SUMMER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Jay C. Hormel Nature Center

Summer 2026

JAY C. HORMEL NATURE CENTER
CITY OF AUSTIN

Friends OF THE HORMEL NATURE CENTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

SPECIAL EVENTS.....3
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS.....4-5
ACCESSIBILITY IN NATURE.....6
SENIOR SPECIALS.....7
NATURE PLAY DAYS.....8
SUMMER CLASSES.....9-15

Photo credit: Andrew Theodos

STAFF

Luke Reese, Director/Naturalist
Meredith Maloney, Teacher/Naturalist
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Kelly Bahl, Teacher/Naturalist
Steve Turner, Land Manager
Emily Hagen, Intern/Naturalist
Emma Kelsey, Intern/Naturalist
Christina Wradislavsky, Custodian

FACILITY RENTALS

We offer spaces to rent for your next event!
Ruby Rupner Auditorium: Great for graduation parties, weddings, etc.
Gordon Lonning Resource Room: Perfect for small meetings & conferences.

All rental availability, requests, and payments are done online. More information on our website.

CANOE & KAYAK RENTALS

- Rent a canoe or kayak for use on Dobbins Creek to East Side Lake or our pond.
- Rentals are available Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend (No rentals on city holidays).
- Monday-Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. & Sunday: 1:00-3:30 p.m.
- $10 for single kayaks & $15 for canoes or double kayaks.
- Rentals are for up to 3 hours or until 4:30 p.m., whichever comes first.
- Cash or check only.
- Life jackets, paddles, and boat rollers are provided.
- Purchase a $30 punch card at our front desk for 5 boat rentals.

INJURED RAPTORS

The Jay C. Hormel Nature Center takes in ONLY injured or orphaned birds of prey. **If you find an injured hawk, owl, falcon, or eagle in Mower County, call the Nature Center at 507-437-7519 for assistance.**

*If you find any other injured animal, please contact the Rescue Connection located in Austin. 507-383-6414

DAMMEN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Love the Nature Center? Join our Mentorship Program! This program is meant to provide youth ages 13+ with the opportunity to develop transferable skills and learn what a career in Natural Resources might look like, all while engaging with the Austin community. Applications and more information can be found on our website. Applications due by April 13th at 5:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL

25th
- **1:00 PM** PLANETARIUM SHOW **@ NATURE CENTER**
- **9:00 PM** OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE **@ SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY**

30th
- **6:30 AM** AUDUBON BIRD HIKE **@ NATURE CENTER**

MAY

2nd
- **1:30 PM** VOLUNTEER & FRIENDS APPRECIATION **@ RUBY RUPNER AUDITORIUM**

16th
- **9:00 PM** OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE **@ SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY**

5th & 7th, 12th & 14th, 19th
- **TUESDAYS - 6:30 PM**, **THURSDAYS - 6:30 AM** AUDUBON BIRD HIKES **@ NATURE CENTER**

23rd
- **9:00 PM** OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE **@ SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY**

JUNE

6th
- **9:30 PM** OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE **@ SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY**

13th
- **8AM-6PM** BUS TRIP TO SHAKOPEE, MN **LEAVE FROM NATURE CENTER**

20th
- **9:30 PM** OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE **@ SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY**

25th
- **2:00 PM** STORY TIME AT THE ROCK **@ NATURE CENTER**

26th
- **6:00 PM** NATURE JAM: MUSIC & PIZZA **@ NATURE CENTER**

JULY

11th
- **9:30 PM** OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE **@ SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY**

16th
- **2:00 PM** STORY TIME AT THE ROCK **@ NATURE CENTER**

18th
- **1:00-5:00 PM** DAMMEN DAY **@ NATURE CENTER**
- **3:30 PM** DUCK RACE DOWN DOBBINS **@ NATURE CENTER**
- **5:00 PM** NATURE JAM: MUSIC & PIZZA **@ NATURE CENTER**

25th
- **9:30 PM** OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE **@ SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY**

AUGUST

6th
- **2:00 PM** STORY TIME AT THE ROCK **@ NATURE CENTER**

7th
- **5:30 PM** NATURE JAM: MUSIC & PIZZA **@ NATURE CENTER**

15th
- **9:00 PM** OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE **@ SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY**

22nd
- **9:00 PM** OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE **@ SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY**

SEPTEMBER

5th
- **9:00 PM** OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE **@ SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY**

19th
- **9:30 AM** HONEY HARVEST **@ NATURE CENTER**
- **9:00 PM** OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE **@ SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY**

Most special events are:
Free • Open to public • For all ages

SPECIAL EVENTS: HIGHLIGHTS

FRIENDS ANNUAL BUS TRIP

SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH 8AM-6PM

Destination: Shakopee and Chaska MN. Visit Hoċokata Ṫi Museum with guided tours to learn about the Mdewakanton Dakota people and history. Afterwards, we'll head over the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and partake in the Dakota Sacred Hoop Walk in the Harrison Sculpture Garden. Lunch will be available for purchase at the Arboretum. Pay cash or check ($20 for Friends, $70 for non Friends) to the nature center to hold your spot.

NATURE JAM PIZZA PARTY

MONTHLY OVER THE SUMMER

Friday, June 26th 6:00-8:00 PM - "Amateur" - Rochester Indie Rock Band
Saturday, July 18th 5:00-7:00 PM - Music Performance TBD
Friday, August 7th 6:00-8:00 PM - Music Performance TBD
What better way to spend a summer night than enjoying live music and fresh wood-fired pizza? This event will be held outside, so bring your own chair! Pizza is on a first come first served basis. Event is free-will donation.

DAMMEN FAMILY FUN DAY

SATURDAY, JULY 18TH 1:00-5:00PM

Enjoy a variety of activities at the Nature Center and get your family outside! Activities like face painting, dunk tank, bouncy castle, tug of war, atl-atl throwing, planetarium shows, and more! At the end of the event enjoy free music and wood-fired pizza with one of our Nature Jam pizza party events.
We are suggesting a donation of $20 or more per family for this event. All proceeds raised will go towards our Dammen Mentorship program.

6TH ANNUAL DUCK RACE

SATURDAY, JULY 18TH 3:30 PM

Sponsor one duck or several as they race down Dobbins Creek on Dammen Family Fun Day! 1st-5th place ducks receive a prize. All profits go to the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center. **Sponsor 1 duck for $5 or 5 ducks for $20.**

SPECIAL EVENTS: HIGHLIGHTS

SOLA FIDE OBSERVATORY

Discover the night sky during our free open house nights at the Sola Fide Observatory.
Address: 53680 180th St., Austin, MN

Viewing nights will be cancelled if skies are cloudy. Cancellations and updates will be posted on our social media an hour before the event.

2026 Season

April 25th 9-11 pm
May 16th 9-11pm
May 23rd 9-11pm
June 6th 9:30-11pm
June 20th 9:30-11pm
July 11th 9:30-11pm
July 25th 9:30-11pm
August 15th 9-11pm
August 22nd 9-11pm
September 5th 9-11pm
September 19th 9-11pm

STATEWIDE STARPARTY

DATE COMING SOON

Free event for all ages with a ton of outer space themed, hands-on activities to learn more about astronomy. Event includes space demos, planetarium showings, arts & crafts, telescopes, and more!

AUDUBON BIRD HIKES

Join local Audubon members on either Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm or Thursday mornings at 6:30 am from April 30th-May 19th for a leisurely hike through nature center property to identify birds by sight and sound. No experience necessary, all are welcome! Binoculars provided.

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

One Saturday a month, join our team for opportunities to better the nature center through hard work!

June 27 • July 25 • August 8 • from 10-11:30am

Depending on the need and season the volunteer work may include invasive species removal, weeding rain and pollinator gardens, tree and flower planting, etc.

All volunteer opportunities are also posted on Get Connected through United Way.

HONEY HARVEST

SEPTEMBER 19TH 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

Stop by the nature center to see how we harvest our honey. We take full frames of honey from our beehives on property, extract it, and then bottle it up to sell. This event is to get an up-close look at the process and to help us out with the harvest!

CEDAR RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

Meetings: Second Friday of the month April-September; 8pm at the nature center
Following each meeting is a members only viewing night at the Sola Fide Observatory. Open to all ages that have an interest in space and astronomy. More info on website.

MAKING NATURE ACCESSIBLE

SCHOLARSHIPS

- One scholarship per child. **Scholarships are available for all kids, no income requirements.**
- Full scholarships available for all children's classes under $65.
- Half scholarships for classes $65 and above.
- Scholarships are offered on a first come, first served basis.
- Children write 3 to 5 sentences about why they want to attend a class, or draw a picture.
- Thank the donors in your scholarship letter.
- Must be submitted to the nature center BEFORE registering for the class.
- Include name, age, address, phone number, guardian, and class the child wants to attend.

TRACK CHAIRS

We offer free rentals of three "Action Track Chairs" that allow individuals in need of mobility assistance the freedom to explore trails on their own.

- Chairs are designed for uneven, off road trails.
- They are driven just like any other motorized wheelchair.
- To book your 2 hour free rental visit our website or call the nature center.

TRAIL VEHICLE TOURS

The Nature Center has two golf carts that are available for scheduled tours for those who might not be able to get out and see our trails.

- All trail vehicle tours are volunteer driven/led.
- This service is completely free and weather dependent.
- Requires a 2 week notice to get scheduled.

SMART TRANSIT

Free SMART Transit transportation for individuals or families to and from the Nature Center June-August, thanks to the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center! **Simply call SMART Transit to secure your seat(s) at 507-433-2379 and the Friends will cover the cost.**

ACTIVITY BAGS

The front desk of the nature center has activity bags to check out for free! These bags contain nature themed activities to keep kids interested on your hike outside.

SENIOR SPECIALS

10:00 - 11:00 AM on Select Thursdays

Nature lovers age 55 and older are invited to join us for these FREE Thursday events including:

- 10:00 AM: Program or Concert with coffee, tea, and cookies provided
- 11:00 AM: Optional 45-60 minute guided tour of the Nature Center trails on one of our trail vehicles

THURSDAY, APRIL 9: ARCHEOLOGY IN MOWER COUNTY WITH TOM TROW

Come listen to expert archeologist, Tom Trow, regale the tale of the discovery and development of a major historical chert quarry that has been used for thousands of years right here in Mower County!

THURSDAY, JUNE 11: OWL DETECTIVES

Find out whooo's in your backyard! Discover how to identify owls by size, shape, sound, and silhouette in this interactive presentation with our friends from the International Owl Center and their owls.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18: FIREFLY SHOW WITH FELICIA COOPER

Using puppets to tell the story of a lost firefly, Lucky is a sweet and hopeful family-friendly puppet show about all the ways we find light.

THURSDAY, JULY 9: WILL SINGS SONGS

Sing and laugh along with musician, naturalist, true-blue Minnesotan goofball, and Austin Native, Will Bjorndal, as he brings a wagonload of original and traditional songs to our Senior Special!

THURSDAY, JULY 30: BIRDING BASICS

Learn tools and tips on bird watching in your own backyard with intern Emma. Whether you're new to the hobby or a seasoned birder, everyone is welcome to come join in - and make your own homemade bird feeder!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13: REDISCOVERED: EXTINCTION ISN'T ALWAYS FINAL

Nature Center Naturalist Meredith Maloney will share the stories of several animals that we thought were lost, but were just waiting to be found. Back from the dead, re-evolved, and re-discovered: this senior special will be hard to believe!

Friends OF THE HORMEL NATURE CENTER

ALL SENIOR SPECIALS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY 55+. GUEST INSTRUCTORS ARE SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE HORMEL NATURE CENTER.

1:00 - 4:00 PM on Select Thursdays and Saturdays

FREE NATURE PLAY

Get outside and discover nature with your child! Enjoy FREE activities such as:

- Canoe & Kayak
- Water Tables
- Scooping the Pond
- Touch Tables
- Animal Encounters
- Free Programs at 1pm

NATURE PLAY DATES & PROGRAMS

THURSDAY, JUNE 11: CAN YOU BUILD AN OWL?

Learn first-hand about owl adaptations by picking out the pieces and parts that belong to an owl and putting them into a "magic" box. If correct, a live owl comes out from under the magic box for a visit. Come see what happens with our friends from the International Owl Center and their resident owl ambassadors!

THURSDAY, JUNE 18: FIREFLY SHOW WITH FELICIA COOPER

Enjoy a fantastical performance using props, puppets, and incredible story telling by Felicia Cooper. Follow the story about a lost firefly, Lucky, in this sweet and hopeful family-friendly puppet show about all the ways we find light.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27: NO 1 PM PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JULY 9: WILL SINGS SONGS

Sing and laugh along with musician, naturalist, true-blue Minnesotan goofball, and Austin Native Will Bjorndal, as he brings a wagonload of original and traditional songs to our Thursday Nature Play! Driven by audience participation, this captivating yet laid-back performance is engaging for children of all ages.

SATURDAY, JULY 25: NO 1PM PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JULY 30: MARVELOUS MYSTERY: A WHO-DONE-IT?

Join intern Emily as she tries to solve a mystery that happened at the Nature Center! Assist us to look through clues left behind from different Minnesota animals and put them together to help solve this puzzling case.

ALL NATURE PLAY AFTERNOONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL AGES.
GUEST INSTRUCTORS ARE SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE HORMEL NATURE CENTER.

Friends OF THE HORMEL NATURE CENTER

SUMMER ADVENTURE CLASSES

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Registration opens Wednesday, April 1 at 9:00 a.m. Register online only

HOW TO REGISTER:

Online copy: click on the title or session you would like to register for.

Physical copy: visit our website to find all the registration links.

Class links take you to the Park & Rec. website (Civic Rec) to register. For more help on how to register or make an account, visit our website below or scan our QR code.

hormelnaturecenter.org

SCAN ME

WANT A CLASS FOR FREE OR HALF OFF?

Every child can get a scholarship with no income requirements. They must be turned in **before** registering for the class. More info on our website.

BIRTH–3 YEARS

Classes require an adult

Bountiful Bugs with Julie Hecimovich • $17
Saturday, Aug 1; 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Let's get buggy! Try on some bug costumes, play games, sing bug songs, and make insect crafts. Bug Out! Hike to discover the cool buggy hideouts for incredible insects. Compare these to a few interesting bugs around the world.

2–3 YEARS

Classes require an adult.

Earth Day Special with Julie Hecimovich • $17 • Wednesday, April 22; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

This class is a perfect time to explore the unique creatures and plants on our planet. Listen to stories, play games, and hike trails to discover animals and plants. Craft art and bird feeders with the help of pine trees!

Bear Hunt Adventure • $11
Session 1: Monday, June 15; 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Session 2: Thursday, June 25; 9:30-10:30 a.m.

We all know what bears do when the weather turns cool and the snow starts to fall, but what do they do in the summertime? Bring your favorite teddy bear, and let's go on a bear hunt adventure and learn together! This includes a picnic with your teddy bear.

3–4 YEARS

Classes require an adult.

Wonders of Water • $12 • Tuesday, June 30; 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Investigate the wonders and power of water. Learn about how water is everywhere, how it changes the land, and who needs it to survive. Then explore water at stream tables to see the changes up close.

SUMMER ADVENTURE CLASSES AGES 3-5 YEARS

3-4 YEARS

Classes require an adult.

Gardening and Garden Yoga • $12 • Tuesday, July 14; 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Join Nature Center staff in our gardens to discover gardens and why they are so important. Learners will have the chance to see what we grow in our gardens, harvest vegetables, and will practice Garden Yoga with easy to do stretches and poses that can connect us to nature.

Frolicking through Flowers • $12 • Thursday, July 23; 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Venture into the floral world and become a flower expert! We will learn the different parts of a flower, what flowers are for, and go on a walk through our flower filled trails to stop and smell the (wild) roses.

3-5 YEARS

Classes require an adult.

Forest Stories • $12 • Saturday, June 20; 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Shrink yourself down to explore the stories of our local forests. These stories will reveal everything that can call a forest home. Enchanting animals, plants, and some things that are... neither? Figure it out as we go on a woodland adventure.

Dynamic Dinos • $12 • Saturday, July 11; 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Become a young paleantologist for the day as we learn all about Dinosaurs and fossils from an ancient time! Our activities will have us digging up dinosaurs, looking at cool rocks, and finding out what Minnesota looked like millions of years ago.

4-5 YEARS

Classes require an adult.

Liking Lichen • $12 • Wednesday, June 10; 9:00-10:30 a.m.

See nature from a different perspective. Get up close with the things that grow on the ground and on the trees. Explore and feel the differences between lichen, mosses, and mushrooms. Then make a little gnome home for the protectors of the forest with things we find outside.

Amazing Amphibians • $12 • Tuesday, June 16; 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Explore what makes these slippery critters so special. We'll learn about the characteristics of amphibians, why they are so slimy, and see how many we can find on the forest floor!

SUMMER ADVENTURE CLASSES AGES 4 -7 YEARS

4–5 YEARS

Class requires an adult.

Nature Secrets, Nature Songs! with Will Bjorndal • $45
Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, July 6, 7, & 8; 9:30-11:00 a.m.

What critters, animals, and plants are hiding in plain sight in our forests, waters, and prairies? And how do they make music? Join naturalist and musician Will Bjorndal for energetic explorations of the natural world, with a special emphasis on the parts of nature hidden out of plain sight. As they explore nature's secrets, students will connect what they learn into original music and songs!

4–6 YEARS

Classes require an adult.

Beautiful Birds with Julie Hecimovich • $22
Friday & Saturday, July 31 and August 1; 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Let your knowledge soar as you learn about the variety of our feathered friends around the world. Discover how different these birds can be with all sorts of shapes, colors, and sizes that helps them live on every continent of our planet. Then, make a book about birds, paint, and go birding outside on our trails.

6–7 YEARS

Super Senses! • $22• Select one session:
Session 1: Tuesday, June 23; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Session 2: Tuesday, June 23; 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Discover how all 5 senses are found and used in nature from beautiful flowers to slithering snakes. Learners will go out and explore nature with all of their senses and learn what it takes to master each one. After each of the five senses are mastered, participants will collect badges of accomplishments as they go.

Nature Rocks! with Will Bjorndal • $45
Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, July 6, 7, & 8; 1:30-3:00 p.m.

What critters might be hiding under that rock? In the pond? The prairie? Find out by exploring the nooks and crannies of nature, music, and songwriting with naturalist and musician Will Bjorndal! Energetic adventures across the waters, the woods, and prairies will inform the music and songs that students will learn to craft together! After all, under every rock, there's nature to be found!

Can You Blend In? • $17 • Wednesday, July 29; 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Investigate the many ways animals have adapted to blend in with their environment. Our outdoor explorers will use the resources provided to try and prove themselves to be a master of camouflage and disappear into their surroundings.

SUMMER ADVENTURE CLASSES AGES 6-10 YEARS

6-8 YEARS

Wolfing Around • $17 • Saturday, June 20; 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Become a part of the wolf pack. Take a look at why wolves are such incredible animals. Learn what it takes to be the leader of the pack and how these large canines utilize what they have to survive in the world.

Tree-mendous Expedition • $17 • Saturday, July 11; 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Go on an expedition on our trails to locate different kinds of trees in this one of a kind tree ID scavenger hunt! You will learn how to read a tree ID key, and what makes trees different from each other via their branches, leaves, and bark. Come find out what the trees have to teach you!

7-8 YEARS

Monarch Magic • $17 • Select one session:
Session 1: Tuesday, July 21; 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Session 2: Saturday, August 1; 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Delve into the amazing life of the monarch butterfly. Learn how to identify monarch eggs, caterpillars, and milkweed around the Nature Center.

8-9 YEARS

Who's Eating Who? • $22 • Select one session:
Session 1: Wednesday, July 1; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Session 2: Wednesday, July 1; 2:30-5:30 p.m.

What is energy? How does it travel through an ecosystem? Discover the different links in the food chain of producers, consumers, and decomposers - and see how many you can find while exploring outside!

Nature Detectives: Mysterious Mayhem • $17 • Friday, July 10; 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Help solve a mystery at the nature center to become official Nature Detectives! This class will have plenty of nature themed puzzles, clues, and fun to keep you on your toes. Put all the clues together and crack the case. It is the nature center's own version of a structured escape room.

Nocturnal Nature • $17 • Wednesday, July 22; 8:30-10:00 p.m.

Dive into what nature does while we sleep. This class offers a variety of fun activities that let us discover the magic of nature at night. Learn which animals are out and about, go on a night hike, and explore the Nature Center after dark!

8-10 YEARS

Bird Bonanza with Henry Hinchcliffe • $17 • Monday, June 8; 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Figure out what it takes to be an expert birder. Join Audubon member and avid bird watcher, Henry on a trek through different habitats to discover as many birds as you can. Each participant will learn to use binoculars properly and then be able to take home a pair at the end of the class to become an official birder!

SUMMER ADVENTURE CLASSES AGES 8-13 YEARS

8-10 YEARS

<u>Intro to Fishing</u> • $28
Tuesday, June 9; 3:00-4:00 p.m. at Nature Center & 6:00-8:00 p.m. at East Side Lake or Mill Pond

Learn about the basics of fishing: how to string a pole, tie lures on, and casting at the nature center. That evening you will get a chance to put your new fishing skills to the test! Location chosen based on fishing conditions. Fishing poles are provided or you can use your own. All fish caught will be catch and release.

<u>Space Explorers</u> • $17 • Select one session:
<u>Session 1:</u> Friday, June 12; 4:00-6:00 p.m.
<u>Session 2:</u> Monday, July 20; 4:00-6:00 p.m.
<u>Session 3:</u> Tuesday, August 4; 4:00-6:00 p.m

Investigate the stars and planets up close in our state of the art inflatable planetarium. These space explorers will learn telescope basics, show off their space knowledge with fun hands-on activities and be able to feel like they are actually exploring the cosmos!

9-11 YEARS

<u>Radical Raptors</u> • $60
Tuesday, June 16; 9:30-11:00 a.m.: Hawk talk & games
Tuesday, June 16; 8:30-10:00 p.m.: Owl Prowl for participants & family
Wednesday, June 17; 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: Day trip to Wabasha

Discover the raptors of Minnesota here at the Nature Center, then visit the National Eagle Center in Wabasha to learn all about eagles, including a live eagle program! We'll also take a hike in the bluffs of Whitewater State Park to an overlook. **Bring a lunch on June 17th.**

<u>Outdoor Survival</u> with Derek Barkeim • $110
Monday-Friday, June 22-26; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Spend five days learning wilderness survival and awareness skills to equip you for your next outdoor adventure! Practice building shelters, using primitive traps, creating friction fires, identifying wild edibles and medicinal plants, and lots more with expert outdoors-man Derek Barkeim.

10-13 YEARS

<u>Nature Photography</u> with Morgan Converse • $28
Wednesday & Thursday, June 10 & 11; 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Interested in photography, nature, and exploring? This class is for you! Join local photographer Morgan Converse and gain vital knowledge on composition, lighting, angles, and more as we visit some of the more remote areas of the Nature Center. Cameras will be provided or use your own.

SUMMER ADVENTURE CLASSES AGES 11-14 YEARS

11-12 YEARS

<u>Intro to Trout Fishing</u> • $44
Wednesday, June 3; 9:00-10:30 a.m. &
Thursday, June 4; 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

On the first day, Nature Center staff will teach you the basics of trout fishing; learning how to aim and cast in a smaller area and learning how to use lures instead of bait.

On the second day you will be traveling to Forestville State Park and Lanesboro to fish. Fishing poles are provided or you can bring your own. All fish caught will be catch and release. Tackle box and a few lures of your own to take home are included. **Bring a lunch for Thursday.**

<u>Canoeing & Exploring the Blufflands</u> • $150
Wednesday, July 22; 9:00-11:30 a.m.: Canoe practice
Thursday, July 23; 8:00 a.m.: Depart the Nature Center

Explore Mystery Cave and Forestville State Park; then travel to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center for group challenges, a high ropes course, dinner, campfire time, s'mores, and a hike. **Please bring a lunch on July 23.**

Friday, July 24: Return to the Nature Center by 3:00 p.m.

Breakfast at Eagle Bluff before canoeing part of the Root River.

Fee includes lodging, admission, canoe equipment, high ropes course, and three meals (dinner July 23, breakfast and lunch July 24).

Full Scholarships are available for this class. Available for any kids, no income requirements.

12-14 YEARS

<u>Outdoor Survival</u> with Derek Barkeim • $110 • Monday-Friday, June 22-26; 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Spend five days learning wilderness survival and awareness skills to equip you for your next outdoor adventure! Practice building shelters, using primitive traps, creating friction fires, identifying wild edibles and medicinal plants, and a lot more.

<u>Intro to Camping</u> • $50
Tuesday-Wednesday, July 7-8; 5:00 p.m.-8:30 a.m.

Take your backyard "camping" to the next level and sleep in the wilderness at the Nature Center. Learn how to put up your own tent (provided by us), cook supper, and start a fire. We will also go on a hike at the Nature Center, so bring your hiking shoes. Don't worry, a camping trip isn't a camping trip without roasting marshmallows. Please bring your own sleeping bag. Dinner and breakfast are provided.

<u>Shell Rock River Canoe & Fossil Hunting Trip</u> • $50
Tuesday, July 28; 9:00-11:30 a.m.: Canoe Practice & Fossil Class
Wednesday, July 29; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: Canoe trip & Fossil Hunting

Enjoy canoeing the Shell Rock River, then visit the Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve in Rockford, Iowa to hunt for fossils to keep from hundred of millions of years ago! **Bring a lunch for July 29th.**

SUMMER ADVENTURE CLASSES AGES 12+ YEARS & ADULTS

12-18 YEARS

Climbing Red Wing • $130
Monday & Tuesday, July 13 & 14; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Indoor climbing practice
Wednesday, July 15; 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.: Outdoor climbing in Red Wing

Participants in this special three-day climbing class will spend the first two afternoons at the Albert Lea Rock Gym for an intro to climbing, learning how to climb safely, and prepping to climb outdoors. On the final day, participants will apply these skills to an outdoor climb at Barn Bluff in Red Wing!

ALL AGES CLASSES

Geared more toward older audiences. Children still welcome, but not the central focus. Anyone under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Nature Yoga with Erin Jepson • $5 • Select your sessions:
Session 1: Saturday, June 20; 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Session 2: Saturday, July 11; 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Session 3: Saturday, August 22; 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Been a long week? Come join us at the Nature Center to breathe the fresh air and stretch your muscles with Outdoor Yoga. We'll center ourselves with breathing, find peace in our bodies through gentle movements, and connect with the season and the earth in guided meditations. No experience, no problem! You will be confidently led through the sequences leaving you refreshed and ready for your weekend. **Mats provided.**

Eco Printing • $20 • Tuesday, June 30; 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Eco-printing is a kind of a natural dyeing technique that uses leaves, flowers, and other plant materials to create patterns and colors on paper or fabric. This class will teach you how to design and make unique one-of-a-kind art to take home.

Nature Resin Earrings • $25 • Friday, August 21; 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Utilize natural materials to make your own pairs of earrings. Learn the earring making process, resin techniques, and take home a pair unique to you!

ADULT CLASSES

Participants must be 16 years or older.

Becoming a Birder with Henry Hinchcliffe • $12 • Saturday, June 6; 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Learn birding basics with Audubon member Henry. Identify birds by both sight and sound, how to utilize easy to use tools like binoculars, ID guides, apps, and more to get you started birding on your own.

Bonsai Workshop with David Weiss • $95 • Thursday, June 4; 7:00 p.m. - Webinar
Saturday, June 6; 1:00-4:00 p.m. - In person Workshop

Start your own Juniper bonsai tree! This workshop led by bonsai expert, David Weiss, will teach you the beginning of bonsai and you'll leave with your very own plant to work with for years to come. All materials will be provided.

Adult Nature Photography with Morgan Converse • $22
Saturday, August 1; 6:00-8:00 p.m.

In this class, you will learn the basics of nature photography while exploring the Nature Center. Cameras will be provided or use your own. Morgan can also teach you the basics of shooting high quality photos by changing your settings on your smartphone.

JAY C. HORMEL NATURE CENTER
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Keep up to date with Nature Center news, highlights from the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center, upcoming classes and volunteer opportunities, and our monthly Nature Note.

CONNECT WITH US

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Email: info@hormelnaturecenter.org
Building hours:
Mon-Sat, 9 am-5 pm • Sun 1-5 pm
(closed on city holidays)
Trail Hours: 6 am-10 pm

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