HIGH PARK NATURE CENTRE

Summer Camp 2026 Weekly Schedule Overview & Camp Fees

Camp session	Week 1 Jul 6-10	Week 2 Jul 13-17	Week 3 Jul 20-24	Week 4 Jul 27-31	Week 5 Aug 4-7*	Week 6 Aug 10-14	Week 7 Aug 17-21	Week 8 Aug 24-28	Week 9 Aug 31-Sep 4
Half-Day Leafhoppers Ages 4-5		$219		$219	$175		$219		$219
Leafhoppers Ages 4-5	$510	$510	$510	$510	$408	$510	$510	$510	$510
Cicadas Ages 6-7	$490	$490	$490	$490	$392	$490	$490	$490	$490
Dragonflies Ages 8-10	$490	$490	$490	$490	$392	$490	$490	$490	$490
Mantids Ages 11-13	$490	$490	$490	$490	$392	$490	$490	$490	$490
Ramblers Ages 14-16								$490	
LIT Ages 14-16		$490							

**Week 5 (August 4-7) of summer camp is a shortened week due to the statutory holiday. Fees will be adjusted for 4 days of camp.*

HIGH PARK NATURE CENTRE

Summer Camp 2026 Age Group Descriptions

Leafhoppers (Ages 4-5)

(Our youngest naturalists)

Leafhoppers are the youngest members of our camp community and are just beginning their journey as naturalists. This program is thoughtfully designed to support early learners through play, exploration, and gentle discovery.

Kids will spend their days reading stories, creating nature-inspired art, playing games, and heading out on short hikes to explore High Park's forests, wetlands, and savannahs. Along the way, they will learn to notice and name the natural world around them – spotting insects, identifying plants, following animal tracks, and being inquisitive about what they see.

With low ratios and lots of educator support, Leafhoppers are encouraged to build independence, curiosity, and confidence while forming friendships and a sense of belonging in nature.

Half-day Leafhoppers (9AM-12PM)

Is your child taking their first steps into camp, school, or daycare? Our Half-day Leafhoppers groups are the perfect way to get them comfortable, confident and ready for group settings through nurturing, play-based experiences.

Cicadas (Ages 6-7)

(Curious explorers on the move)

Cicadas are energetic, curious campers who are ready for a bit more adventure and independence. Their days are active and playful, filled with scavenger hunts, nature games, creative activities, and longer hikes through High Park's three ecosystems.

As they explore, Cicadas learn to identify common plants, insects, trees, and animal signs, developing core naturalist skills like observation, questioning, and pattern recognition. Campers are encouraged to work together, problem-solve, and support one another as part of a growing community.

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This program balances structure with freedom, offering campers space to explore, imagine, and deepen their connection to the natural world — all while building confidence as hikers and young naturalists.

Dragonflies (Ages 8-10)

(Playful explorers with growing responsibility)

Dragonflies are curious, energetic campers who love to move, play, and dig deeper into nature. Their days are packed with games, creative challenges, and adventures through High Park — with plenty of room for silliness, imagination, and laughter along the way.

Through playful hikes, team games, and hands-on activities, Dragonflies learn about High Park's ecosystems and their plant and animal inhabitants. In addition to identifying trees, following animal tracks, and participating in habitat-inspired games, campers will also get their hands dirty with some light stewardship activities like planting native species in the Black Oak Savannah.

This program balances fun and learning, encouraging campers to build confidence, teamwork, and a sense of care for the park — all while having an absolute blast outdoors.

Mantids (Ages 11-13)

(Skilled naturalists who still love to play)

Mantids are experienced campers who are ready for bigger adventures, deeper discoveries, and lots of fun. While they build skills in observation, species identification, and stewardship, days are still filled with games, challenges, and playful exploration.

Mantids might track animals, investigate insects up close, or work together on stewardship projects — then turn those discoveries into fast-paced games, creative experiments, or group challenges. There's plenty of space for humour, imagination, and camper-led ideas, with educators supporting campers to take on responsibility while keeping the tone light and engaging.

This group is ideal for campers who enjoy learning through action, teamwork, and play. Mantids learn to explore nature with growing independence, without losing the joy and fun that make camp a memorable experience.

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Summer Camp 2026 Age Group Descriptions

Ramblers (Ages 14-16)

(Adventure, independence, and hands-on skill-building)

Ramblers is designed for teens who want more independence, bigger nature adventures, and the chance to help shape their own camp experience. Inspired by our High Park Rangers leadership program, Ramblers blends educational hikes, hands-on projects, and practical outdoor skill-building in a relaxed, low-pressure setting.

Campers explore High Park on long hikes, collaborate on week-long creative or nature-based projects — like spoon carving, art projects, or designing activities for younger campers — and guide the direction of their work through their own interests.

Throughout the week, Ramblers practice communication, teamwork, and leadership in natural, real-world ways while still keeping summer camp a fun and memorable experience. This program is perfect for teens who love being outdoors, enjoy working with others, or are looking for a welcoming step toward joining the High Park Rangers program in the future.

Leaders in Training (Ages 14-16)

(Stewardship, leadership, and community impact)

The Leaders in Training (LIT) program is designed for youth who are ready to step into leadership roles while giving back to the park they love. LITs spend their training week learning about environmental stewardship, teamwork, leadership, and community responsibility while actively caring for nature in High Park.

Participants develop practical skills in communication, problem-solving, and collaboration, alongside hands-on nature and stewardship work. After completing their training week, LITs return to the Nature Centre to volunteer for one additional week at summer camp, supporting younger campers and staff.

Participation in our LIT program contributes toward the community involvement hours required for Ontario secondary school graduation. For youth interested in continuing their leadership journey, we invite you to explore our year-round leadership opportunities through the High Park Rangers program.