

Discovery Camps

2019
SUMMER
FUN —
DAY CAMPS
for kids ages
3 to 15



ROYAL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
www.rbg.ca



NEW Get Outside camp for ages 9 to 11! See page 5 for details.
Space is limited — register soon! Register online: www.rbg.ca/camps

Discovery Camps

Day Camp Programs for 3- to 15-year-olds

At Royal Botanical Gardens we build our programs on a foundation of inquiry-based and experiential learning. We believe in allowing program participants to ask questions and follow their curiosity. We know that there is no substitute for a direct experience in nature, and that given the right opportunity, participants can create meaningful connections that last a lifetime.

Our programs use active, hands-on exploration and activities to engage participants and to immerse them in the natural world. We integrate up-to-date science and research, and tailor our programs to the needs and abilities of program participants. Most importantly, we know that fun must be an integral part of education, and that the best learning often happens when you least expect it.

Royal Botanical Gardens' Discovery Day Camps are about fun, education and respect set in one of the most biologically diverse natural areas in Canada. We provide hands-on environmental education programs that suit the ages, needs and interests of our participants. Our programs feature a wide variety of activities and daily explorations of ecologically significant nature sanctuaries covering over 1,000 hectares of wetlands, fields and forests. Our goal is to help your child develop a lifelong connection with the natural world that sustains our lives.

CAMP MISSION AND VALUES: Royal Botanical Gardens' Discovery Camps strive to promote healthy environmental attitudes and lifestyles through safe, respectful, fun and diverse outdoor learning experiences.



	Camps at the Nature Interpretive Centre						LIT	Camps at RBG Centre		
Week	Ages 4 and 5	Ages 6 and 7	Ages 8 and 9	Ages 9 to 11	Ages 10 to 12	Ages 13 to 15	Ages 13 to 15	Half day Ages 3 and 4	Ages 4 and 5	Ages 6 and 7
1. July 2–5*	Making Sense of Nature	Hit the Trails!	Outdoor Adventures	Get Outside!	The Fire Within	Cliffs to Cootes	Session 1	Nature Explorers	Up in the Air	Animal Wonders
2. July 8–12	Creature Craze	Ecosystem All-Stars	Living in the Wild	Get Outside!	The Living Laboratory	Cliffs to Cootes		Nature Explorers	Forest of Imagination	Valley Adventures
3. July 15–19	Going Buggy	Over Hill and Over Dale	Water Powered	Get Outside!	Venture Quest	Cliffs to Cootes	Session 2	Nature Explorers	Hands-on Nature	Roots and Shoots
4. July 22–26	Making Sense of Nature	Hit the Trails!	Outdoor Adventures	Get Outside!	The Fire Within	Cliffs to Cootes		Nature Explorers	Up in the Air	Animal Wonders
5. July 29–Aug. 2	Creature Craze	Ecosystem All-Stars	Living in the Wild	Get Outside!	The Living Laboratory	Cliffs to Cootes	Session 3	Nature Explorers	Forest of Imagination	Valley Adventures
5. July 29–Aug. 2	Ages 8 to 10 RBG and Art Gallery of Burlington Combo Camp									
6. Aug. 6–9*	Going Buggy	Over Hill and Over Dale	Water Powered	Get Outside!	Venture Quest	Cliffs to Cootes	Session 3	Nature Explorers	Hands-on Nature	Roots and Shoots
7. Aug. 12–16	Making Sense of Nature	Hit the Trails!	Outdoor Adventures	Get Outside!	The Fire Within	Cliffs to Cootes	Session 4	Nature Explorers	Up in the Air	Animal Wonders
7. Aug. 12–16	Ages 8 to 10 RBG and Art Gallery of Burlington Combo Camp									
8. Aug. 19–23	Creature Craze	Ecosystem All-Stars	Living in the Wild	Get Outside!	The Living Laboratory	Cliffs to Cootes	Session 4	Nature Explorers	Forest of Imagination	Valley Adventures
9. Aug. 26–30	Going Buggy	Over Hill and Over Dale	Water Powered	Get Outside!	Venture Quest	Cliffs to Cootes		Nature Explorers	Hands-on Nature	Roots and Shoots

* Indicates a four-day week, due to stat/observed holiday.

Programs are developed to meet the age and stage appropriateness of campers within the listed age range. Please register your child in the appropriate camp for their age. Childcare Modernization Act: any child enrolled in a full-day camp program must be 4 years of age or older at the time of the camp start date.

Camps at the Nature Interpretive Centre

4- and 5-year-olds

Making Sense of Nature

Weeks 1, 4 and 7

Focus: Exploring with the Senses. Includes canoeing. Use your deer ears and hawk eyes to explore the woods and wetlands that make up an amazing ecosystem. Touch animal pelts and meet one of our helpful turtle teachers! Join us for nature walks, canoe trips, and fun and games as we spend the week learning and connecting to our natural world.

Creature Craze

Weeks 2, 5 and 8

Focus: Animal Lives – Birds and Mammals. Includes canoeing. What does it take for an animal to live in the forest? Find out how (and where) the creatures of our forests and fields live. Discover local critters big and small as we investigate the homes and habits of our furry and feathered friends.

Going Buggy

Weeks 3, 6 and 9

Focus: Animal Lives – Insects. Includes canoeing. Get face-to-face with worms, insects, spiders, and all kinds of crawly things! Learn about the amazing things these tiny animals do to survive and the important role they play in our own lives.

6- and 7-year-olds

Ecosystem All-Stars

Weeks 1, 4, and 7

Focus: Stewards of the Natural World. Includes canoeing. Our natural lands are home to hundreds of plants and animals. Become an ecologist as you explore how living things depend on each other to survive, and how small actions we can all take can benefit these living things. Discover meadows, wetlands, and numerous ecologically sensitive areas by hiking and canoeing throughout this week of diverse explorations and camp fun.

Over Hill and Over Dale

Weeks 2, 5 and 8

Focus: Storytelling and Make-Believe. Includes canoeing. Join us as we seek out the animals and plant life that call our meadows and forests home, and learn more about their lives through stories, songs and games. Act out your favorite insect, learn to run like a squirrel, and craft up a souvenir of your discoveries on the trail.

Hit the Trails!

Weeks 3, 6 and 9

Focus: Animal Lives. Includes canoeing. Hit the trails for a week of exploration and discovery! Join us as we seek out the critters and plant life that call our meadows and forests home. This week of fun in the sun allows campers to explore a variety of trails and areas on our property as we explore the habitats and lives of the plants and animals of the area.

"This is our favourite camp. Our kids come back messy with huge smiles and tons of stories. In a world dominated by technology, this is the best camp!"

* Due to recent updates to the Childcare Modernization Act legislation, any child enrolled in a full-day camp program must be 4 years of age or older at the time of the camp start date.

8- and 9-year-olds

Outdoor Adventures

Weeks 1, 4, and 7

Focus: Outdoor Adventure. Includes canoeing. Get the most out of the outdoors during these days of discovery, environmental appreciation and outdoor adventures. Experienced educational guides provide the perfect opportunity to get to know the plant and animal species that make up our endangered bioregion. With active games and environmental awareness, these days offer the best of what Royal Botanical Gardens Discovery Camps are famous for.

Living in the Wild

Weeks 2, 5 and 8

Focus: Stewards of the Natural World. Includes canoeing. Uncover the secrets of our ecosystems and explore our fragile natural world. Through games, activities, hikes and participation in active conservation efforts and projects, campers get an up-close experience in conservation, investigation and fun! Our living laboratory provides you with the perfect opportunity to get to know the plant and animal species that make up our bioregion, and how we can protect them.

Water Powered

Weeks 3, 6 and 9

Focus: Wetlands and Watersheds. Includes canoeing. The forests and waterways within RBG are a vital link between Niagara Escarpment and Lake Ontario. Come out as we explore wetlands, watersheds and wild creatures all while helping to make our ecosystem a healthier place. Learn all about the incredible power of water through experiments, games, and hikes!

9- to 11-year-olds

Get Outside!

All weeks

Focus: Outdoor Adventure. Includes canoeing. Get the most out of the outdoors during these days of discovery, environmental appreciation and outdoor adventures. Experienced educational guides provide the perfect opportunity to hike, paddle, explore and discover our rich ecosystems. This camp includes longer hikes and longer canoe excursions — participants should be physically capable to take part in such activities. Base camp is located away from the Nature Centre in our new covered pavilion, approximately 100 meters from accessible amenities. Campers should be prepared to be outside for their entire camp day.

10- to 12-year-olds

The Fire Within

Weeks 1, 4, and 7

Focus: Community Building. Includes canoeing. Hone group skills through communication, collaboration and teamwork-based activities and challenges. Challenges involve simulations and role-playing with increasing difficulty led by our certified instructors who guide the group through a tailored program with an emphasis on safety and fun. With just the right amount of facilitation, campers are encouraged to work together, think outside the box, and find innovative solutions to complex problems. On top of nature walks, canoeing and camp games, this week provides a truly exceptional experience.

10- to 12-year-old camps continue on next page.

10- to 12-year-olds continued

The Living Laboratory

Weeks 2, 5 and 8

Focus: Stewards of the Natural World. Includes canoeing. From microbes under a microscope to trees that are older than Canada, you'll learn about some amazing feats of nature. Through experiments and activities, explore the science behind our natural world while learning what we can do to protect the fragile habitats and ecosystems of the area.

Venture Quest

Weeks 3, 6 and 9

Focus: Outdoor Adventure. Includes canoeing. Ready for a challenge?

This camp offers an exciting set of hikes, extended canoe outings on Cootes Paradise, and teambuilding initiatives that prepare you to explore anywhere. This camp includes hikes up to 7 km long and up to 3-hour canoe excursions; participants should be physically capable to take part in such activities.

13- to 15-year-olds

Cliffs to Cootes Camp

All weeks

Our most adventurous camp yet! Be challenged, inspired, and excited! Working as part of a team, canoe, hike, and explore, seeing our forests, fields, and gardens in an entirely new way. Develop the skills to plan and lead a hike for friends and family. Base camp is located away from the Nature Centre in our new covered pavilion, approximately 100 meters from accessible amenities. Campers should be prepared to be outside for their entire camp day.

- Extended canoeing sessions
- Hikes throughout RBG's trail system
- Trail skills and outdoor leadership development
- Overnight program



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Overnight Camp-Out:

9- to 11-year-olds Get Outside!, 10- to 12-year-olds Cliffs to Cootes Camp, and Leader in Training programs

Our weekly camp overnights occur Thursday evenings all summer long. This is a great opportunity to explore the forest at night and experience a camp-out in a safe and fun atmosphere. Overnight accommodation is in waterproof, nylon tents. Leaders are in adjacent tents and campers are supervised at all times. Participants sleep indoors in the event of inclement weather or extreme heat. Participants receive a packing list and scheduling information upon arrival at camp. Speak with your leaders while at camp for any additional information.

- The overnight program fee is included in the 10–12-year-olds, Cliffs to Cootes Camp and for one week of the Leader in Training programs and is non-refundable.
- The overnight fee of \$50 is not included in the 9–11-year-olds program fee; this can be added at time of registration or while at camp.
- The overnight fee includes meals and snacks for the evening and the following day.

DRESS UP DAYS

Dress-up day takes place every week. Join in on the fun and dress up to match the theme.

Thursday, July 4 – Canada Day

Wednesday, July 10 – Tropical Paradise

Wednesday, July 17 – Animal Planet

Wednesday, July 24 – Heroes

Wednesday, July 31 – Going Green

Thursday, August 8 – Crazy Outfit

Wednesday, August 14 – Into the Future

Wednesday, August 21 – Under The Sea

Wednesday, August 28 – Sports and Games

FAMILY OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, June 20, 2018; 6 to 8 p.m.; Nature Centre

Ready for summer? Find out what camp is all about while having some fun! Stop by and meet RBG's Discovery Day Camps staff, play some games, make a craft and enjoy an evening in nature. This free evening is perfect for families who have been to camp before, who have registered for the summer already and for those who are thinking about joining us. **Please RSVP to camps@rbg.ca**

Pavilion for Get Outside! and Cliffs to Cootes camps was made possible through a generous contribution from the City of Hamilton's Future Fund.



AGB and RBG Combo Camp

ART GALLERY of BURLINGTON

8- to 10-year-olds

Art in the Garden

Weeks 5 and 7

Focus: Art, Sculpture and Nature. Join us for an immersive inspirational camp experience. Each morning begins at Art Gallery of Burlington where campers are introduced to a variety of mediums including printmaking, clay, fibre and mixed media with the opportunity to create a variety of projects. Beyond broadening their art making skills, students expand their problem solving and analytical abilities and develop aesthetic awareness. Campers hop on our chartered bus and head to Royal Botanical Gardens to spend the second half of each day immersed in the beauty of one of Canada's most biodiverse areas. Afternoons are spent exploring and discovering the natural and cultivated lands and sculpture collections of RBG. Campers have the opportunity to hike, play, and learn about the natural world that surrounds us.

Drop off at Art Gallery of Burlington for 9 a.m. Extended care is not available in the morning for this program.

Pick up at RBG Centre for 4-4:30 p.m. Extended care is available in the afternoon for this program at RBG.





Camps at RBG Centre

Half-day programs for 3- and 4-year-olds

These daily, 2.5-hour programs (9:30 a.m. until 12 p.m.) introduce young children to the wonders of the outdoors and allow them to experience many different aspects of our day camp programs. These programs take place at RBG Centre in Room 3 and make use of the natural and garden areas located nearby. Each week holds new and different activities. By law, campers registered in full-day programs must be 4 years old before the first day of the program commencing. All participants must be toilet trained.

Nature Explorers

Discover caterpillars and butterflies hiding in the garden, hand-feed chickadees and chipmunks while on our nature trails, search for reptiles and birds, view the world through a bug's eyes and visit the homes of all sorts of animals. Get your hands dirty as we search out amazing creatures and discover life in the great outdoors. Play, explore, craft and ramble along all while being amazed by the wonder of Mother Nature.

Family Day for Half-Day Camps

Camp is a new experience for our youngest visitors, and we understand that some children may not feel comfortable their first day. If your child is registered in our camp for 3- and 4-year-olds, be sure to join us on the Monday of each camp week for family day. As a parent or caregiver, you are invited to join us for the program so that you and your family can see what camp is all about, discover the wonders of nature and ease any worries.



Camps at RBG Centre

4* - and 5-year-olds

Up in the Air

Weeks 1, 4, and 7

Focus: Animal Lives. Up, up and away on an adventure into the world of flying things! From tiny flying insects to the majestic bald eagle the sky is full of winged creatures that call our forest and wetlands home. Come out as we discover the world and lives of the birds, bats and bugs of RBG. Spread your wings during this week of fun and exploration!

Forest of Imagination

Weeks 2, 5 and 8

Focus: Life in a Forest. Open your ears, look around and discover nature's magic around every corner. Join us for a week of fun and imagination as we explore life in the woods just outside our door.

Hands-on Nature

Weeks 3, 6 and 9

Focus: Stewards of the Natural World. The forests and wetlands around RBG are filled with amazing and spectacular things to discover. Meet the birds, mammals, and insects of the forest and stream face-to-face, and learn about their lives through nature walks, explorations and hands-on fun.

"It's a great balance of different activities. We were really impressed with the staff, organization and activities that the kids did! It was both my girls first time at camp and it was an awesome week!"

* Due to recent updates to the Childcare Modernization Act legislation, any child enrolled in a full-day camp program must be 4 years of age or older at the time of the camp start date.

6- and 7-year-olds

Animal Wonders

Weeks 1, 4, and 7

Focus: Animal Lives. Discover the living things found under our feet, in the trees, under rocks, and in the garden! Spot birds with binoculars and get close to some incredible animal neighbours. Come out as we explore the lives of our furry and feathered friends and learn about how we can help them thrive.

Valley Adventures

Weeks 2, 5 and 8

Focus: Stewards of the Natural World. Join us for a week of nature walks into Hendrie Valley to explore the world of the creatures that call our backyard home. Hendrie Valley, Grindstone Creek and our rich forests and fields provide a fantastic place to learn about local plants and wildlife and what we can do to protect them.

Roots and Shoots

Weeks 3, 6 and 9

Focus: Food and Plant Power. All life needs plants! This program is all about discovering the connections that animals have to the plants they rely upon, as shelter and food. We will spend time learning first-hand where our own food comes from by getting our hands in the garden soil, and learn how we can turn garden plants into tasty and healthy snacks.

Leadership Development

These fun and educational programs are designed to develop leadership and life skills. Through hands-on cooperative activities, participants explore and learn about teamwork, problem solving, communication and leadership. Develop skills that will help you in every aspect of life and have a great time being part of a dynamic team. Learn more about yourself and others while gaining valuable work experience and becoming more skilled at working with children in an educational environment.

Leader in Training

13- to 15-year-olds

Develop leadership, communication, self-confidence and group management skills through training sessions, hands-on activities and workshops led by our Leadership Development Team. Learn how to successfully lead games and crafts, capture the attention of campers and find out how to make learning fun through motivation and co-operation.

Fee: \$350 (Members 5% off)

Volunteer hours are not given for this position.

Session 1: July 2–12

Session 2: July 15–26

Session 3: July 29–August 9

Session 4: August 12–23

Junior Staff

14-year-olds+

Have the fun of summer camp but reap the benefits of being a leader! Work with an enthusiastic staff team who share a common interest and learn more about the environment, camping and working with children. Junior staff learn to care for children in an educational setting through training, job shadowing and supported leadership activities. Junior staff have the opportunity to lead games, crafts, create and brainstorm activities and facilitate camp programs. Acceptance into this program is based on leadership experience, teamwork and flexibility as well as a sense of initiative and a willingness to learn new skills. Participants receive an honourarium for their time. Participants are required to make a minimum five-week commitment.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR JUNIOR STAFF

- 14 years of age or older
- Leadership experience (i.e. babysitting, Scout/Guide helper, sports captain, previous Royal Botanical Gardens leadership training)
- Teamwork skills and flexibility; self-initiative and willingness to learn
- Minimum commitment of five weeks
- Preference given to those who have outdoor experience, canoe skills, experience working with children in an organized environment, a demonstrated interest in outdoor education/environmental science, pure science or teaching or those who have participated in a previous leadership training at Royal Botanical Gardens.

TRAINING

All participants in our Junior Staff program must participate in a weekend training session in June. Canoe certification is required in advance of the start of camp, at the Junior Staff participant's expense.

HOW TO APPLY

Download and fill out the Junior Staff Questionnaire found at www.rbg.ca/camps. Send the completed questionnaire, a résumé and a letter outlining your interest in the program and the weeks of your availability by April 26, 2019. Interviews for qualified candidates begin in early May and continue until positions have been filled.

By mail: Camp Director, Royal Botanical Gardens,
P.O. Box 399, Hamilton, ON L8N 3H8

Hand deliver to: Nature Interpretive Centre/Arboretum,
20A Old Guelph Road, Dundas, ON L9H 5Y5

Fax: Attention Camp Director, 905-577-0375

Email: camps@rbg.ca



"My older child is a naturalist at heart; this was the perfect camp for him."

CAMP FEES

HALF-DAY PROGRAMS for 3- and 4-year-olds

5-day camps: \$125 (Members 5% off)

4-day camps: \$100 (Members 5% off)

FULL-DAY CAMPS for 4- to 9-year-olds and 9–11-year-olds Get Outside! program

5-day camps: \$275 (Members 5% off)

4-day camps: \$220 (Members 5% off)

OPTIONAL OVERNIGHT for 9–11-year-olds Get Outside! program: \$50

ART GALLERY OF BURLINGTON AND RBG COMBO CAMP: \$295 (Members 5% off)

CAMPS for 10- to 13-year-olds and Cliffs to Cootes Adventure Camp

5-day camps: \$320 (Members 5% off)

4-day camps: \$265 (Members 5% off)

LEADER IN TRAINING

(includes one Thursday overnight camp-out)

\$350 per two-week session (Members 5% off)

EXTENDED CARE: \$10 per day



MEMBERSHIP (Dual and Dual-Plus Members only)

Dual membership levels are eligible for the camp discount. Please note that membership is not transferrable.

Membership must be active at time of camp purchase.

Discounts are not retroactive.

RBG members enjoy many benefits including free admission and discounted program fees.

Membership may be purchased in person at RBG kiosks and online.

For more information on membership and support, please call 905-527-1158 or visit online at

www.rbg.ca/membership.

Discovery Camps

ONLINE REGISTRATION: www.rbg.ca/camps



CAMP REGISTRATION

HOW TO REGISTER

Advanced registration is required. The best way to register is to do so **online at rbg.ca/camps**. Our secure, online service requires your email address in order to immediately send you a confirmation email and receipt. You can also register in person at RBG. We are AODA compliant and registration is available in alternative formats.

Registrations are accepted on a first-come basis. Registrations are not accepted if they are missing any required information. Upon registration, you receive a confirmation email outlining more detailed information about camp, including what to bring. Please read this confirmation email with your family so that everyone knows what to expect once camp starts!

For registration information:

905-527-1158, ext. 270; email: programs@rbg.ca



TIMES

All full-day camp programs run Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Drop off begins at 8:30 a.m., pick up ends at 4:30 p.m.

Half-day programs for 3- and 4-year-olds run Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Drop off begins at 9 a.m, pick up ends at 12:30 p.m.

EXTENDED CARE

Extended care is available from 8 to 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for full-day camps at a cost of \$10 per day per child. Extended care takes place at your camp location. Please register in advance for extended care. Extended care is included in the Leader in Training and Cliffs to Cootes programs. Extended care is not available for half-day camps nor for the AGB/RBG Combo Camp in the morning.

LOCATIONS

Camp programs are based at one of two locations:

Nature Interpretive Centre in the Arboretum, 20A Old Guelph Road, Dundas

- Discovery Camps for 4- to 15-year-olds
- Leadership Development Programs

RBG Centre, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington

- Half-day programs for 3- and 4-year-olds
- 4- and 5-year-old camps: Up in the Air, Forest of Imagination, Hands-on Nature
- 6- and 7-year-old camps: Animal Wonders, Valley Adventures, Roots and Shoots