knowing that their children are having fun with friends.

Campers participating in Extended Care spend the first six hours of their day at their morning "Camp Experience," then get a healthy snack before they continue their nature explorations. Extended Care offers camper-driven outdoor investigations as well as respite from the elements in one of our environmental education centers which are chock full of interactive exhibits and nature books and games. Extended Care campers explore nature, play games, tell stories, sing ecotunes, and make nature crafts, all under the guidance of an experienced Thorne instructor.



Extended Care takes place at Coal Creek Elementary in Louisville at 801 W Tamarisk Street. Extended Care campers return to Coal Creek each day following their morning "Camp Experience."