

NATURAL LANDS PROGRAM

SEMINOLE TRACKS

NEWSLETTER



# Your Summer Adventure Awaits...

Here at Natural Lands, we are so excited to welcome campers back this season for Summer Eco Camp! Let your kids reconnect to the outside world, meet new friends and make unforgettable memories in Florida's great outdoors!

This issue of the Seminole Tracks Newsletter details this summer's camp themes, a bit about our amazing staff and other Natural Lands offerings.

We look forward to continuing to provide high quality, engaging and FUN summer experiences for Seminole County families.

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# What is Eco Camp?

Eco Camp is an environmental education camp run by Seminole County's Natural Lands Program. Eco Camp has been engaging children in nature-based games, lessons, crafts and activities for over 20 years!



Our goal is that all Eco Campers will leave camp with a sense of self-accomplishment and appreciation for science and the natural world. Camp dates coincide with Seminole public school's summer, spring and winter breaks.

## Camp Activities

Each week of summer camp has a different nature-related theme, but there are a few classic Eco Camp activities every session gets to enjoy:

Fishing: All campers will have the opportunity to learn fishing ethics and practice with open and closed reels.

Hiking: With 180 acres and multiple habitats to explore, there are always new discoveries to be made!

Games and Crafts: Each week we play LOTS of outside and inside games and create unique works of art to take home.

Animal Programs: Campers get to handle and learn about our resident animal ambassadors in the Nature Center.



## Who Teaches Eco Camp?

We are very proud of our skilled and passionate Eco Camp counselors! All lead instructors are public school teachers or those who have spent many years working in science education. Instructors and volunteers are background checked. All lessons are thoughtfully planned to be both educational and engaging for different ages and abilities.





## Eco Camp Specs

Eco Camp is a day camp. Each session runs for one week. Campers will spend parts of the day indoors in the nature center/classroom and outdoors exploring the property.

There are two camps for different age ranges. Our Eco Camp is for children ages 7-12. Biology Bootcamp is for teens 13-15 years old.

## What to Bring

Campers will want to pack a lunch with snacks and a water bottle (refrigeration and microwave will not be provided). All campers must have close-toed shoes to participate in outside programs. It is also a great idea to pack sunscreen and insect repellent.

### Location

- **Ed and Imogene Yarborough Nature Center**  
3485 N. County Road 426 Genva, FL

### Times

- **Regular** 9:00 am- 4:00 pm
- **Extended Care** 7:30 am- 5:30 pm

### Cost

- **Regular** \$132/week
- **Extended Care** An additional \$15/week

### Ages

- **Eco Camp** ages 7-12
- **Biology Bootcamp** ages 13-15



## Camps Full?

Eco Camp fills up quickly! If your favorite week is full, you can request to be added to the waiting list.

Email:

[nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov)

Call: 407-665-2211



# Eco Camp

## Theme Schedule

Explore, learn and have fun during Summer Eco Camp! Each week offers a new exciting theme! Spots fill up quickly, so register today at:

[recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov](http://recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov)

Questions? Call or email 407.665.2211 nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov

### Week

# 1



### Biology Bootcamp

June 2-6 Ages 13-15

Join us at Biology Bootcamp, a dynamic week-long day camp tailored for middle/high school science enthusiasts! Say goodbye to conventional classroom labs and dive into environmental science in the field. Engage with seasoned biologists and experts, dissect organisms to explore their anatomy firsthand, and practice field sampling techniques. This summer, immerse yourself in hands-on learning experiences at Biology Bootcamp, where discovery and exploration bring science to life!

### Week

# 2



### Survivor Challenge

June 9-13 Ages 7-12

Could you survive a night in the wild? Learn the vital skills of survival - shelter, water, fire and food. Activities range from basic environmental education such as plant identification and animal tracking to survival skills such as starting a fire without matches and building a lean-to. Equip yourself with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in nature during Survivor Challenge!

### Week

# 3



### Camping Academy

June 16-20 Ages 7-12

Campers of all experience levels welcome to this week of camping 101. Learn new skills and test them during fun challenges, hands-on practice and camping-inspired crafts. From basic survival skills, building fires, outdoor cooking, Leave No Trace and wilderness first aid, gain all the skills you need for your next camping adventure.

### Week

# 4



### Eco-lympics

June 23-27 Ages 7-12

Join the games and compete as an eco-lympian while you recycle, reduce, reuse and rethink! Create Earth-friendly art from natural and upcycled materials. Meet imperiled animals and discover what you can do to save them. Go for the Gold this summer during the Eco-lympics!

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### Week

# 5



### Expedition Insect

June 30 - July 3 (no camp on July 4 holiday) Ages 7-12

Campers can discover the magic of the miniature as they explore the captivating realm of insects. Through hands-on encounters and engaging games and crafts, campers become bug detectives, learning to identify different insect species, observe their behaviors, and understand their crucial roles in nature's intricate web.

### Week

# 6



### Navigating Nature

July 7-11 Ages 7-12

Find your way in nature! Campers will learn to use a compass and read maps. Practice the important survival skills of reading animal tracks and identifying their scat! Discover the world's animal navigators and how they never get lost while traveling around the globe.

### Week

# 7



### Eco Artists

July 14-18 Ages 7-12

Nature is full of wondrous shapes, colors and creations. Harness them by creating your own works of art inspired by the world around you. This week will be full of a variety of crafts and fun. Whether you enjoy drawing, weaving, painting or sculpting, there is something for every budding artist during Eco Artists week!

### Week

# 8



### Creatures of the Night

July 21-25 Ages 7-12

Peer into the mysterious world of nocturnal animals like bats, owls, moths and bobcats. Explore how the wilderness comes alive after dark! Gain a nocturnal perspective through games, crafts and challenges to understand how animals survive after the sun goes down.



# Private Hikes, Rentals and Programs

**Location:** Nature Center in the Geneva Wilderness Area  
3485 N. County Road 426  
Geneva, FL 32732

**Cost:** \$170, includes 3-hour facility rental and the Natural Lands party host.

**Registration:** To coordinate times and availability, please email:  
[nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov)



## Eco Birthday Parties



Create a birthday party experience your child will never forget! A trained staff member will welcome your party guests, present an exciting live animal program and take the group for a hike on our 180-acre property. Enjoy time in the Nature Center for exploration and your refreshments.

## Private Hikes

Do you want to take a hike with your favorite people? Schedule a private hike with Natural Lands! Great for scout groups, field trips, team building and family reunions.

One of our knowledgeable staff members will guide you through the trails of the wilderness area of your choice. Along the way, hikers can ask questions and the instructor will stop to point out notable sights. Hike takes approximately 2 hours. \$5 per person. Up to 25 guests.

## Facility Rentals

Rent one of our amazing facilities for your party, family reunion, business meeting or other events!

- North Campsite/Pavilion @ GWA
- Nature Center
- Full & half days or overnight



## Field Trips & In-School Programs

Field trips to the Geneva Wilderness Area can serve as a wonderful opportunity for your students to explore natural science first-hand. Program includes a nature program in the center with live animals, a hike around the property and time for lunch. Open to public, private and home school groups. Only \$5 per student!

Let Natural Lands come to you! During the 45-50 minute in-school program, students will learn about standards-based science topics and have opportunities to view and handle skulls, displays and live animals. This program is FREE!

For more information, please call 407.665.2211 or email [nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:nswanson@seminolecountyfl.gov)

# Next Season and Program Partners

## Fall

After camp has ended, we look forward to Florida Fall. Natural Lands offers many hikes, classes and special programs during this season. And don't forget about Winter Break Eco Camp in December!

Keep checking back on the Parks and Recreation registration page to sign up for Fall events!

[recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov](http://recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov)



Happy Adventuring!

## Program Partners



The Cuplet Fern Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society joins Natural Lands for Open Houses, plant-related hikes, plant rescue events and maintains the demonstration garden at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center. Cuplet Fern also provides several [scholarships](#) each season for children to attend Eco Camp. Thank you for all your support!



Seminole Audubon Society works closely with Natural Lands to lead birding hikes and programs, give informative presentations and hikes to our Eco Campers, provide [scholarships](#) for children to attend Eco Camp and help Natural Lands purchase materials for programming including Audubon Adventures educational materials and binoculars for Eco Camp.

