

CincyNature Camp

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How are camps at Rowe Woods and Long Branch Farm & Trails similar, and how are they different?

A: All CincyNature Camps are designed with the goal of providing fun, hands-on, educational experiences in nature for boys and girls ages 3 to 15. Our camps challenge kids to be active and creative while developing confidence and social skills in a natural setting. Our camp directors make camps engaging and joyful for kids while promoting inclusiveness, safety and age-appropriateness.

With this in mind, camps at Rowe Woods and Long Branch Farm & Trails can be vastly different! Camps at LBFT are loosely structured and offer more time for free exploration, with campers spending most of their days out in the field, venturing off-trail to directly interact with the natural world under the watchful eyes of their camp counselors. Camps at RW tend to be structured and dig deeper into specific topics of interest, including insects, birds, art and more.

Q: How do you ensure safety at CincyNature Camps?

A: Camp counselors know that camper safety is the first priority. All staff are trained in First Aid and CPR prior to the start of camp. At LBFT, water safety protocol demands that campers and staff wear life jackets when canoeing and during more challenging stream hikes.

Q: I've never been to Long Branch Farm & Trails; is it going to be out of my way?

A: Believe it or not, LBFT is only about 10 miles north of RW, located just off of OH-28 and close to Loveland. The beauty of LBFT is its remoteness - fewer members hike daily at LBFT, allowing campers more space and freedom to explore. If you think Rowe Woods is a hidden gem, wait until you discover Long Branch Farm & Trails!

Q: Is my child too young for the "loose structure" of camps at LBFT? Will the camps still be educational?

A: If your child is within the designated age range indicated in the camp description, he/she is the perfect age for LBFT camps! Remember, "loose, unstructured" play is a great way to inspire imagination and promote confidence in children. As LBFT Camp Director Jason Neumann says, "Experience *is* education." And as a parent, you can rest assured knowing your child will explore the natural world with the guidance of our well-trained camp director and camp counselors.

Q: The description says this camp includes a wide range of ages. Is this correct?

A: Each camp has something special to offer to all the children within the designated age range. Camps with mixed-age children are separated into smaller, age-appropriate groups to guarantee the best experience.

Q: Can I ensure that my child will be in the same group as his/her friend when campers are divided into groups?

A: Absolutely, as long as the children are the same age, you can contact Amy Johnson at (513) 831-1711 ext. 129 to request that your child be placed in the same small group as a friend registered for the same camp.

Q: Do you accept children with special needs?

A: This depends on the special need. Often we can accommodate children with special needs. Please see P. 3 of the CincyNature Camp 2012 Brochure to review our expectations of campers' abilities.

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Q: My young child is outside of the designated age range for a camp; can he still attend? He's "advanced" for his age.

A: Camps are carefully designed for specific age groups and, within those groups, children are further separated into similarly aged groups to ensure the best quality experience at camp. We do not allow children outside of the designated age range to join in camp for the following reasons:

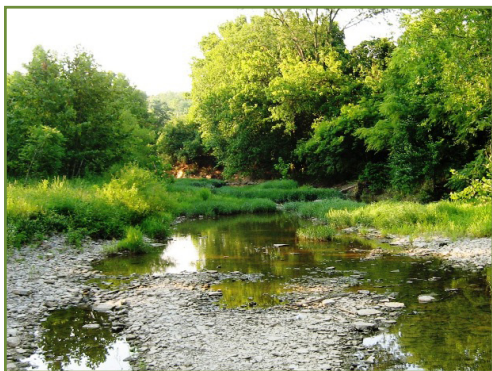
- Young children often lack the endurance for some of our activities.
- Young children often lack the social maturity to deal with older campers.
- Enrolling a child in a camp designed for older children may inhibit either the young child or the older campers.

Q: My child has food allergies (peanuts, milk, wheat, etc). How do you accommodate?

A: Over the years, we have had many children with food allergies. Action depends upon severity of the allergy. Children with strong peanut allergies are often allowed to eat away from children with peanut products. We will ask parents' permission to discuss a child's allergies with his/her group in an effort to educate other campers about the reasons for our actions. Typical snacks for the longer days include: pretzels, goldfish, cinnamon gram crackers, and animal crackers.

Do you have a question we've missed? Contact Amy Johnson at (513) 831-1711 ext. 129 to get an answer!

Long Branch Farm and Trails, Cincinnati Nature Center's untouched secret.



While in close proximity to Milford and Loveland, Long Branch Farm and Trails remains a hidden gem. Summer day campers can expect to have the 583 acre Long Branch site with its four miles of trails, bountiful forests and meadows and two pristine streams all to themselves.

While Long Branch's nature-based camps are loosely structured to allow for an abundance of opportunities for exploration, safety is paramount. Staff and volunteers are mentored to create a camp culture in which everyone is included in a physically and emotionally safe environment. Our water safety protocols demand that campers and staff wear life jackets when canoeing and during more challenging stream hikes.

Independently-functioning small groups of campers, under the watchful eyes of their staff teams, spend most of their days out in the field and will be able to venture off-trail to directly interact with the natural world.

Jason Neumann, the Long Branch camp director, has been involved with summer camps since 1992 and has been running camps at Long Branch since 1995. Jason is quoted as saying, "Long Branch allows me to offer the kinds of formative experiences I had as a youth when I was constantly exploring the creeks and woodlands near my family's farm in Michigan. Over the years, I've come to know every nook and cranny of this site. It feels like home."

Camp is Jason's favorite program of the year. He has a reputation for creating quality camps and believes that experience is education.

"I have prior experience with Jason's camps and I know that anything he dreams up is going to interest and excite children about the natural world around them."

—quote from 2009 CincyNature Camp survey respondent.