For-Mar Nature Day Camp

Parent & Guardian Handbook

FOR-MAR
NATURE PRESERVE AND ARBORETUM
EST. 1970

GENESEE COUNTY PARKS

GENESEE COUNTY MICHIGAN

Greetings, campers and camp families!

We are excited for a summer of fun activities together here at the Genesee County Parks' For-Mar Nature Day Camp. Camp will span eight full weeks between June and August, including weekly field trips for our Owlet, Eagle, and Adventure campers! Field trips not only give campers a change of pace and scenery, they allow us to expand awareness of our communities. We build connections by visiting other Genesee County Parks locations and some of our community partners.

For-Mar Nature Day Camps' goal is for campers to learn to respect themselves, others, and the natural world around them. For-Mar Nature Day Camp promotes positive group connections and encourages well-rounded, active participation in our local community. By increasing environmental knowledge and exploring scientific principles at camp, campers prepare to become lifelong stewards for the Earth. Time in nature offers many other benefits as well, including improved physical and mental health. Campers will naturally practice social, emotional, and practical life skills while enjoying their time at Nature Day camp, increasing their competency and leaving them with wonderful memories.

For-Mar Nature Day Camp is licensed by the state of Michigan through the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) which issues rules, guidelines, and best practices for summer day camps. We believe in open and honest communication between camp staff, campers, and families. For-Mar Nature Day Camp employs weekly newsletters to that effect, using the emails provided at time of registration. We want every parent/guardian and their camper(s) to be aware of what is happening at For-Mar Nature Day Camp.

To get the most out of your experience, **please review this handbook**. It has been created as a resource for general camp information, to help answer some frequently asked questions, and as a reference for camp themes, programming schedule, and field trips.

Our Camp Director, Emily Buccaneer, and the rest of our camp staff are thoroughly looking forward to this summer together! If you have any questions or concerns after reading through this handbook, please contact us using the information below.

See you at Camp!

Emily Buccaneer

Staff Contact Information:

Emily Buccaneer
Camp Director
ebuccaneer@gcparks.org
(810) 280-3839

ACD TBD
Assistant Camp Director
Hold for contact info
(810) 000-0000

Camp Drop-off and Pick-up Location:

DeWaters Education Center
5359 E. Potter Rd., Burton, MI 48509

Camp Philosophy

The For-Mar Nature Day Camp's goal is for campers to learn how to respect themselves, others, and the natural world around them. To create well-rounded individuals for our community, For-Mar Day Camp utilizes positive group connections to build knowledge to be a better steward for the earth. Time in nature will offer multiple opportunities to practice social, emotional, and other practical skills that will have lifelong benefits.

Camp Objectives

1. Create great experiences for every camper in our program.
2. Foster a sense of stewardship and appreciation of nature in our campers.
3. Provide a positive environment that fosters growth, learning, and fun.
4. Encourage campers to try new things and make new friends.
5. Establish a routine that becomes familiar for staff and campers but provides a new experience each day.
6. Utilize available resources in order to maximize the learning opportunities for campers. This includes, but is not limited to, staff knowledge, available materials, and equipment.
7. Build a sense of community both inside and outside of camp.
8. Stay relevant with the needs, wants, and preferences of the campers in our camp.
9. Ensure that we meet the developmental needs of the population we serve through positive relationships and providing diverse experiences for all ages.

2026 Day Camp Pricing Per Week

Owlets & Eagles – Full Day Camp	$ 200
Tadpoles – ½ Day Camp; AM **or** PM	$ 100
Counselor-in-Training (CIT) - Full Day, for ages 13-16 (week 2 only)	$ 200
Adventure Weeks – Full Day, for ages 9-14 (week 2 and week 8 only)	$ 300

2026 Day Camp Groups

Camp Groups	Ages	Start / End Time	Weeks
Tadpoles AM	5-6 years	9AM - 11:30AM	1, 3, 5, 7
Tadpoles PM	5-6 years	12:30PM - 3PM	1, 3, 5, 7
Owlets	7-9 years	9AM - 3PM	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Eagles	10-13 years	9AM - 3PM	4, 6
Counselor-in-Training (CIT)	13-16 years	9AM - 3PM	2
Adventure Week 1	9-14 years	9AM - 3PM	2
Adventure Week 2	9-14 years	9AM - 3PM	8

Waitlist

Waitlists are available, but do not guarantee enrollment.

A Day at Camp

Camp Staff creates daily activity plans based on the general outlines provided on the next page. By implementing a schedule packed with a mix of activities, counselors create a balance between routine and new adventures, all while having fun!

Daily Schedule

Daily drop-off and pick-up will be at the For-Mar Nature Preserve's - DeWaters Educational Center, located at **5360 E. Potter Rd. Burton, MI 48509.**

Tadpoles

Morning Session	Afternoon Session	
9 - 9:20 AM	12:30 - 12:50 PM	Arrival / Independent play / free time stations
9:20-9:35 AM	12:50 - 1:05 PM	Welcoming Song & Game / Preview of the day
9:35 - 10 AM	1:05 - 1:30 PM	Outdoor Exploration / Nature hike / Themed activity
10 - 10:25 AM	1:30 - 1:55 PM	Snack* / bathroom break
10:25 - 11 AM	1:55 - 2:30 PM	Themed activity / Craft time
11 - 11:30 AM	2:30 - 3 PM	Show & Tell / Review of the day / Pick-up

Owlets & Eagles

9 am - 9:30 am	Arrival / Independent play/ free time stations / team activities
9:30 am - 9:45 am	Morning Song & Game / Preview of the day
9:45 am - 10:30 am	Outdoor Exploration / Nature hike / Themed activity
10:30 am - 11 am	Snack* / bathroom break
11 am - Noon	Nature hike / Themed activity
Noon - 12:30 pm	Lunch* / bathroom break
12:30 pm - 1 pm	Calming activity
1 pm - 2:30 pm	Outdoor Exploration / Nature hike / Themed activity
2:30 pm - 3 pm	Show & Tell / Review of the day / Pick-up

*Morning snack and lunch are not provided. This is a sample schedule only and does not reflect field trip days

Field Trips

We are planning more field trips in 2026 for the Owlet and Eagle groups, as well as special guest educators to visit camp and share some of their fields of expertise. Field trips take place on Thursdays, unless otherwise noted, and we will travel by a state-licensed bus company to all of our field-trip locations.

Please note that there are some rare occasions where field trips may change unexpectedly. This can be due to weather, scheduling or facility conflicts, or other unforeseen circumstances. If this happens, we will come up with an alternate field trip or activity for that day. Field trips are not a guaranteed camp experience, and there will be no refunds issued if a trip must be cancelled.

**If a camper chooses not to participate in a field trip, they will not attend camp that day. No staff is available at the DeWaters Education Center during our outings, so no campers may stay behind.

On field trip days: **Timeliness is imperative**. Campers are required to be here by the designated drop-off time in order to leave on the bus for our trips. If a camper is going to be late and will not arrive until after the bus leaves, please call the Camp Director **immediately** to work out a plan together. Emails and in-person reminders will be given the day before a trip.

Prospective field trips for 2026 are as follows:

Date	Week	Location	Address	Phone
6-25-26	1	Saginaw Children's Zoo	1730 S Washington Ave, Saginaw, MI 48601	(248) 738-8000
6-30-26	2	Wolverine Campground	7130 N Baxter Rd, Columbiaville, MI 48421	(810) 736-7100 ext. 870
7-1-26	2	Buell Lake (fishing & kayaking)	14098 N Genesee Rd, Clio, MI 48420	(810) 280-3839
7-2-26	2	Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad	6140 Bray Road, Flint, MI 48505	(810) 736-7100
7-16-26	3	Sloan Museum of Discovery	1221 E Kearsley St, Flint, MI 48503	(810) 237-3409
7-23-26	4	5Heart Earthworm Farm (AM)	10161 S Beyer Rd, Birch Run, MI 48415	(989) 321-2804
		Frankenmuth Jaycee Spray Park (PM)	279 Park Dr, Frankenmuth, MI 48734	(989) 652-3440
7-30-26	5	Bluebell Beach and Flint River Bike Path	5500 N Bray Road, Flint, MI 48505	(810) 736-7100
8-6-26	6	The Willows Ecology Center at Chatfield	231 Lake Dr, Lapeer, MI 48446	(810) 614-7594
8-13-26	7	Applewood Estate	1400 E Kearsley St, Flint, MI 48503 (305 Walnut St, Flint parking lot)	(810) 233-3835

8-18-26	8	Wolverine Campground	7130 N Baxter Rd, Columbiaville, MI 48421	(810) 736-7100 ext. 870
8-19-26	8	Richfield County Park (kayaking) Goldenrod Disc Golf Course	6322 N Irish Rd, Davison, MI 48423 6405 Irish Rd, Davison, MI 48423	(810) 280-3839
8-20-26	8	Chatfield School – Willows Ecology Center	231 Lake Drive, Lapeer, MI 48446	(810) 667-8970

Camp Field Trips

*Field Trips are only for Owlet, Eagle, and Adventure Week groups
*With the exception of Adventure Weeks, Field Trips are typically Thursdays

Week	Camp Week	Theme	Groups at Camp	Field Trip Locations
1	6/22-6-26	Animal Olympics	Owlets	Saginaw Children's Zoo
2	6/29-7/3	Adventure Week 1: Trailblazing Teamwork	Adventure Group (ages 9-14) & CIT Group (ages 13-16)	• Wolverine Campground • Buell Lake (fishing & kayaking) • Crossroads Village
3	7/13-7/17	Nature Builders: Artists and Engineers	Owlets	Sloan Museum of Discovery
4	7/20-7/24	Backyard Biologists	Owlets & Eagles	5Heart Earthworm Farm & Frankenmuth Jaycee Spray Park
5	7/27-7/31	Bugs, Bees, and Muddy Knees	Owlets	Bluebell Beach & Splashpad (bicycle fleet)
6	8/3-8/7	Wilderness Survival: Exploring the 5 Cs	Owlets & Eagles	Chatfield Schools - the Willows Ecology Center
7	8/10-8/14	Wild Wings	Owlets	Applewood Estate
8	8/17-8/21	Adventure Week 2: Outdoor Skill Building - Bushcraft Basics	Campers ages 9-14 ONLY	• Richfield County Park (kayak/geocache) • Wolverine Campground • Willows Ecology Center

GENERAL CAMP INFORMATION

Communication Guidelines:

- Communication to parents/guardians will take place by email, phone, or by written form notes placed at the check-out table during pick-up.
- If an incident justifying immediate contact with a guardian occurs at camp (e.g. injury, camper conduct concern), we will call the parent/guardian phone number(s) that were provided with the camper application during registration.
- If a minor incident occurs at camp, parents/guardians will be informed at the end of the day, in person, during camper pick-up.

What to Bring to Camp:

- Backpack
- Reusable water bottle
- Sack Lunch (full-day campers only; NO FRIDGE OR MICROWAVE available, please plan accordingly)
- Snacks x 2
- Sun hat / baseball hat
- Properly fitting, closed-toe shoes
- Spare clothes (extra set of socks, pants, underwear, and t-shirt)
- Raincoat or poncho
- Water shoes and/or mud boots
- Spray Sunscreen and/or Bug spray (optional)
- Hand sanitizer (campers will have access to handwashing stations and camp hand sanitizer)
- **Dress to be outside, rain or shine!**

Please Avoid Bringing to Camp:

- Flip-flops
- Dress-up clothes/costumes
- Clothing that needs to stay "'clean"
- Sentimental items that could get lost
- Electronics and/or valuable items (game devices, tablets, cell phones, etc.)
- Any valuables, including cell phones (staff will have phones on their person if needed)
- If phones must be brought to camp, they must be stored in a sealed bag in the camper's backpack.
- Toys from home
- Weapons, including pocketknives and/or multi-tools
- Drugs, vapes, and/or alcohol

PLEASE LABEL ALL GEAR. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST, STOLEN, DAMAGED ITEMS.

*Left behind items will be placed in the lost and found. **Check this at the end of each day/week.**

Spray Sunscreen, Bug Spray, & Ticks

- We will refer to the health forms submitted for each camper when it comes to the use of bug spray and sunscreen.
- We will remind campers to apply sunscreen and bug spray, and when to reapply if needed.
- We will have extra spray sunscreen and bug spray on hand for all campers per their forms.
- We will use our standard brand of spray sunscreen and insect repellent unless otherwise marked on the camper's health form.
- If you choose to send your preferred brand of bug spray and/or spray sunscreen in your camper's backpack, please label it with the camper's name.
- Camp Staff will not apply topical sunscreen as a lotion or cream. If campers bring in that form of sunscreen, they must self-apply.
- We understand that ticks are a concern. Parents/guardians are responsible for doing a full tick check of campers at the end of each day.

Food, Snacks & Drinking Water:

- **Food:** Please make sure your child has two packed snacks for every day of camp! Your child's snack should be something that they can open and serve themselves. Please have their food in a labeled bag or container. **Campers are not allowed to share food while at For-Mar Nature Day Camp.**
- **Drinking Water:** Drinking LOTS of water is one of the most important ways to stay healthy and happy while outside! All children must come to all programs with a full, refillable water bottle labeled with their name. We will always carry plenty of extra drinking water with us and will take regular water breaks to keep campers hydrated.
- In the event your child forgets their **lunch**, we will contact the parent/guardian first to bring it. If there is no response, we will reach out to other emergency contacts provided. **We are only able to provide small snacks - no full lunch options are available through Day Camp.** Please remember to bring a daily lunch.

Allergies:

The required health forms to be completed prior to attending camp notify us of any allergies. The sooner we know that there are allergies, the better we can accommodate. Any health changes or new allergies should be divulged to the Camp Director as soon as possible.

CAMP POLICIES

Ratio:

We believe that a low ratio is key to creating a safe, meaningful, and high-quality experience for our campers. Our ratio must never be less than 1 staff member for every 10 campers. For-Mar Nature Day Camp will group campers by age to offer the best experience with age-appropriate activities.

Handwashing:

All campers and staff will wash their hands with soap and water before eating, after using the bathroom, after sneezing or blowing their nose, after touching insects/animals, and before/after using shared materials. When our handwashing supplies are unavailable, we will offer an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Toileting:

All campers must be able to use the toilet independently prior to starting camp. Using the toilet independently is defined as 1) the camper asks to go to the bathroom when needed, 2) camper is able to wipe themselves, 3) pull up their own pants, 4) flush, and 5) wash their hands. We understand that occasionally, even "fully potty-trained" children may have an accident. Please make sure your child has extra clothes packed; we recommend having 2 sets on hand in the event of an accident.

Attendance:

Consistent attendance is strongly encouraged. Many parents/guardians look forward to their camper(s) attending this camp and are often waitlisted due to the demand of applicants. Please prioritize your camper's attendance. If your child will be absent from camp for any reason, please notify the Camp Director.
*No refund will be issued for program absences.

Weather:

For-Mar Nature Day Camp will be held primarily outdoors. We are outside every day, rain or shine. Under severe or emergency weather conditions we will utilize the DeWaters Building or the Main For-Mar Visitors Center building, and we will notify parents/guardians if there must be a change in pick-up/drop-off location.

Parks and Public Spaces:

- Our programs take place on For-Mar Nature Preserve's grounds, which are open to the public. The reserve is quiet and safe, but we cannot guarantee that we will never come across another person while at camp. It is our policy to always keep our group together, and to keep our group away from other groups/individuals using the park as much as possible.

- If someone approaches our group, one of our staff members will take that person aside and explain that we are a private group. If there is ever a concern about an individual's behavior and the safety of our group, staff members will adhere to Risk Management Policies of Nature Day Camp.

- For-Mar Nature Day Camp will adhere to state licensing rules and regulations, operating as a closed campus to parents/guardians, and the general public. Only registered participants may attend camp.

- Unfortunately, Parents/Guardians are not allowed to stay at camp. Staff are subject to background checks, clearances, and training hour requirements to legally adhere to our licensing requirements. Once campers have been signed-in to For-Mar Nature Day Camp, they will remain under our supervision until a parent, guardian, or approved emergency contact adult signs the camper out at the end of the day with valid identification.

Arrival and Departure Policies & Release Authorization Plan

Arrival and Departure Policies

- The drop-off and pick-up location will be**:**
  DeWaters Educational Center 5360 E. Potter Rd., Burton, MI 48509
- Campers are supervised at all times, including during arrival and departure.

  Tadpoles AM Session: Drop-Off @ 9AM and Pick-Up @ 11:30AM
  Tadpoles PM Session: Drop-Off @ 12:30PM and Pick-Up @ 3PM
  Owlets, Eagles, & Adventure: Drop-Off @ 9AM and Pick-Up @ 3PM
- If you must drop-off or pick-up outside of the above times, please contact the Camp Director to discuss possible arrangements.

Drop-off & Check-In Procedures

- Drop-off begins **no earlier than 8:45AM** for Owlets, Eagles, & morning Tadpoles
- Drop-off begins **no earlier than 12:15PM** for **afternoon Tadpoles**
- Parents/Guardians will walk up with campers to the check-in table outside the building, where they will be greeted by a Staff Member.
- Barring special circumstances, drop-offs will occur outside.
- Parents/Guardians **must** sign their camper(s) in at the check-in table before children are allowed to be left at camp.
- A visual and verbal camper health screen will be conducted upon arrival each day. Parents should screen children at home before arriving at camp. Children with a fever or other viral symptoms should stay home.

What if my child will be running late to For-Mar Nature Day Camp?

- Staff will have a check-in station set up from 8:45AM to 9:15AM.
- If a registered camper has not been signed in by 9:15AM, a phone call will be made to that parent/guardian.
- If unable to reach the camper's parent/guardian, staff will assume that camper will not be attending for the day.
- If you know your camper will not be attending camp on a particular day, please notify Camp Director Emily Buccaneer at (810) 280-3839 or ebuccaneer@gcparks.org.

Pick-Up & Check-Out Procedures

- A staff member will greet Parents/Guardians as they walk up at the check-out table outside the building. Parents/Guardians will sign their camper(s) out, using state-issued ID as verification.
- Barring special circumstances, all pick-ups will be outside. Campers are not allowed to be picked-up or leave without Parents/Guardians signing the camper(s) out at the check-out table.
- Parents/Guardians are required to check out their camper(s) with a staff member and should be prepared to **show their state-issued ID**.
- If someone other than the adults listed on your child's registration forms will be picking up your camper, please inform the Camp Director ahead of time so that person's name may be added to the approved pick-up list.
- If a camper is picked up after the times specified above (11:30AM for AM Tadpoles, 3PM for PM Tadpoles, Owlets, Eagles, and Adventure groups), a late fee of $10.00 will accrue every 15 minutes, per camper, past pick-up time. ***This late fee will be charged to your account.***

For any camper remaining after 3PM:

a. At 3:10PM use Emergency Card to make 1st contact with parents/guardians.
b. At 3:15PM use Emergency Card to make 2nd contact with parents/guardians. A late fee begins to accrue - $10.00 for every subsequent 15 minutes late.
c. At 4PM a Park Ranger will be notified for child neglect.

Release Authorization Plan

- Anyone picking up your child **MUST PROVIDE ID** when signing out a camper, and that person's name must be listed as "approved to pick-up my child" on your registration forms.
    1. For-Mar Nature Day Camp Staff will call the camper's parent/guardian in the event an unauthorized person is attempting to retrieve a child.
    2. If parents cannot be reached, the Camp Director is notified immediately.
    3. If the Camp Director cannot be reached, please inform the For-Mar Front Desk and ask that they call a Park Ranger.
    4. Camper must stay in the custody of For-Mar Nature Day Camp Staff, and/or a Park Ranger, until the parent is able to retrieve the camper.
    5. In the event the unauthorized person is unruly and demands possession of the camper, a Park Ranger is to be notified immediately.
- All staff members are trained in the event of an unauthorized person attempting to pick up a camper from the program.
- If a person attempting to pick-up a camper is NOT already listed on the initial registration forms for summer camp, a written authorization for pickup must be filled out at camp, which includes:

    1. When the camper is to be released
    2. How & where the release will occur
    3. To whom the camper will be released (must show ID).

Injury & Medical Information and Disclaimers

For-Mar Nature Day Camp staff members take pride in prioritizing the safety and well-being of all of our campers. With that in mind, all staff are certified in CPR, First Aid, and AED use, and a Certified Health Officer will be on site at all times to respond to any situations that may arise. ****It is your responsibility to update us on the status of your child's medical conditions if there are changes at any time throughout camp.**

Medication

Health Officers are the only camp staff allowed to administer medication. If your camper must take medication during camp hours, the "Weekly Medication Log" form must be filled out prior to attendance. Medication must be in its original container and clearly labeled with written instructions including dosage, frequency, and type of medication.

If your child has allergies (food, bee stings, etc.), please make sure this information is provided and conveyed at the time of registration, and again at the Open House. If your child requires administration of an EpiPen or other device, please make sure we are fully aware of allergy severity. The "Weekly Medication Log" form must be filled out with clear instructions for EpiPen use, as with any other standard medications.

****All prescriptions and medical devices will be kept in a locked location until they become medically necessary.**

Injuries

If your camper is injured:

- For a minor injury Camp Staff will:
  - Provide general First Aid
  - Fill out an Accident and Incident report form with the injured camper/staff.
  - Inform & give Accident and Incident report form to Camp Director and Camp Supervisor
  - Give note to Parent/Guardian detailing the incident
- For a moderate to severe injury Camp Staff will:
  - Call 911, and provide First Aid, and/or CPR/AED as necessary
  - Call Parent/Guardian and/or Emergency Contact
  - Call Camp Director and Camp Supervisor
  - If camper must be transferred to a hospital, one staff member will accompany the camper.

****The Camp Director and Supervisor are available at the Open House, or via the contact information provided in this Handbook, should you need to discuss policies further.**

DISCLAIMERS

DISCLAIMERS:

- $50 minimum payment per week to hold your camper's spot
- Camp application does not guarantee a spot. Enrollment is on a first come first served basis.
- Waitlists are available, but do not guarantee enrollment.
- All camp forms are due **3 weeks prior to your camper's first day of camp**, or your spot may be forfeited.
- All remaining balances are due 3 weeks prior to your camper's first day of camp, or your spot may be forfeited.
- Scholarship Forms are available on our website and will be awarded as long as funds remain.
- Refunds/credits will not be issued for days or partial days missed.
- Campers will be given ONE camp T-shirt for the summer, to be worn on field trips. Extra shirts will not be available for purchase this year. Please save your shirt if your camper is signed up for multiple weeks.

Camp Week	First Day of Camp	**FORMS AND BALANCES DUE** (3 Weeks Prior to Camp)
1	June 22, 2026	June 1, 2026
2	June 29, 2026	June 8, 2026
No Camp July 6-10		
3	July 13, 2026	June 22, 2026
4	July 20, 2026	June 29, 2026
5	July 27, 2026	July 6, 2026
6	August 3, 2026	July 13, 2026
7	August 10, 2026	July 20, 2026
8	August 17, 2026	July 27, 2026

For-Mar Nature Day Camp Code of Conduct

The For-Mar Nature Day Camp's goal is for campers to learn how to respect themselves, others, and the natural world around them. To create well-rounded individuals for our community, For-Mar Nature Day Camp utilizes positive group connections to build knowledge to be a better steward for the Earth. Time in nature will offer multiple opportunities to practice social, emotional, and other practical skills that have lifelong benefits. To accomplish this, we ask that all participants follow a simple set of behavior guidelines. Campers will be expected to adhere to the following code of conduct as soon as they arrive at camp.

PLEASE REVIEW THIS CODE OF CONDUCT WITH YOUR CHILD AND SIGN AT THE BOTTOM.

While at For-Mar Nature Preserve:

- I will be honest and respectful of my peers, my camp staff, and myself.
- I will follow directions and rules at camp.
- I will respect property belonging to any other campers, staff members, For-Mar, or field trip visited sites.
- I will use/practice appropriate conduct and language.
- I will stay within the camp boundaries.
- I will do my best to ensure that everyone, including myself, has fun at camp!

Discipline will be handled in the following manner:

1. A verbal warning will be given, with alternative behavior options established.
2. A second verbal warning will be given, with alternative behavior options reinforced.
3. A third verbal warning will be given, restriction from the activity, and a one-on-one informal meeting with the Camp Counselor to establish reasons behind the unwanted behavior. Once a resolution has been reached, the camper may resume activities. Camp Director shall be informed of the mediation.
4. Continued misconduct will result in a conference with the Camp Director, the camper, and Counselor, and a form letter will be sent home outlining the behavior.
5. If the behavior continues, the camper and Camp Director will make a phone call to the parent/guardian.
6. Unless a camper is actively trying to improve behavior, unchanged conduct will result in being sent home, with the option to return the next day.
7. Steps 1-7 may be repeated the following day, if needed. Continued misconduct may result in suspension from Camp at the discretion of the Camp Director and Parks Administration.

Note: Actions deemed harmful to oneself, or another camper are subject to immediate dismissal. No refunds will be issued if a camper is suspended from camp.

*Camp notes may be sent home from camp counselors/directors as needed to keep parents/guardians informed about relevant incidents (positive and negative)

*Camp administration has the authority to advance the above steps on a case-by-case basis.

*The child's participation may be terminated if there are behavioral or developmental concerns beyond the scope of what the program and its staff are equipped to manage.

*Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the loss of For-Mar Nature Day Camp privileges, up to and including, suspension and removal from the program.

****For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum, as part of the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission, has a Zero Tolerance Policy towards violence of any kind. Related behavior will result in expulsion For-Mar Nature Day Camp without refund****

*If you have any questions about this policy, you can reach out to Parks Administration staff at (810) 789-7568.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What if my child will be running late to For-Mar Nature Day Camp?

- Staff will have a check-in station set up from 8:45AM - 9:15AM for Morning Session Tadpoles/all Full-Day Camps and 12:15PM - 12:45PM for Afternoon Session Tadpoles.
- If your camper is not signed in by 15 minutes past posted camp start time(s), a phone call will be made to the parent/guardian. If no response, staff will assume the camper will not be attending that day.
- If you know your camper will not be attending camp on a particular day, please contact Camp Director Emily Buccaneer at (810) 280-3839 or ebuccaneer@gcparks.org.
- On field trip days: **Campers are required to be here by the designated drop-off time.** If a camper is going to be late and will not arrive until after the bus leaves, please call the Camp Director **immediately** to work out a plan together. We will have several reminders about arrival times so please do NOT be late!

What if I need to get a hold of my child during camp hours?

- If there is a message that you need to get to your child, call or text Director Emily at (810) 280-3839.
- Please leave a voicemail if the call cannot be received at the time it is placed.
- If the matter is urgent and Camp Director cannot be reached, call the For-Mar Visitor Center front desk at (810) 789-8567.

What if my child forgets their lunch?

In the event your child forgets their lunch, camp staff will contact the parent/guardian to request a lunch be dropped off for the camper. If no answer, we will reach out to emergency contacts provided. We are only able to provide small snacks, but we will not have a full lunch available. Please make sure to send your camper with food every day (snacks and lunch).

My child left something at camp. Where can I look for it?
A box designated for lost and found items will be brought out and placed near the check-out table at camp each day. Specific item descriptions may be emailed or texted to Camp Director so that staff may be alerted to keep an eye out for them.

Are Parents/Guardians allowed to stay at camp?
Unfortunately, Parents/Guardians are not allowed to stay at camp. Staff are subject to background checks, clearances, and training hour requirements to legally adhere to our licensing requirements. Once campers have been signed-in to For-Mar Nature Day Camp, they will remain under our supervision until a parent/guardian, or an approved emergency contact person signs the camper out at the end of the day.

If my child misbehaves, what discipline policies are in place?
Please refer to our For-Mar Nature Day Camp Code of Conduct in this handbook.

2026 For-Mar Nature Day Camp Flyer

Scan to access the Day Camp Flyer:

Scan for Flyer

Link:
https://geneseecountyparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-Day-Camp-Booklet-2.pdf

2026 For-Mar Nature Day Camp Survey

Scan for Survey

We want to hear from YOU after camp!
Your feedback supports funding source efforts that help make For-Mar Nature Day Camp possible. We also take your observations and suggestions into account for improving the program, making each subsequent year a more fulfilling experience for your campers!

Sincerely,

thank you for completing this survey.

Link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf7KcKqeJmk_Tff954eNFm2yLX9iMIjQNZH8nEj0MH5WssxsQ/viewform?usp=dialog

Additional Questions?

For Application, Registration, or Balance inquiry questions:
(810) 736-7100 ext. 6

For Day Camp questions:

Emily Buccaneer
Day Camp Director
ebuccaneer@gcparks.org
(810) 280-3839

ACD TBD
Assistant Camp Director
Hold for contact info
(810) 000-0000