Historic Chellberg Farm is the backdrop for our newest camp where kids can interact with the animals, explore the forest, and play fun games to learn more about life on the farm.

Please read this guide thoroughly as it contains important information about camp. If you have any further questions regarding your child’s stay, please contact the Dunes Learning Center office at 219-395-9555, or email Erin Crofton at ecrofton@duneslearningcenter.org

Thank you for your interest in summer camp at Dunes Learning Center. We are looking forward to providing your child with a fun, educational, and exciting camp experience in the great outdoors!
Contact Dunes Learning Center

Camp Information
219-395-9555
ecrofton@duneslearningcenter.org

Emergency Numbers
In the event of an emergency while your child is attending camp please call:
• Dunes Learning Center office: 219-395-9555  Monday–Friday 8am-4:30pm
• Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Dispatch at 219-395-1077

Facebook
Follow camp adventures via Dunes Learning Center’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/duneslearningcenter. We do our best to capture and post images from camp, usually within one day. Like us to stay up to date!
Parent Checklist

Please review and complete this checklist to ensure a smooth transition to camp for your child.

**Before the first day of Chellberg Camp**

- Register your child for camp online. Slots can fill quickly.

**Prior to each day of Chellberg Camp**

- Tell your camper how much fun they will have at camp.
- Help your camper pack for each day, including **a water bottle and a lunch**. Campers should wear closed-toe shoes and bring an extra pair of shoes each day. A change of clothes is also recommended. Make certain your camper has sunscreen and bug spray applied each day before they arrive at camp.
- Label all of your camper’s things that are going to be brought to camp with permanent marker. Be sure to use first and last names for easy identification of lost items.
- Have any medications ready to turn into camp staff at check-in. Medications must be in their original containers!

**At Camp Drop Off and Pick Up Each Day**

- Be sure your camper eats breakfast before coming to camp.
- Have medications ready to turn into camp staff at check-in. Medications must be in their original container.
- Drop Off: 9:00 am CST
- Pick Up: Have your photo ID ready show staff at the check-out table.
  - Ages 5-6 2:00 pm CST
  - Ages 7-8 3:00 pm CST
About Dunes Learning Center

Inpiring lasting curiosity and stewardship with nature.

Dunes Learning Center is proud to carry on a tradition of learning in the dunes that dates back more than 100 years ago by the “Father of Ecology in North America,” Dr. Henry Chandler Cowles. Our programs provide a critical and beneficial connection to nature for learners of all ages—inspiring curiosity, scientific literacy, and environmental stewardship.

Located within the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, our residential environmental learning center is surrounded by scenic trails, historic sites, and one of the most biologically diverse National Parks in the nation.

We get kids outdoors, to explore and learn, to build confidence, form new connections, and make a difference. Residential and outreach programs connect classroom lessons with the natural and cultural history of this special region during the school year. We extend our engagement by hosting community events and providing summer camps to carry out our mission throughout the year.

Camp Outcomes

- Develop a sense of self and place by fostering social-emotional skills and strategies to connect with others and the natural world.

- Provide opportunities for safe outdoor learning experiences that promote positive relationships.

- Promote an understanding of the need for conservation and protection of natural resources.

- Serve the needs of participants from diverse communities and backgrounds.

- Operate as an organization that leads by example utilizing a professionally trained team of emerging conservation leaders who advocate for stewardship, sustainability, and environmental equity.

- Integrate program activities with the National Park Service to create an awareness of their role in protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources for the enjoyment and education of all generations.

Dunes Learning Center is an ACA-Accredited Camp.

ACA camps reflect current best practices and set the standard for the industry with regular, independent health and safety audits of camp operations. The ACA accreditation process is voluntary and demonstrates excellence, accountability, and an ongoing commitment to the children we serve. Learn more at DunesCamp.org.
Chellberg Farm

The farm was established in 1869 on a patch of forest near the Little Calumet River by a Swedish immigrant family, the Chellbergs. Three generations of the family lived on the farm, and over that period the farm operated as a sorghum farm, sugar maple bush, and even a dairy farm once the South Shore Line was completed. The National Park Service bought the farm from the Chellbergs in 1972, and restored it to a functioning 1890-1910 period farm.

In 2016, Dunes Learning Center partnered with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to bring life back to the farm by reinstating resident animals. Dunes Learning Center, National Park Service, and a dedicated group of volunteers care for chickens, cows, pigs, and turkeys, which are all part of this camp.

In addition to the historical house, garden, and barns, there are two large open shelters, one enclosed shelter, and a permanent building with restrooms. The campers will use these areas for snack, lunch, restroom break, and in the case of inclement weather.

Inclement Weather

The large majority of time at camp is spent outdoors, and we do not plan on letting a little drizzle slow us down! However, if the forecast calls for severe weather for the majority of the day the farm is simply not the best place to be. In the case of severe weather predictions, we may find it necessary to cancel the day of camp. If so, the Camp Staff will call each camper’s parent/guardian the morning of camp, approximately an hour before drop off time. The camper will be given the option to attend the same day in the following session or refunded for the day.

Transportation

- Campers must be delivered to camp at the beginning and picked up at the end.
- Parents/guardians must specify who is allowed to pick their child up from camp, and that person will be required to present identification at the pick-up time.

Please use caution when driving in pick up and drop off zones! Campers will be present!
Health and Safety

Medical Care While at Camp
The health and safety of every camper is our first priority. Campers are monitored by all staff. All staff are trained and certified in First Aid and CPR. National Park Service emergency dispatch and law enforcement personnel are available 24 hours per day to help with emergency situations. Porter Regional Hospital and Chesterton Health & Emergency Center hospitals are both 11 miles or less from Chellberg Farm. Ambulance service runs from Porter Fire Department, located approximately 3 miles from our campus. If your child becomes ill while at camp or requires medical treatment beyond basic First Aid, you will be contacted. Parents will be notified for pickup if their camper has a fever of 99º F or higher.

Medicine at Camp
All prescription and non-prescription medicines must be in their original container with dosage and camper’s name clearly indicated. Medicines will not be accepted in substitute containers.

• Medicines are kept by Dunes Learning Center’s camp staff and administered based on parent instruction.

• Place all medicine in a Ziploc style bag with the camper’s name clearly marked on the bag.

• Medicines must be turned into the staff upon check-in. You will be asked to list all medications, dosages, and purposes.

• Dunes Learning Center keeps a stock of over the counter medications. Parents will be asked for permission to administer these medications at check-in.

Camp Food
Campers are responsible for bringing their own lunch each day. Snacks will be provided by Dunes Learning Center. If your camper has a dietary restriction, please complete and submit a Dietary Restriction Form, found on our website at duneslearningcenter.org/documents. Campers with special dietary needs for personal, religious, or medical reasons, must note this information on the Dunes Learning Center Camp Registration Form and complete and submit a dietary restriction form found at www.DunesLearningCenter.org/dietary.
Camp Conduct

Behavior
The staff will do everything possible to help your child adjust to camp life. We follow a simple one-word rule: RESPECT. We expect campers to respect themselves by following instructions and safety guidelines; respect others by treating all campers and staff with courtesy; respect the facilities at camp; and respect the environment in their enjoyment of nature. Our RESPECT rule is clearly outlined for all campers at the beginning of camp. They are made aware of the rule and the consequences following disrespectful behavior.

Camp is thoughtfully designed to be a pleasant, educational, healthy, and safe environment for all. Dunes Learning Center reserves the right to send home any child who exhibits unsuitable or consistently disrespectful behavior, endangers the camp community, or engages in destructive acts. Any event of unacceptable behavior will result in the following:

• 1st Strike: a warning is issued and the program staff talks with the child.
• 2nd Strike: a second warning is issued and the child speaks with the Lead Staff or Education Director. The camper calls their parent/guardian to report their own misbehavior.
• 3rd Strike: child is withdrawn from activities. The child’s parent or guardian is responsible for picking them up from camp. In this case, there is no refund.

Serious infractions such as fighting, having weapons or controlled substances will result in immediate dismissal and possible prosecution.

Supervision
Dunes Learning Center programs and activities are led by our enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff. Interpretive Naturalists have a university degree and lead daytime programs. Dunes Learning Center recruits staff from across the United States and around the world. All staff must pass a background check and receive specialized training including First Aid and CPR.

Dunes Learning Center utilizes the “rule of three” to ensure the safety of our campers. This requires a minimum of 3 people to be together at all times. The group of 3 may consist of 2 adults and 1 child, or 1 adult and 2 children.

Please do not send personal cell phones to camp with your child. All phones brought to camp will be collected and kept until the camp day ends.
Sample Program Schedule

During their weeks in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, campers will learn about the history and diversity of the farm and surrounding forest through games, hikes, and other exciting activities. Each day campers will receive instruction, have a snack, engage in exploration of the park, and participate in an art or craft activity. All program supplies and snacks are provided as part of your Chellberg Camp registration fee.

Below are descriptions of some of the planned activities for camp. All activities are subject to weather conditions, and may be altered.

**Animal Encounters**
Campers will have the opportunity to pet, feed, and interact with the animals at the farm. They will learn about the differences and similarities between each animal and themselves, as well as the many resources the animals provide for us. In addition to meeting the animals, campers will also play animal-themed games: egg relay, tippy-cow bowling, feed the pig toss, and more.

**Crafts**
Campers will create a unique craft themed around the activities of that day. These crafts are for each camper to take home at the end of the day as a reminder of all the fun activities he/she experienced while at camp.

**Insect Investigations**
This activity highlights the vital role that insects play in our lives as we know them. Campers will spend time sweeping for insects in the Chellberg garden. We will discuss and demonstrate the job that each of these insects have in the garden. Then campers will explore and search for insects in the forest. Everyone will compare the various insects found in the different locations.

**Life on the Farm Activities**
During this activity campers get the feel for what life was like for the Chellberg children over 100 years ago. They will get a tour of the house to see early 20th century living conditions. They can try their hands at some common farm chores: push-mowing the lawn, feeding the animals, milking the (fake) cow, and stacking milk jugs. Campers will also experience the old ways to have fun and pass time like ring toss, wooden stilts, and the old Swedish game of Kubb.
What to Bring

Summer weather in the dunes can be unpredictable. The following is a list of suggested items. Keep in mind that most of the time spent at camp will be outdoors. Expensive designer clothing should be left at home - bring clothes that can get dirty!

☐ Sack lunch
☐ Sturdy closed-toe shoes for hiking. Open-toe shoes such as flip-flops or sandals are not permitted.
☐ An extra pair of shoes that can get wet and muddy may be desired on any day with rain.
☐ Raincoat or poncho
☐ Hat with sun visor
☐ Sunglasses
☐ Sweater or sweatshirt
☐ Lip balm
☐ Sunscreen
☐ Mosquito repellent
☐ Two reusable water bottles
☐ Backpack (no drawstring backpacks)

Optional items:
☐ Camera (rugged or disposable)
☐ Binoculars

What NOT to bring!

Video games, cell phones, other electronic games, iPods, pocket knives.

Strictly Prohibited
- Tobacco and electronic cigarettes
- Alcoholic beverages
- Illegal drugs
- Weapons, including but not limited to: firearms, ammunition, and knives
- Animals
- Sports equipment such as hockey sticks, climbing gear, or baseball bats
Money Matters

Payment
Payment is due at the time of camp registration found online at DunesLearningCenter.org

Refunds and cancellations
Your registration fee will be refunded if:

• The camper is withdrawn by writing Dunes Learning Center no less than 30 days prior to the camp start date.
• Camp is cancelled by Dunes Learning Center.

No refunds will be given if…

• A camper leaves camp early due to missing home or parent request.
• A camper is sent home for behavioral reasons.
• A camper does not show up for camp.

No Shows
Please make every effort to arrive on time. Dunes Learning Center will verify absences by phoning the family of absent campers.

For more information please phone Dunes Learning Center at 219-395-9555.

Support Summer Camp Experiences for Everyone
Dunes Learning Center is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of people like you to fund programs and keep tuition costs low. Please consider donating an additional $20, $50, $100 or the full camp tuition so that we can keep summer camp experiences affordable and accessible. Your tax-deductible donation will help us provide kids with outdoor experiences that last a lifetime.
Directions to Chellberg Farm


Once off the interstate, continue east on U.S. Highway 20 for 1.6 miles to Mineral Springs Road (Mineral Springs Road is just past the metal bridge at the second blinking light, opposite the sign for the Spring House Inn). Look for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore signs directing you to Bailly/Chellberg Farm.

Turn north or left on Mineral Springs Road and then turn left or west into the Bailly/Chellberg Farm parking lot.


From the South: Take Interstate 65 North to Interstate 94 East and follow the above directions from the west.

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