



2020 Littleton 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.

Explorers and Wanderers

"Camp Experiences" - Ages 5-8

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!



The Ultimate Thorne Experience – Wanderers – NEW!

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!

Wanderers "Camp Experiences"

Ages 6-8

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.



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, 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.

In Littleton, because of the diversity of the natural areas within the Bob Taylor Ecological Area and Waterton Canyon, all campers meet daily at the Kassler Center and travel by trail to the sites best suited for their skill-based camp. For parents needing full-day care for their child for their child, Extended Care is available for select Pathfinders camps, until 5:30pm.

Bike the Platte

There are some adventures that you can only have on two wheels! We'll use our bikes to cover more ground as we ride the trails in and around Waterton Canyon, the Highline Canal, and Chatfield State Park. We will learn to identify plants and animals that we see along the way and take time to get our feet wet in the riparian ecosystems that abound in the area! For the purpose of safety and specialized instruction, this "Camp Experience" has a camper-instructor ratio of 6:1.



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 Waterton Canyon watershed and tackle the waters around the Kassler Center. 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, while 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 for campers ages 9-15.



Pathfinders "Camp Experiences"

Ages 9-11 (cont.)

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!



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 campers ages 9-15.

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 survival skills, 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.

In Littleton, because of the diversity of the natural areas with the Bob Taylor Ecological Area and Waterton Canyon, all campers meet daily at the Kassler Center and travel by trail to the sites best suited for their skill-based camp.

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 Waterton Canyon watershed and tackle the waters around the Kassler Center. 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, while 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 for campers ages 9-15.



River Ecology by Bike

Harness some pedal power to experience more of the South Platte River and its tributaries! Campers will bike to exciting destinations to explore, discover, and identify aquatic critters and their habitats. Through fun activities, games, and teambuilding challenges they'll learn about the life the river brings to this region. This "Camp Experience" will ride an average of 15-20 miles per day to get from place to place along the South Platte. For the purpose of safety and specialized instruction, this "Camp Experience" has a camper-instructor ratio of 6:1.

Trailblazers "Camp Experiences"

Ages 12-15 (cont.)

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 campers ages 9-15.



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 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 the Kassler Center.