



**Quarry Hill
Nature Center
Summer Youth
Programs
2023**





Bellbottoms may have gone out of fashion, but the importance getting kids outdoors hasn't!



Rochester Public Summer School students; West Entrance to newly formed Quarry Hill Park. circa 1968

Scholarships Available

Families who qualify for the free/reduced school lunch program are eligible for a scholarship.

Scholarships are available for Rock Hunt and Summer Nature Camp. Please contact Quarry Hill Nature Center with questions (507) 328-3950 or apply at the link below.

[Apply here.](#)



FROM THE DIRECTOR

School is out, summer is in session!

Before the Nature Center was built, before the pond was dug, before the full acreage of the park was stitched together to form the 329 wild acres it is today – there was 212 acres rich in natural resources that would set the stage for the creation of a community resource that is now Quarry Hill.

Summer is where it all started for Quarry Hill Nature Center. In the late 1960's, our first summer “campers” were area summer school students, who attended class at the park with their biology teacher to explore science and nature in one of the best classrooms of all times – the great outdoors.

Tens of thousands of campers have spent their summers hitting the trails in Quarry Hill park and we look forward to welcoming your camper this summer for science, smiles and stories.

Please join us prior to the camp season on May 20 for our [50th Anniversary Community Celebration](#) of the dedication of the Nature Center to the community and the kids of Rochester.



Pamela Meyer
Executive Director.

Summer Staff:

The Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center summer team includes our permanent staff and seasonal staff with education, science, and environmental education backgrounds. Enthusiasm and experience with children and knowledge of the natural world shine through in their interactions with campers and creative adventures.

In addition to staff, high school students join our team as camp leader assistants. High school assistants are students that have committed to complete a .5 credit independent study course requiring 60 hours assisting camp leaders.



Calling all Rock Hounds for a **ROCK HUNT ADVENTURE!**

AN ACTIVE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE FOR
ADVENTURERS AGES 4 TO 7 WITH AN ADULT

Rock your way up to the quarry with a Quarry Hill naturalist! We're calling all budding geologists, ages 4 -7, and their adult sidekick, for a rockin' good time. On this 90 minute adventure, naturalists will guide you in basic rock classification, cool rock experiments, a finders keepers fossil hunt and much more.

The adventure continues at home with your new Rock Hunt book. This book includes a real magnifying glass, stickers, and a log for recording rock finds. It's the perfect explorer guide for budding geologists, whether in a backyard, a city park, or a nature preserve.

Each adventurer will go home with their very own Quarry Hill rock hunt tote which includes a copy of the interactive book "Backpack Explorer: Rock Hunt", a fossil brush and ID sheet, a gemstone excavation kit, a rock treasure bag (for your cool rock finds) and a sweet rock candy treat.

This is an active outdoor experience where all activities are geared toward the abilities and interests of children 4-7 years in age. In order to provide the best experience for all participants, only children registered for the class may attend. Siblings and other children will not be allowed to accompany.



[Register here.](#)



Scholarships Available!

Families who qualify for free and reduced lunch can request a scholarship. Scholarships cover 50% of fees. Call 507-328-3950 for questions or apply at the link. .

[Apply here.](#)

Choose From:

June 29 or August 3

Start times vary. Times are listed at the online registration page.

Rain date is Friday of the same week.

Cost: \$40, \$35/members

(includes one-time 90 minute experience plus Rock Hunt tote)

Location: Class meets at the west entrance to Quarry Hill Park at 2100 9th St. NE.

Registration:

Quarry Hill member priority March 7-15

Open enrollment begins March 16

Refunds/Cancellations:

Rock Hunt Adventure is a non-refundable program. Session changes will be allowed if space is available.

Quarry Hill Summer Nature Camp is an adventure filled week of natural science exploration that fosters discovery, ignites learning, and inspires action.

Paddle across the pond, scale the rock wall, dig deep into geology, and recharge in the outdoors alongside experienced group leaders in 329 acres of forest, prairie, and stream habitats.



SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMP REGISTRATION INFORMATION

How to Register:

Registration is accepted online only. Camp registration is not accepted by phone or mail. If you require assistance with online registration, please call 507-328-3950 Mon - Fri from 9 am - 4 pm. Camps require full payment at the time of registration. A one-time fee of \$2.50 per camper will be added to the total camp fee. Scholarships are available for camp, see details below.

When to Register:

Member Priority Registration: March 7-15

Open Enrollment begins March 16.

All campers registered before May 20 are guaranteed a camp t-shirt and will receive it on the first day of camp. Campers registered after May 20 will receive t-shirts while supplies last.

[Register here.](#)

Wait List:

You can add your camper to a wait list at no charge. Campers on a wait list will be contacted in the order their registrations were received with registration instructions. Please provide an email address you frequently check so you can be reached if an opening becomes available. Campers are encouraged to register for wait lists in any sessions they are able to attend.

Scholarships:

Friends of Quarry Hill Nature Center is committed to serving campers from all economic backgrounds. Scholarships are available for camp. Scholarship terms: Families who qualify for the free/reduced school lunch program are eligible. A non-refundable fee of \$20 is required to attend any camp with a regular fee of \$110 or less (or ½ of the listed fee for camps over \$110).

Limit one scholarship per camper/per summer.

[Apply here.](#)

Cancellations:

A full refund (less a \$20 fee per camp cancellation) will be given for registered campers if a replacement is available from a wait list and Quarry Hill is notified at least 10 business days prior to the start date of the registered camp session.

Without a replacement, a 75% refund will be given if the Nature Center is notified by May 5. Campers withdrawing before the start of camp due to a medical emergency are encouraged to re-schedule in a session with availability. If unable to reschedule, camp fees (less a \$20 processing fee/per camp) will be refunded.

Camp registrations are non-transferrable.

Session Changes:

Campers requesting a session change must call the Nature Center Office. Requests made after May 5 will incur a \$10 fee per change/per camper. Session change requests will only be considered if Quarry Hill is notified at least 10 business days prior to the start date of the registered camp session.

SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMPS

AM SESSIONS: 9-11:30 AM PM SESSIONS: 12:30 - 3:00PM



ENTERING KINDERGARTEN

YOUNG NATURALIST

CAMP FEE: \$105/\$95 MEMBERS

Find out what awaits us on the nature trail during this camp for aspiring young naturalists! With science tools in hand, campers will observe, explore, play and create as they navigate the pages of the nature guide: *Backpack Explorer, On the Nature Trail*. Campers will search high and low for the plants and animals that call Quarry Hill Park home, encountering the sights, sounds and wonders of the natural world. From beginning to end, our time on the trail will be full of fun-naturally! Each camper will receive a copy of *Backpack Explorer, On the Nature Trail*.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 19-23	YN3	YN4
June 26-30	YN5	YN6
July 10-14	YN7	YN8
July 17-21	YN9	YN10
July 24-28	YN11	Not Offered



ENTERING GRADES 1&2

SENSES & DEFENSES

CAMP FEE: \$100/\$90 MEMBERS

Can you escape a spider's web, outfox a fox, and blindly find a cricket in a dark cave? Find out as we put our senses and defenses to nature's test. This camp is sure to be a wild time as we use all our senses to explore the tricks animals use to survive in the wild. Excellent eyesight, creative camouflage, tongues that smell and stinky sprays are some of the animal adaptations we'll explore. Each day will be a new adventure filled with plenty of time outdoors exploring and playing nature games that bring the senses into sharper focus.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 12-16	SD1	SD2
June 19-23	SD3	SD4
June 26-30	SD5	SD6
July 10-14	SD7	SD8
July 17-21	SD9	SD10



ENTERING GRADES 1&2

POLLINATION POWER

CAMP FEE: \$100/\$90 MEMBERS

We are abuzz with the awesome abilities (and responsibilities) of pollinators from honeybees to hummingbirds and butterflies to moths. Enjoy a daily hike to pollinator habitats to learn what makes them experts in their fields! Join fellow nature nuts in games that explore how pollinators do their greatest work, focus on an up close look at the microscopic and colorful world of pollen, make your own wildflower seed bomb, and visit the outdoor observation hive to see honeybees at work. Cap off the week with a pollination celebration, when together we will pledge to explore, conserve, and protect our pollinator habitats.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
July 24-28	PW11	PW12
July 31-Aug 4	PW13	PW14
August 7-11	PW15	PW16

SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMPS

AM SESSIONS: 9-11:30 AM PM SESSIONS: 12:30 - 3:00PM

ENTERING GRADES 3&4

CATCHING CRITTERS

CAMP FEE: \$100/\$90 MEMBERS

Dung beetles, monarchs, stink bugs, damselflies, wolf spiders—there are so many critters to catch and get to know! This week is filled with a variety of outdoor activities & hands-on discoveries in the world of creepy crawly invertebrates. Plus, campers will canoe, fish, hike and explore the cave.



Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 12-16	CC1	CC2
June 19-23	CC3	CC4
June 26-30	CC5	CC6
July 10-14	CC7	CC8
July 17-21	CC9	CC10
July 24-28	CC11	CC12
July 31-Aug 4	CC13	CC14
August 7-11	CC15	CC16



ENTERING GRADES 3&4

ARCHAEOLOGY ADVENTURES

CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Enjoy solving mysteries? Become one of our digging detectives and uncover clues to Quarry Hill's historical past. After exploring the ruins in the Quarry and around the Park, campers will map out the land and decide where to excavate. Campers will get plenty of outdoor time with a Quarry Hill naturalist observing how nature reclaims and changes while learning to gather, examine and process artifacts.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
July 17-21	AA9	AA10
July 24-28	AA11	AA12
July 31-Aug 4	AA13	AA14
Aug 7-11	AA15	AA16

SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMPS

AM SESSIONS: 9-11:30 AM PM SESSIONS: 12:30 - 3:00PM

ENTERING GRADES 5&6

NATURE ART

CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Have you ever used pine needles for a paintbrush or sand for paint? Be wildly creative when you let nature be your canvas! During this camp we will explore nature through art. Projects include making and using natural paintbrushes, crafting your very own walking stick, tree bark clay sculptures, sand art, and more. Join in to let your imagination run wild.



Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 19-23	Not Offered	NA4
June 26-30	NA5	Not Offered
July 10-14	Not Offered	NA8



ENTERING GRADES 5&6

NATURE BIKER

CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Exercise, fresh air, adventure! Ride on city bike trails to explore the plants, animal life and health of our local waterways and natural areas. Campers must provide a bike, helmet, and water bottle. Campers will bike between 5-10 miles daily and should be able to sustain a biking speed of 1 mile in 8 minutes. Minimum wheel size for bikes is 20" and while gears are not required, they are helpful in maintaining the speeds and distances of this active camp.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 12-16	NB1	Not offered
June 26-30	Not offered	NB6
July 10-14	NB7	Not offered
July 17-21	NB9	NB 10
July 24-28	NB11	NB12
July 31-Aug 4	Not offered	NB14
Aug 7-11	NB15	Not offered

ENTERING GRADES 5&6



HANGING WITH THE BIRDS

CAMP FEE: \$100/\$90 MEMBERS

Woodpeckers, warblers, finches, hawks....this camp is for the birds! Campers will work with a Quarry Hill naturalist learning how to safely capture, band and release wild birds. The data gathered from these birds is submitted to the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory which directly helps with conservation. Campers will study cool bird adaptations, gain basic ID skills and test their "bird brains" throughout the week with games and activities while also going rock climbing, canoeing, and fishing.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 12-16	HB1	HB2
June 19-23	HB3	HB4
June 26-30	HB5	HB6
July 10-14	HB7	HB8
July 17-21	HB9	HB10
July 24-28	HB11	HB12
July 31-Aug 4	HB13	HB14
August 7-11	HB15	HB16



ENTERING GRADES 5&6

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

With camera in hand, venture to a unique location in the park each day! Campers will see nature through an all new lens when they photograph snakes, turtles, butterflies, flowers, moss and fungus. They will also experiment with light during a slow shutter speed 'flashlight painting' session in the cave. Campers learn the basic elements of photography and photo editing using digital cameras and laptops provided by Quarry Hill. Campers are provided with a 4G USB flash drive for photo storage.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 12-16	Not offered	NP2
June 19-23	NP3	Not offered
June 26-30	NP5	NP6
July 10-14	Not offered	Not offered
July 17-21	NP9	Not offered
July 24-28	Not offered	NP12
July 31-Aug 4	NP13	Not offered
August 7-11	NP15	Not offered

SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMPS

AM SESSIONS: 9-11:30 AM PM SESSIONS: 12:30 - 3:00PM

ENTERING GRADES 7-9

TEEN NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Digging deeper into photography composition techniques, campers will hike to little known reaches of the park for unique photo opportunities. Each day of camp poses a new photographic challenge with opportunity for collaborative editing and review. Digital cameras, computers, and editing software is provided by Quarry Hill. Each camper will receive a 4GB USB drive for photo storage.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 19-23	Not offered	TNP4
July 10 - 14	Not offered	TNP8
July 17-21	Not offered	TNP10
July 24-28	TNP11	Not offered
July 31-Aug 4	Not offered	TNP14
August 7-11	Not offered	TNP16

ENTERING GRADES 7-9

AMAZING RACE CAMP FEE: \$110/\$100 MEMBERS

On your mark, get set, GO! Campers will learn to navigate with a GPS, rock climb, kayak, starts fires and more. On Friday, campers will put their new skills to the test as they work as a team and try to finish Quarry Hill's very own amazing race course!

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
June 26-30	AR5	AR6
July 17 - 21	AR9	AR10
July 31-Aug 4	AR13	Not offered
Aug 7-11	AR15	Not offered

ENTERING GRADES 8+

KAYAK PADDLE DAY TRIP CAMP FEE: \$80/\$70 MEMBERS

Discover SE Minnesota's wild side from inside a kayak. Spend the day looking for bald eagles, turtles, great-blue herons and more as we paddle our kayaks down the river. Lunch will be at the sand bar of our choice. Campers should bring a water bottle and lunch. In case of high water, area lakes will be explored instead. Campers will travel to the kayaking launch on the Quarry Hill Critter Coach, a 23 passenger mini-bus.

Offered:	July 5 or 6 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
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ENTERING GRADES 7-9

STREAM SCENE INVESTIGATOR CAMP FEE: \$120/\$110 MEMBERS

Become a stream investigator! Be prepared to get wet as we catch and identify the various fish, crayfish, and other critters that live in area waters. We will also study the water itself to see how it effects the environment. Wade in to an adventure at our local streams & rivers. (Sandals with a strap or water shoes for this camp!) Campers will travel to local streams on the Quarry Hill Critter Coach, a 22 passenger mini-bus.

Offered:	AM Session	PM Session
July 31- Aug 4	Not offered	SSI14
August 7-11	Not offered	SSI16

ENTERING GRADES 7-9

ADVENTURE BIKER - ALL DAY CAMP! CAMP FEE: \$180/\$170 MEMBERS

Explore the "wilder" side of Rochester by bike. Water and dry land adventures include fishing, canoeing, and fire starting. Bikers must provide a bike with at least 24" wheels and 3 speeds, sack lunch, water bottle, helmet, and shoes that can be worn in water. To be up to the challenge, bikers should be able to sustain a bike speed to cover 1 mile in less than 6 minutes, and a daily distance of 10+ miles.

Offered:	9 - 3:00
June 12-16	AB1
June 19-23	AB3
July 10-14	AB7
July 24-28	AB11



QUARRY HILL SUMMER NATURE DAY CAMP FAQ'S

Can I request to be in the same group as my friend?

Yes. Both campers must request each other to ensure placement in the same camp group.

How big will my campers group size be?

Low camp to staff ratio is part of the Quarry Hill camp experience. Entering grades K-6 camp groups consist of 12 or less campers and are led by a staff member and a high school student assistant. Entering grades 7-9 camp groups are up to 16 campers and led by two staff members.

Can I register my camper for more than one camp?

Yes, if there is more than one camp offering for your age group.

Are the camps the same each week?

Yes. Camps run more than one session and have the same activities each time.

Can my camper repeat a camp?

While camp is designed for a single session, some campers enjoy repeating camp. We allow repeat camps, however we ask that there be at least 2 weeks between repeat camps.

Do you have extended day options?

No, extended day options and supervision between camp sessions is not available. Quarry Hill campers should arrive and be picked up according to camp session times.

What do I need to know before registering my special needs camper?

We are happy to make reasonable accommodations for special needs. Parents and guardians with questions regarding the ability of camp staff to meet a child's needs should contact the camp director before registering for camp.

Campers who require an aide in their school setting must be accompanied by an aide at camp. It is the responsibility of the camper's family to provide this aide. Due to group size restrictions, the Quarry Hill office needs to be made aware of any camper that will be accompanied by an aide prior to registration to ensure the group enrollment is within guidelines.

What should my camper bring to camp?

Campers should dress for the weather in comfortable clothing. Clothing and shoes may get dirty and wet. Campers should bring a water bottle each day filled with water only.

What if it rains?

If there is no threat of severe weather, we will continue outdoor activities. In the event of inclement weather that prevents outdoor activity, camps will move indoors for alternate activities.

What are your camp safety protocols?

Safety is a priority at camp. All staff have first aid training and are trained in safety protocol for all camp activities.

I have more questions, what do I do?

We are available to answer your questions! Call us at the Nature Center office M - F from 9 am - 4 pm: 507-328-3950 or email us at quarryhill@qhnc.org.



**Quarry Hill
Nature Center**



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