



2020 Boulder 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.

Parent and Child "Camp Experiences"

Ages 2-4

With Thorne's one-day, two-hour Parent and Child "Camp Experiences," you and your preschool-age child can enjoy the adventures of Thorne Summer Camp together. Thorne instructors experienced in early childhood education will be your guides to explore the diversity of Colorado's Foothills environments. These early experiences in a mini-camp setting are designed to instill awareness and wonder for the natural world and cultivate parents' and children's relationships with nature. Discovery happens through arts and crafts, free exploration, and age-appropriate stories and games. Be ready to get dirty, have fun, and safely explore the great outdoors with your child!



Creature Superheroes

Look Hop on the creature trail and go on a journey into nature to learn about some of our favorite Colorado creature superheroes and their superpowers! Campers will create and don superhero capes while developing their own "superpowers" to see, hear, and track animals. Using their five senses, games, and imagination, campers will discover how to be a superhero in the natural world! This "Camp Experience" meets at the South Mesa Trail.

Critter Search

Look! A fish! A toad! A water bug! You bring your curiosity and we will bring all the tools needed to explore, catch, and learn about the amazing critters at Sawhill Ponds, one of Boulder's best kept natural secrets! Voted by Thorne campers as the best place to catch animals, join us in the search for all that lives in the water and along the shoreline of this pond habitat! This "Camp Experience" meets at Sawhill Ponds.

Forest Fairies & Gnomes

Campers and their families will go on a delightful journey into the fantasy world of forest fairies and gnomes! Everyone will learn lessons from tiny friends about nature's special gifts, their love of animals, and the magic that exists outside. Come take a close look at the miniature land at our feet and make fairy or gnome houses out of sticks, leaves, and stones. This "Camp Experience" meets at the Enchanted Mesa Trail at Chautauqua.

I Dig Dinos

Campers and their families will explore the same Colorado land where dinosaurs once roamed! This camp will learn their stories while searching for dinosaur bones hidden in the earth beneath our feet. Discover prehistoric fossils and dig into the ancient world of dinosaurs through games and exploration. This "Camp Experience" meets at the Walter Orr Roberts Trail at NCAR.

Parent and Child "Camp Experiences"

Ages 2-4 (cont.)

Nature Builders

Give a child a few sticks, a pile of rocks, some sand, and a shovel, and watch them build a masterpiece! Bring your imagination and join us in building miniature worlds from nature's materials. Watch as your child creates complex water channels with pools and dams, and then delights as they "open the floodgates!" or builds a fairy house for a magical friend. Campers and their families will explore how animals build homes and then use their creativity to engineer their own special place! This "Camp Experience" meets at Mt. Sanitas.



Nature Play

This "Camp Experience" is an ideal preview into Thorne Nature Preschool! Through storytelling, movement, songs, craft-making, and play, children will embark on a journey to discover the magic of South Boulder Creek. During the Nature Play "Camp Experience", we will start by activating campers' curiosity and excitement, then allow their interests and sense of wonder to inspire our adventures. This "Camp Experience" brings together all of our favorite activities to do with young children and is all about discovery, imagination, play, and letting kids be kids! This "Camp Experience" meets at the Bobolink Trail.



The Great Bug Hunt

Grab a net, tune into your senses, and join us in The Great Bug Hunt at Sombrero Marsh! There's nothing more exciting than dipping a net into the marsh and finding the fascinating creatures you will pull up! Campers and their families will get a close up look at the crawlies that we catch and learn just how important insects are to our world! Activities also include crafts, stories, and an insect snack if you dare! This "Camp Experience" meets at the Sombrero Marsh Environmental Education Center.

NEW! Drop-Off Nature Preschool “Camp Experiences” Ages 3-5

Thorne Nature Preschool Summer Camp

This 2-week, drop-off “Camp Experience” is an extension of Thorne Nature Preschool, and is built on the simple belief that kids grow better in nature! With a child to adult ratio of 4 to 1, Thorne’s qualified staff foster the growth of the whole child (cognitive, physical, social, emotional, creative), while cultivating a



profound connection to nature. Through play in nature, children explore, imagine, solve problems, cooperate with others, and build empathy for the natural world, all while developing skills in early literacy, science, math, and social emotional learning. While predictable rituals and routines guide children into learning, this “Camp Experience” allows children’s interests and curiosity to direct the day’s activities and inform the emergent curriculum. Parents can choose a 2 or 3 day per week option, or combine both for a 5 day per week option. To learn more about Thorne Nature Preschool and our educational philosophy, please visit: www.thornenaturepreschool.org



This drop off “Camp Experience” is best suited for preschool-aged campers, and meets at the Sombrero Marsh Environmental Education Center at 63rd and Arapahoe (1466 N. 63rd St. Boulder, CO 80303). Thorne Nature Preschool Summer Camp runs from 9am-1pm in 2 week sessions, and offers 2, 3, or 5 day per week options. If choosing 2 or 3 days per week, we encourage participating in at least 4 weeks of this “camp experience” to allow children to adjust and gain the most from the program. This program may include a Field Trip via Thorne’s 14-passenger school bus to a nearby natural area. If full day care is needed, Thorne will provide optional transportation to nearby Mt. View Preschool (separate registration required and Mt View is

closed the week of 6/8-6/12), which runs until 4:00pm. Enrollment in Thorne’s school-year Preschool is not required for this “Camp Experience,” but children must be 3 years old and fully potty trained to attend.

Explorers "Camp Experiences"

Ages 5 & 6

Eco-Explorers

This "Camp Experience" is the perfect introductory Thorne Camp for budding nature lovers. Campers will become Eco-Explorers by tuning in to observations and using all five senses. Curiosity and love of learning abound as campers discover what it is that excites them about being outside! In this introduction to exploration campers will connect with nature through daily activities like games, songs, storytelling, art creations, and most importantly nature exploration. Each week will focus on a different nature theme, so kids can return for multiple weeks and learn new things each time! Twice during the week, campers will take a field trip via school bus to the nearby locations of Sawhill/Walden Ponds and Chautauqua. A 10:1 maximum camper-to-instructor ratio will ensure your child receives all the attention and care they need while they get used to attending camp and learning and playing in nature. This "Camp Experience" meets at the Sombrero Marsh Environmental Education Center.



Week	Theme	Description
Week 1: May 26- May 29	Nature Detectives	discovering the magic of the natural world using all 5 senses
Week 2: June 1-5	Habitat Hunters	exploring pond habitats and the animals that call them home
Week 4: June 15-19	Feathered Friends	Letting our learning take flight while we discover how birds are unique
Week 6: June 29-July 3	Little Worlds	A glimpse into the world of the crawling and flying insects all around us
Week 7: July 6-10	Reptile Round-Up	discovering the creepy, crawly, slithering world of snakes, turtles, lizards, and other reptiles
Week 8: July 13-17	Plants & Pollinators	exploring the magnificent world of plants and their pollinators
Week 9: July 20-24	Geology Rocks	digging into time to discover who lived here in prehistoric times
Week 10: July 27-31	Tracks and Tails	using our detective work to figure out what mammals call Sombrero Marsh home
Week 11: Aug 3-7	Sombrero Art Walk	using nature to create art and learn about the marsh

Explorers and Wanderers

"Camp Experiences"

Ages 5 - 8

Jeff & Paige Nature Music Camp

Oo-Ah-Ah, Oo-Oo-Ah-Ah it's Summer Camp! Jeff and Paige proudly unite with Thorne Nature Experience to present a unique day camp, available for two one-week Camps this summer. Thorne instructors team up with the dynamic duo for: nature explorations, music, field trips, science experiments, theater and concerts. Kids will spend time outdoors oo-ah-ah-ing their way through songs, skits, hikes, nature awareness activities and more, all connected through Jeff and Paige's original science and nature-based music. Campers will get the chance to dance with Paige, write songs with Jeff, and at the end of the week they'll have the opportunity to perform during the closing concert (participation in the performance is optional!). Jeff & Paige will visit camp throughout the week to engage in activities, a song-writing workshop, rehearsal, and more! Love Jeff and Paige? Love Thorne? You'll adore this week of camp. This "Camp Experience" meets at the Sombrero Marsh Environmental Education Center.



The Ultimate Thorne Experience – August 10-14 only

With over 60 years of practice leading nature programs, The Ultimate Thorne Experience combines all of the things that kids love to do most in nature and puts them into one 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 outside. Tapping into the spirit of play while exploring in a variety of wilderness settings, campers will go on epic adventures where catching a water insect could lead to a lesson on life cycles, building a dam in a creek may develop into a physics experiment, or an encounter with a deer will lead the group to see new places through the eyes of an animal. Because there is always more to discover in nature, and because children's passions are always thrilling, The Ultimate is a "Camp Experience" to enjoy again and again, getting a healthy dose of summer fun each time! This "Camp Experience" meets at the Sombrero Marsh Environmental Education Center.

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 Mapleton Early Childhood Center or Chautauqua Park in Boulder. Campers travel from Mapleton on a BVSD school bus to a different natural area each day including Chautauqua, South Mesa Trail, Heil Ranch, 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 Sombrero Marsh Environmental Education Center.

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 will learn important safety techniques to become both comfortable and confident as they go on wild adventures through the woods! This "Camp Experience" meets at Boulder High School.



Nature Creations

Creativity runs wild in our nature inspired arts camp! Kids who love to create, tinker, and invent will thrive as we delve into the magic of the great outdoors. Campers will share their experiences in nature through a variety of imaginative channels including fine arts, crafts, music, storytelling, and more. In this "Camp Experience," campers will also learn how to use natural art techniques such as nature rubbings, painting with natural dyes, and sculpting with clay & mud. Nature Creations will grow a camper's creative seedlings into a forest of new ideas! This "Camp Experience" meets at Chautauqua.

Wanderers "Camp Experiences"

Ages 6-8 (cont.)

Nature Ninjas

Each day, campers will enter the ancient, secretive world of the Nature Ninja! As masters 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 wilderness. 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. This "Camp Experience" meets at Chautauqua.



The Ultimate Thorne Experience – Wanderers

With over 60 years of practice leading nature programs, The Ultimate Thorne Experience combines all of the things that kids love to do most in nature and puts them into one 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 outside. Tapping into the spirit of play while exploring in a variety of wilderness settings, campers will go on epic adventures where catching a water insect could lead to a lesson on life cycles, building a dam in a

creek may develop into a physics experiment, or an encounter with a deer will lead the group to see new places through the eyes of an animal. Because there is always more to discover in nature, and because children's passions are always thrilling, The Ultimate is a "Camp Experience" to enjoy again and again, getting a healthy dose of summer fun each time! This "Camp Experience" meets at Boulder High School.

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 biking, fly fishing, photography, and outdoor survival. Our Pathfinders campers venture further from trailheads, on foot or by bike, so that they can see and experience more of the natural world. Campers in the Pathfinders age group also have the opportunity to participate in Adventure Camps, where they spend a Thursday night away from home camping with Thorne's expert instructors!

Pathfinders meet each day at various locations best suited for the skill-based camp in which they are enrolled. In some instances the camp will have the same drop-off and pick-up location for an entire week, Boulder High School, or Chautauqua, while other camps may meet at a different location each day. Parents can drop-off at 8:30am and pick up at 2:30pm. For parents needing full-day care for their child for their child, Extended Care is available for select Pathfinders camps until 5:30pm at the Sombrero Marsh Environmental Education Center.

Biking & Birding

There are some adventures that you can only have on two wheels! Campers will use their bikes to cover more ground as they pedal around Boulder's bike paths. They will stop to identify the birds soaring overhead, nesting in trees and shrubs, and searching for worms in the dirt. They'll study adaptations unique to birds found in the area and learn how to identify them by their song and flight patterns. Along with keeping a journal of birds identified each day, campers will learn how to use binoculars and field guides so that they can continue their learning at home. The average distance traveled per day is 6 miles. For the purpose of safety and specialized instruction, this "Camp Experience" has a camper-instructor ratio of 6:1. This "Camp Experience" is not eligible for Extended Care and is for campers ages 9-15 and meets at Various Boulder Locations.



Pathfinders "Camp Experiences"

Ages 9-11 (cont.)

Fly Fishing

This "Camp Experience" is for all levels, including the camper who has little or no experience in fly fishing and those with many years as an angler. Campers will split into two groups based on skill level and will explore the Boulder Creek watershed and tackle the lakes, reservoirs, and streams of Boulder County. Those newer to fly fishing will learn first how to assemble, use, and care for fly fishing gear and then learn the fundamentals of fly fishing: casting, knot tying, and reading the river. Experienced anglers will spend more time on the water and will be challenged with more advanced skills like new knots, different casting techniques, and selecting the proper flies. All campers will get plenty of time to fish, but will also learn about the ecology of fly fishing, such as understanding hatches, the life cycles of insects and fish, and ethical approaches to interacting with the natural world. This "Camp Experience" is not eligible for Extended Care and is for campers ages 9-15 and meets at Various Boulder Locations.



The Ultimate Thorne Experience – Pathfinders

With over 60 years of practice leading nature programs, The Ultimate Thorne Experience combines all of the things that youth love to do most in nature and puts them into one camp! This "Camp Experience" focuses on nature exploration in a variety of wilderness settings and brings in 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. Daily themes such as investigation, quests, and creation are woven throughout activities that are 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! This "Camp Experience" meets at Bulder High School.

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! This "Camp Experience" meets at Chautauqua.

Pathfinders "Camp Experiences"

Ages 9-11 (cont.)

Wild Skills Overnight Adventure

Take your Wild Skills to the next level! Throughout the week campers will develop essential survival skills such as fire-building with bow drills, identifying life-saving plants, and building debris huts to sleep in! They will even learn how to track wildlife by fine tuning their senses and using knowledge of native animals. The week will culminate in an overnight trip on Thursday to Cal-Wood Education Center in Jamestown where campers will put their outdoor living skills to the test. They will build their own shelters at a mountain wilderness campsite, roast marshmallows on a fire they build, and bond over shared adventure. By the time they get back to Boulder on Friday afternoon, they will feel confident in their ability to brave the elements and excited to keep exploring! A list of suggested personal camping gear will be provided after registration. Campers are not required to complete the Wild Skills "Camp Experience" before signing up for Wild Skills Overnight Adventure, but consider taking both camps to grow your camper's survival skill knowledge. This "Camp Experience" meets at Chautauqua and Cal-Wood.



Wilderness Creations

Nature is the inspiration for campers' creations this week as they develop their skills in fine arts and primitive tool building, and also learn how to utilize natural materials in creative projects. Campers will paint with natural dyes, sculpt in mud and clay, learn how to make primitive tools and accessories, and more! They will learn from native cultures of this region, tune in to nature's amazing patterns, and study nature artists to inspire masterpieces. Wilderness Creations is for campers who love to work with their hands, create, and share their nature experiences in inventive ways! This "Camp Experience" is for ages 9-15 and meets at Boulder High School.

Trailblazers "Camp Experiences"

Ages 12-15

"Camp Experiences" for our Trailblazers age group enable campers to sharpen specific adventure and natural science skills. Beyond expanding knowledge and proficiency in activities like biking, fly fishing and bird banding, these "Camp Experiences" help campers deepen their connection to the natural world and learn how they can be stewards of nature. While these "Camp Experiences" offer no shortage of fun, we make sure that emphasis is placed on educating our most experienced campers to make informed decisions as stewards of the Earth. Campers in the Trailblazer age group have the opportunity to participate in Adventure Camps, where they spend a Thursday night away from home camping with Thorne's expert instructors! Campers meet each day at a different location best suited for the skill-based camp in which they are enrolled.

Birds and Bird Banding

Join Thorne's Founder and Master Bird Bander, Dr. Oakleigh Thorne, II for a "Camp Experience" focused on one of his greatest passions – birds! Under the guidance of our founder and an additional Thorne educator, campers will develop knowledge of Colorado birds and gain skills in bird banding research. Highlights include identifying birds, catching and handling live birds using a variety of techniques, banding birds, and determining data about new and returning birds. This "Camp Experience" is a prerequisite for Advanced Bird Banding and meets at Various Boulder Locations.



Advanced Bird Banding

After completing the prerequisite "Camp Experience" Birds & Bird Banding and having proficiency with banding birds and removing birds from mist nets, campers are eligible for Advanced Bird Banding camp with Thorne's Founder and Master Bird Bander, Dr. Oakleigh Thorne, II. The focus will be on banding and collecting data on as many Cliff Swallows as the group can catch before the birds migrate back to South America. We plan to visit a different culvert each day so that we can safely catch and release many Cliff Swallows. Under the guidance of our Founder and an additional Thorne educator, campers will hone their skills with the mist net, ensuring safe removal and handling of birds. They will develop a greater understanding of how to determine the age and sex of birds, as well as other important characteristics. Time handling and banding birds will be maximized. This "Camp Experience" meets at Various Boulder Locations.

Trailblazers "Camp Experiences"

Ages 12-15 (cont.)

Fly Fishing

This "Camp Experience" is for all levels, including the camper who has little or no experience in fly fishing and those with many years as an angler. Campers will split into two groups based on skill level and will explore the Boulder Creek watershed and tackle the lakes, reservoirs, and streams of Boulder County. Those newer to fly fishing will learn first how to assemble, use, and care for fly fishing gear and then learn the fundamentals of fly fishing: casting, knot tying, and reading the river. Experienced anglers will spend more time on the water and will be challenged with more advanced skills like new knots, different casting techniques, and selecting the proper flies. All campers will get plenty of time to fish, but will also learn about the ecology of fly fishing, such as understanding hatches, the life cycles of insects and fish, and ethical approaches to interacting with the natural world. This "Camp Experience" is not eligible for Extended Care, is for ages 9-15, and meets at Various Boulder Locations.

Survival Skills Overnight Adventure

Want to have what it takes to survive in the wild? Campers will spend a week developing their skills to survive overnight in the wilderness. Learn how to build a fire without a match using fire-from-friction methods, blend in with surroundings and move silently through the woods using stalking and natural camouflage techniques, and build a debris hut that is comfortable and dry enough to sleep in! Campers will also explore water purification methods, edible plant identification, tracking, and natural navigation techniques. Most importantly, campers will build confidence and strengthen their awareness in nature. The week will culminate in an overnight trip to Cal-Wood Education Center in Jamestown where campers will practice the skills they have honed throughout the week and will have a chance to test their comfort in nature by playing stealth glow in the dark capture the flag. A list of suggested personal camping gear will be provided after you register for this camp. This "Camp Experience" meets at Chautauqua and Cal-Wood.



Trailblazers "Camp Experiences"

Ages 12-15 (cont.)

Wilderness Creations – NEW!

Nature is the inspiration for campers' creations this week as they develop their skills in fine arts and primitive tool building, and also learn how to utilize natural materials in creative projects. Campers will paint with natural dyes, sculpt in mud and clay, learn how to make primitive tools and accessories, and more! They will learn from native cultures of this region, tune in to nature's amazing patterns, and study nature artists to inspire masterpieces. Wilderness Creations is for campers who love to work with their hands, create, and share their nature experiences in inventive ways! This "Camp Experience" is for ages 9-15. This "Camp Experience" meets at Boulder High School.

Extended Care

Ages 5-11

Thorne's flexible, low-cost, week-long 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 3:15-5:30 PM, 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 portion of the day at their morning "Camp Experience," then continue their explorations in the afternoon Extended Care program. Extended Care offers camper-driven outdoor investigations as well as respite from the elements indoors. Extended Care campers explore nature, play games, tell stories, and make nature crafts, all under the guidance of an experienced Thorne instructor. Please note, snack is not provided by Thorne and families should plan to send an extra snack for Extended Care.

Extended Care takes place at Thorne's Sombrero Marsh Environmental Education Center. Campers are transported by a BVSD school bus each day following their morning "Camp Experience."

