



2020 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 will learn important safety techniques to become both comfortable and confident as they go on wild adventures through the woods!

Nature Creations - NEW!

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 your camper's creative seedlings into a forest of new ideas!



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.

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 an 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!



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

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!

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, week-long Extended Care option at Ryan Elementary 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 2:30-5:30 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 Ryan Elementary in Lafayette at 1405 Centaur Village Drive. Extended Care campers return to Ryan each day following their morning "Camp Experience."

