

Summer Programs 2018

The Dutchess County Parks Division is offering a variety of educational programs this summer. Our programs give children an opportunity to experience and learn about the natural history of our Parks. Each session focuses on various aspects of environmental awareness, prehistoric Native American culture, and survival skills. Our goal is to give children a deeper understanding and appreciation of nature within a fun and entertaining atmosphere. We also try to instill a sense of personal responsibility and teamwork. We look forward to seeing you this summer.



Dutchess County
Department of Public Works
Parks Division
85 Sheafe Rd • Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
(845) 298-4602
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Department of Public Works
Parks Division
Summer Programs
2018

Steve Olsen
Director of Parks



Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive



Dutchess County Parks

Summer Programs

2018

In our fast paced world, kids get swept up in the rush of modern life and have very little time to slow down and explore. They don't get a chance to go for a walk or sit by a lake and take in the natural beauty that surrounds them. Without these moments, life becomes an endless race from one responsibility to the next. They also begin to spend less and less time outdoors as technology becomes a larger part of our lives. We tend to forget nature still provides the core of our physical survival in this world and so, we take it for granted.

Our summer programs strive to reconnect children with nature. The activities are structured to be hands-on and allow for creative exploration. Whether we're hiking, learning survival skills, playing games or telling stories, we are outside experiencing the world around us. Personal responsibility plays an important role in everything we do. If a child is lost in the woods and there is no adult to turn to, they must understand every choice and action has consequences. This is reinforced with challenges the children undertake each day to test the skills they have learned. We also cover group dynamics in a survival situation through various teambuilding exercises.

Our goal is to give children a new sense of confidence and respect when entering the natural world. Not only will they be able to handle a survival situation if it occurs, but they will have a new appreciation for the world around them.



Why Learn Survival Skills?

What is the value of learning survival skills in our modern world?
What are the chances a person would actually need to use such skills?

These are some of the questions people ask when considering if they should learn survival skills. The reality is these skills are useful in any situation, not just when a person becomes lost in the wilderness. It goes beyond learning to build a shelter or make a fire. It is a way of approaching any challenge a person may face in their everyday life. We like to break it down into five steps.

Awareness - First assess the situation. What is the challenge? What resources are available? What options are available to solve the problem? Try to look at the situation with fresh eyes and from an objective perspective.

Perseverance - Things are going to go wrong. Sometimes our attempts will fail. There is no excuse. Get up and try again.

Creativity - Think outside the box. Do not constrain yourself. Do not be afraid to experiment and try a new way to solve the problem if the usual answers are not working. If it fails, try something different.

Knowledge - Never stop learning. Seek answers everywhere. Expand your life experience whenever possible. One word of caution, there is a big difference between reading about flying a plane and actually flying a plane. Get out and do things for real. After you have done something successfully once, do it again a thousand times. Constantly challenge yourself.

Silence - The mind is both the greatest asset and the worst liability. Learn to control self-doubt, worry and fear. These feelings can sabotage a person's best efforts to overcome a challenging situation.

Survival skills are just that, skills that help us survive.

David Beck
Park Naturalist



Summer Day Program

Ages 9-11

Our day program is a combination of nature study and survival skills. Children will explore forest habitats, hike through the park's many trails, and observe native wildlife. Our focus this year is hunting and gathering. Topics will include:

- Silent Movement & Natural Camouflage
- Basic Hunting Techniques
- Animal Tracking
- Basic Traps
- Edible Plants

Each session lasts four days. There are early drop-off and late-pick up options available. Due to demand, each child will be limited to only one Summer Day session.

Session Time: 9:30am - 4:00pm

Cost : \$170 per session

Location : Bowdoin Park

Session 1 : July 9th - July 12th

Session 2 : July 23rd - July 26th



Survival Intensive

Ages 12-14

The survival intensive program blends survival techniques with an understanding of how prehistoric people lived in harmony with the land. This summer, we are focusing on hunting and gathering. Topics will include:

- Silent Movement & Camouflage
- Hunting Techniques
- Animal Tracking
- Traps
- Survival Awareness
- Edible Plants

Each session lasts four days. There are early drop-off and late pick-up options available. Due to demand, each child will be limited to only one Survival Intensive session.

Session Time: 9:30am - 4:00pm

Cost : \$170 per session

Location : Bowdoin Park

Session 1 : July 16th - July 19th

Session 2 : August 6th - August 9th

Living Survival

Ages 15-17

The living survival program is designed to mimic a real survival situation. A scenario will be presented that will last throughout the week. This scenario will be framed in the context of a story. The participants will have to use all of their skills and knowledge to complete the many challenges they will face. We will be making fires, purifying water, finding edible plants, tracking, using camouflage, and much more.

There will also be missions participants must complete such as finding a lost person or deciphering clues that may lead to an ancient relic. All the while, the woods are filled with adversaries who may attack at any time. Our focus throughout the week is to teach self-reliance and teamwork. The unexpected events force an adaptive attitude vital in true survival situations. Success is not guaranteed. There is always the possibility the group will fail at its mission. This helps to give true gravity to the situation. The actions of the group will influence the storyline as it progresses.

Throughout the week, participants will learn to make quick decisions, plan ahead, use tactics, and deal with stressful situations. We will also look at each person's strengths and how the group can use these to the advantage of all. Everyone will receive a packet containing this year's scenario and the rules of living survival at the beginning of the summer.

This program will be limited to 20 students. This session lasts four days.

Session Time: 9:30am - 4:00pm

Cost : \$170

Location : Bowdoin Park

Session : August 13th – August 16th



Complete Survival

Ages 12-14

The complete survival program ties together all the survival techniques we have learned. We combine this with an understanding of how prehistoric people approached survival and resources. We will spend the four days in a re-creation of a survival situation. Participants will build shelters, start fires, find food and water, and observe the wildlife around them. They will work together in groups to accomplish tasks and challenges. This program will be limited to 20 students. The week ends with an optional overnight on Thursday. This session lasts four days.

Students must have previously attended the Survival Intensive program to be eligible.

Session Time: 9:30am - 4:00pm

Cost : \$170 per session

Location : Wilcox Park

Session 1 : July 30th - August 2nd

Adventure Day Program

Ages 9-11

Our adventure day program is designed to duplicate the excitement of a movie or videogame in a physical way. Participants will learn archery, battle with foam weapons, play Nerf tag and learn group problem solving. There will be group challenges each day that can only be solved through creativity and teamwork. The end of the week will be a simulated adventure in which the participants have to use all of their new-found skills to overcome obstacles and win the game. Topics will include:

- Archery
- Group Strategy and Problem Solving
- Nerf Tag Battles
- Foam Weapon Construction and Use
- Situational Awareness

Each session lasts four days. There are early drop-off and late-pick up options available. Due to demand, each child will be limited to only one Adventure Day session.

Session Time: 9:30am - 4:00pm

Cost : \$170 per session

Location : Bowdoin Park

Session 1 : July 9th - July 12th

Session 2 : July 23rd - July 26th



Adventure Intensive Program

Ages 12-14

Our adventure day program is designed to duplicate the excitement of a movie or videogame in a physical way. Participants will learn archery, battle with foam weapons, play Nerf tag and learn group problem solving. There will be group challenges each day that can only be solved through creativity and teamwork. The end of the week will be a simulated adventure in which the participants have to use all of their new-found skills to overcome obstacles and win the game.

- Archery
- Group Strategy and Problem Solving
- Nerf Tag Battles
- Foam Weapon Construction and Use
- Situational Awareness

Each session lasts four days. There are early drop off and late pick up options available. Due to demand, each child will be limited to only one Adventure Intensive session.

Session Time: 9:30am - 4:00pm

Cost : \$170 per session

Location : Bowdoin Park

Session 1 : July 16th - July 19th

Session 2 : August 6th - August 9th

“Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountains and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books.”

- John Lubbock



The farther man's feet are removed from the earth, the less respect he has for living, growing things.

-Apache Proverb

Dutchess County Parks Educational Programs

We offer educational opportunities for children and adults of all ages. Our programs tend to be hands-on oriented to facilitate learning through experience rather than lecture. Throughout the year, our schedule includes:

School Programs

Our school programs are focused on Grades K through six. We are always striving to create new programs that meet the needs of our local schools. We do programs on site as well as outreach to schools when transportation is an issue. Some of the programs we currently offer are:

- Maple Sugaring
- Prehistoric Native Americans
- Map Skills
- Mammal Studies
- Basic Survival

Scout Programs

We work with Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops to develop programs that meet their needs. Programs include:

- Archery
- Survival Skills
- Tracking
- Orienteering

Weekend Archery

This program is for children and adults of any experience level. We cover everything from basic safety to proper form. Each class is spent working on technique and playing various games to improve accuracy. All equipment is provided. Typically, archery is offered from September through June. Classes take place on Saturdays between 10am and 4pm.

Dutchess County Parks Summer Registration Form

Student Name : _____

Grade : _____ Age : _____

Parent / Guardian Name : _____

Address : _____

Phone # : _____

Emergency #1 : _____

Emergency #2: _____

Allergies : _____

Program Name & Date:

First Choice _____

Second Choice _____

E-mail : _____

() confirmation by e-mail () e-mail list

I hereby grant permission for my family members listed above to participate in the above named Dutchess County Parks Division program (s). I understand all recreation activities have some degree of risk. I hereby, for myself, my child, and/or my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I and/or my child may have against the County of Dutchess, its staff and any person connected with the summer camp program for any and all injuries suffered by my child during the summer camp program. I also understand Dutchess County Parks Division takes photographs and video for publicity purposes and I give permission for photos and video of my family to be used for that purpose.

Parent / Guardian Name - Please Print

Parent / Guardian Signature

Please include a check made payable to *Dutchess County Parks Division* and this registration form with the waiver signed. We will send a confirmation letter with additional information once registration is received. Programs are offered on a first come, first served basis.

Cancelations within 30 days of the beginning of a session will incur a \$50 cancellation fee.

Please send registration to: Park Naturalist Bowdoin Park 85 Sheafe Road Wappingers Falls, NY 12590	Or contact us at: (845) 298 - 4602 parknaturalist@dutchessny.gov
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Base Program Cost : \$170

Extended Day Options (Summer Day Program / Survival Intensive Only)

Early Morning Drop Off +\$50 8:30am to 9:30am

Late Afternoon Pick Up +\$50 4:00pm to _____

Total Amount Enclosed : _____

We are ordering shirts again this year. Please circle the appropriate size for your child.

Youth Small	Youth Medium	Youth Large
Adult Small	Adult Medium	Adult Large