



2019 Lafayette 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 Ryan Elementary School in Lafayette. Campers travel from Ryan 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 Ryan Elementary School.

At Home in the Woods

Campers will cultivate their survival skills and put them to the test while exploring in the wilderness! Throughout the week they will practice introductory survival skills such as making mini debris shelters out of sticks, purifying drinking water, cooking with a solar oven, practicing plant and wildlife identification skills, and more. Campers will also focus on developing their skills of observation and learning important safety techniques to become both comfortable and confident as they go on wild adventures through the woods!

Nature Superheroes

Each day campers will embark on a new superhero mission to learn about local plants and animals with real "creature power technology" in nature (think Wild Kratts)! The creatures and their adaptations that we study are the superheroes that teach us how they use their powers to sneak up on prey, escape danger, or survive through incredible feats of nature. Campers will also practice their own nature superpowers like being "invisible" by walking through the landscape undetected or using their "deer ears" and "owl eyes" to predict danger long before it arrives, all while exploring the magical open spaces in Boulder County. This "camp experience" will be full of imagination, creativity, games, storytelling, and exploration of the natural world, while focusing on the extraordinary superpowers of nature's creatures.



Wanderers "Camp Experiences" Ages 6-8 (cont.)

The Ultimate Thorne Experience – Wanderers – NEW!

With over 60 years of practice leading nature programs, The Ultimate Thorne Experience combines the very best of what kids love to do in camp! Curiosity is activated through an inspiring story, a lesson is taught through a lively game, then the real magic happens as Instructors guide campers into activities that integrate learning with "children's passions"- the universal stuff that kids the world over love to do. Tapping into our love of play, campers will go on epic adventures, explore new places through the eyes of an animal, build a dam in the creek, and catch any critter we happen upon. Because there is always more to discover in nature, and because children's passions are always thrilling, this is a "camp experience" to enjoy again and again, getting a healthy dose of summer fun each time!



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 Ryan Elementary School in Lafayette. Campers travel from Ryan 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 Ryan Elementary School.

The Ultimate Thorne Experience – Pathfinders – NEW!

With over 60 years of practice leading nature programs, The Ultimate Thorne Experience combines the very best of what youth love to do in camp! This "Camp Experience" focuses on adventure, skill-building, teamwork, and both nature connection and social connection within the group. Middle childhood provides the opportunity to go deeper with learning, build lasting friendships, and tap into kids' universal love of play. A daily theme is woven through learning that is designed to inspire curiosity and engagement, but the real magic happens as Instructors guide campers into activities that follow the discoveries and interests of the group. Because there is always more to discover in nature, this is a "camp experience" to enjoy again and again, getting a healthy dose of summer fun each time!

Wild Skills

Campers will take on the wild as they practice essential survival skills and learn to live primitively! Track an animal through the woods, build a fire without a match using primitive technology, identify plants and local wildlife, all while knowing where to go using wilderness navigation skills. Campers will also build debris shelters, locate and filter water, and much more! Through interacting with nature to find the things humans need to survive, campers will develop self-confidence and 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 eco-tunes, and make nature crafts, all under the guidance of an experienced Thorne instructor.



Extended Care takes place at Ryan Elementary in Lafayette at 1405 Centaur Village Drive. Extended Care campers return to Ryan each day following their morning "Camp Experience."