



Lafayette Summer Camps

Locations: S. Public Road Trailhead and Coal Creek

Fact Sheet

Time: 8:30AM - 2:30PM for a 2-week session

S. Public Road Trailhead– Eco-Explorers

Pickup & Drop-off Location*

Monday: 8:30 am- Drop Off at [S. Public Road Trailhead](#)

110 Old Laramie Trail, Lafayette, CO 80026

Monday: 2:30 pm- Pick Up at Arts HUB

420 Courtney Way, Lafayette, CO 80026

Tuesday - Friday: Drop off and Pick up at [Arts HUB](#)

Times

8:30am-2:30pm, 2-week session

Morning Drop-Off: 8:30am

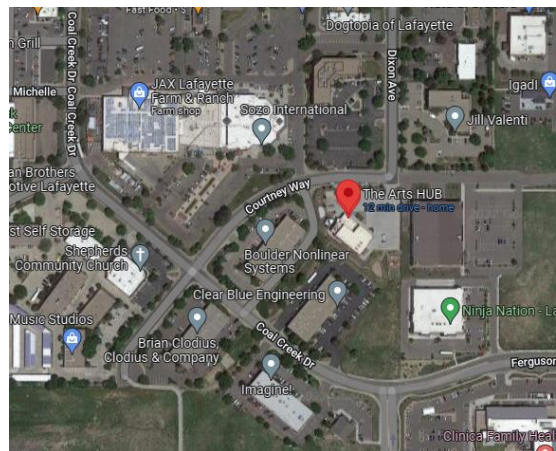
Pick-up Time: 2:30pm



S. Public Trailhead Road

Pick up for S. Public Rd. Eco-Explorers*

Campers will get picked up from the Arts HUB every day. They will get dropped off at the Trailhead on the first Monday, but the Arts Hub all other days.



Arts HUB

Coal Creek – Wanderers, Pathfinders, and Wild Skills & Creations

Pickup & Drop-off Location

[Ryan Elementary](#)

1405 Centaur Village Drive, Lafayette, CO 80026

Times

8:30am-2:30pm, 2-week session

Morning Drop-Off Time: 8:30am

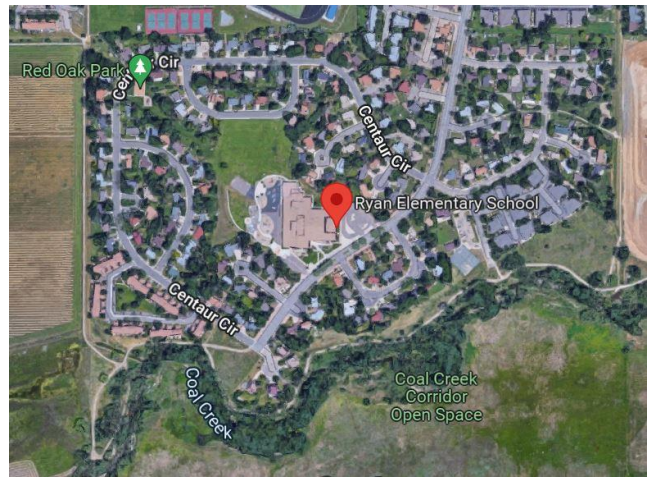
Pickup Time: 2:30pm

Extended Care Coal Creek

Campers that are enrolled in Extended Care will go to

[Ryan Elementary](#)

Pickup Time: From 2:30pm to 5:30pm



Ryan Elementary School

Camp Descriptions

Eco-Explorers (ages 5-6)

This Camp Experience is the perfect introduction to Thorne camps 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!

Eco-Explorers will connect with nature through daily activities like games, songs, storytelling, art creations, and most importantly nature exploration. Each session's themes and projects will be driven by student interest, and supported by skilled instructors, so kids can return for multiple sessions and learn new things each time!

A 10:1 maximum camper-to-instructor ratio will ensure your child receives all the attention and care they need, as they get used to attending camp and learning and playing in nature.

What are some of the things we will do in camp?

- Explore and have fun nature-based adventures.
- Search for critters on land and in the water
- Experience activities that investigate local flora and fauna
- Play nature-inspired games, sing songs, tell stories, create art, and much more!

Wanderers (ages 6-8)

What is the best thing about being a kid in the summer? Getting outside in nature with friends! At Thorne, we believe every child should have a summer adventure. Whether this is building a fort, splashing in a creek, looking for wild critters, or lying in the shade of a giant tree and watching the clouds float by, these moments are priceless.

In Wanderers, our instructors will guide your child in outdoor exploration and provide mentorship in all that is wild in Colorado! The real magic happens as instructors guide campers into activities that integrate their expertise with your child's emerging passions. Tapping into the spirit of play while exploring a variety of wilderness settings, campers will go on epic adventures. Looking for 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. Campers will board a school bus to travel to a nearby nature area for four days a session. On the remaining days, campers will travel on foot to areas in the Coal Creek corridor.

Because there is always more to discover in nature, and because children's passions continue to grow and develop, this "Camp Experience" can be enjoyed again and again. Each adventure will be a healthy dose of summer fun!

What are some of the things we will do in camp?

- Explore children's passions, creative play, and have fun adventures in nature.
- Search for critters on land and in the water
- Investigate the local flora and fauna.
- Play nature-inspired games and create nature-inspired art.
- Tell stories.
- Practice survival skills
- Build, create, and much more!

Pathfinders (ages 9-11)

Description

Let's get outside with our friends and explore! With over 60 years of expertise leading nature programs, The Pathfinders experience combines all the things that youth love to do most in nature into one camp!

The Ultimate Thorne Experience focuses on exploration in the wilderness of Boulder County and folds in adventure, skill-building, teamwork, and leadership. Through these experiences outside, kids will build a lifelong foundation of nature connection and self-confidence. Middle childhood provides the opportunity to go deeper with learning, build lasting friendships, and tap into kids' universal love of play. Campers will board a school bus to travel to a nearby nature area for four days a session. On the remaining days, campers will travel on foot to the nearby areas in the Coal Creek corridor.

Daily themes such as nature investigation, team challenges, and crafting 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 campers' discoveries and emerging interests. Because there is always more to discover in nature, this is a Camp Experience to enjoy again and again. Each adventure will be a healthy dose of summer fun! Explore children's passions, creative play, and have fun adventures in nature.

What are some of the things we will do in camp?

- Explore the wilderness with fun nature-based adventures and challenges.
- Track critters on land and in the water
- Investigate and learn about the local flora and fauna.
- Play nature-inspired games, practice team building, make art, and tell stories.
- Practice survival and scouting skills.
- Build, create, and much more!

Wild Skills & Creations (ages 9-11)

Description

Thorne's Wild Skills & Creations camp takes love of outdoor adventures to the next level! Campers will take on the wild as they practice essential survival skills, learn to live primitively, and use nature as an inspiration for creative projects. 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. Wild Skills & Creations is for campers who love to work with their hands, create, and share their nature experiences in inventive ways. Because there is always more to discover in nature and skills to hone, this is a Camp Experience to enjoy again and again. Each adventure will be a healthy dose of summer fun!

Campers will board a school bus to travel to a nearby nature area for four days a session. On the remaining days, campers will travel on foot to the nearby open spaces along the Coal Creek corridor. Metal hand tools such as knives and rasps will be used occasionally while under constant supervision.

What are some of the things we will do in camp?

- Primitive fire and tool building
- Build debris shelters.
- Try wilderness cooking and water filtration.

- Track critters on land and in the water
- Identify plants and local wildlife.
- Create projects with natural materials.
- Learn wilderness navigation and much more!

Packing List

Campers will carry their backpacks with required gear throughout the day and will take backpacks off whenever possible. Please label gear and clothing with the camper's first and last name. As campers explore, clothing and shoes may get dirty and wet – all part of summer outdoor fun!

The following list is required to bring to camp daily for all Thorne campers:

___ **Backpack:** Sized to fit your child that can hold all personal belongings listed below.

___ **Clothing for any weather** (check daily weather forecast, weather can change suddenly): May include a warm layer (sweatshirt or fleece) and/or raingear. Campers will be outdoors except in extreme weather.

___ **Shoes:** Sturdy and comfortable for exploring on land and in water (for safety reasons no flip-flops or Crocs, please). If you don't have shoes that are good for hiking and water, pack water shoes in a plastic bag.

___ **Hat**

___ **2 Full bottles of water** (20 oz size or larger)

___ **Lunch**

___ **Snacks** (for example, pretzels, trail mix, fruit)

___ **Sunscreen** - pre-applied and labeled with your child's name; spray recommended for no-contact re-application.

___ **Insect repellent** - pre-applied if desired and labeled with your child's name; spray recommended for no-contact re-application.

___ **Optional items:** sunglasses, net, compass, binoculars, additional art supplies

___ **Face Covering/Mask**

___ **Do NOT Bring:** Electronics, games, toys, knives, or money.

Required Forms

Please login to your [CampInTouch](#) account to fill out any forms that may be required at least 2 weeks prior to camp. Required forms include:

___ **Medical History & Emergency Contact Form**

___ **Immunization Record** or Immunization Exemption

___ **Parent Authorization Form**

___ **Indemnity & Release Waiver**

___ **Health Policy Acknowledgement**

REQUIRED MEDICATION FORMS*

*Medication Action Plans are ONLY required if camper will be bringing medication to camp

___ **Allergy Action Plan** (ONLY needs to be completed if camper will be bringing antihistamines or EpiPen/Auvi-Q)

___ **Asthma Action Plan** (ONLY needs to be completed if camper will be bringing inhaler)

___ **Medication Action Plan** (ONLY needs to be completed if camper will be bringing medication **other than** inhaler, EpiPen, or Auvi-Q such as Sudafed, Ritalin, or Tylenol)

Seesaw:

Your Thorne instructor will use Seesaw for regular communication. This platform is easy to use, free, and allows the instructors to send photos, videos, and note updates to parents. It also is the best way for parents to reach their child's instructor with any information or questions, via the messaging section, which can be used like text messaging.

You will receive an email or QR code on the first morning of camp from your child's instructor that has a link to download the app and be added to your child's class.

If you do not have a smart phone, please contact the Summer Camp Manager, Natalie Becker (natalie@thornenature.org) to discuss alternative options for communication.

Parent Handbook

[Download the Parent Handbook](#) online for Policies & Procedures.

Cancellations, Transfers, and Refunds

Thorne understands that sometimes a family’s summer plans change, family emergencies occur, or a camper becomes sick or is injured. In these instances, Thorne offers transfers and refunds as follows:

Transfers – To make a transfer, please e-mail summercamp@thornenature.org with your child’s name, and the names and dates of the Camp Experiences you desire to transfer to and from.

- Prior to May 1, Camp Experiences can be transferred at no cost.
- After May 1 and up to 14 days prior to the Camp Experience start date Camp Experiences can be transferred for a \$50 fee.
- Within 14 days of the start of a Camp Experience, no transfers will be made. (Please refer to the cancellation policy).

There is no fee for Extended Care transfers.

All transfers are dependent on availability.

Cancellations – If you must cancel, please e-mail summercamp@thornenature.org as soon as possible. A \$50.00 nonrefundable deposit is required for each Camp Experience.

- Prior to March 1, 90% refund of the total fee.
- March 1- March 31, 80% refund of the total fee.
- April 1- April 30, 70% refund of the total fee.
- After April 30, no refunds will be offered.

There is a \$15.00 fee for Extended Care cancellations.

Last-Minute Medical Transfer/Credit - In the event of illness or injury prior to the start of a “Camp Experience,” please e-mail summercamp@thornenature.org as soon as possible. Thorne will transfer the camper to another available “Camp Experience” or issue a credit good for up to 1 year for a future “Camp Experience” for the same camper. A doctor’s note stating the camper’s inability to participate will be required. Requests for a medical cancellation will not be granted after a “Camp Experience” has ended.

Typical Camp Day Schedule

Below is a sample schedule of a typical day at Thorne Summer Camp. Please note that the schedule is subject to change based on campers’ needs or wishes. Bathroom breaks occur frequently throughout the day.

8:30am-9:00am	Arrival and welcome games or projects
9:00am-12:00pm	Hike or bus trip to days site. Followed by snack and activities that may include camp-specific curriculum, leadership & teambuilding activities, and wild nature play
12:00pm-12:30pm	Lunch and downtime
12:30pm-1:30pm	Activities that may include camp-specific curriculum, leadership & teambuilding activities, and wild nature play
1:30pm-2:00pm	Hike back or travel by bus back to pick-up site (same as drop off site)
2:00pm-2:30pm	Closing circle, story of the day and pick up (2:30 pm)

Thorne's Behavior Expectation Statement:

Our camp philosophy is to provide a joyful, safe space (physically, socially, and emotionally) to explore in and learn about nature. We believe Thorne is a community where children can both connect to nature and develop life skills, like making good decisions and being responsible for actions. We practice Social Emotional Learning, inclusiveness, respect for others, and bully prevention, with the knowledge that the well-being and safety of children is fundamental enjoyment of camp and nature connection.

Anti-Bullying Statement:

Bullying is considered unacceptable at Thorne Nature Experience. Bullying is defined by The American Camp Association as “when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another.” Bullying can occur “overtly and directly, with physical behaviors, such as fighting, hitting, or name calling, or covertly through emotional-social interactions, such as gossiping or leaving someone out on purpose.” Thorne determines consequences for bullying on a case-by-case basis. Depending on the severity and consistency of the behavior, parents may be asked to immediately come and pick up their children for the day. Thorne reserves the right to suspend a child for one day up to permanent termination as they feel is necessary to maintain the integrity of the camp experience for all campers and staff. In this case, no refund will be issued.

Message from the Summer Camp Manager

Dear Summer Camp Families,

Thank you for choosing Thorne Nature Experience for your children. Summer camp is a quintessential childhood experience uniquely equipped to help children learn about themselves, their relationship with others and their place in the natural world to which we all belong. Our instructors and management work to provide a summer camp experience that is engaging, exciting and safe. Each day will be different and enhanced by the wild. We hope that exciting stories of adventure and connection make it home to you each night and that these stories become lifetime memories for your children and family.

Yours in Nature,

Natalie Becker

Thorne Summer Camp Manager 2023

Connect

Follow Thorne Nature Experience on social media!



Questions?

Visit <http://thornenature.org/summer-camp/faq/> to view Frequently Asked Questions or contact summercamp@thornenature.org or 303-499-3647.