

Critter Camp Overnight Adventure at My Nature Lab

Embark on the Ultimate Nature Adventure!

Join us for an unforgettable outdoor experience during our Critter Camp Overnight Adventure at My Nature Lab in Louisville, CO. Designed for young ecologists and herpetologists ages 11-15, this overnight camp offers a hands-on, immersive journey into the wilds of nature. Whether you're a budding biologist or simply curious about the critters that share our world, this is your chance to discover, learn, and connect in an adventure-packed 4 days!

Unleash Your Inner Naturalist

Dive deep into the natural world with Cameron and Becca, your guides for the week. They have planned lots of engaging activities and adventures that bring you closer to wild reptiles and amphibians in Colorado, from flipping rocks, road cruising, night hiking, tracking snakes and turtles, to identifying local plants and soils that help predict where snakes might be hiding. Through these lessons about snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs, salamanders, ecosystems, and conservation, you'll gain a new understanding of the environment around you. This is more than just a camp – it's a chance to truly *become* a naturalist and herpetologist for the week, with each day filled with discovery and hands-on exploration.

Critter Encounters: Up Close & Personal

Get ready for jaw-dropping encounters with some of Colorado's most fascinating critters in the Field! From snakes and turtles to frogs and even insects, you'll safely find and handle these creatures under the supervision of our expert staff. Discover how reptiles and amphibians thrive in their habitats, learn how to find them in the wild, and unravel the mysteries behind their unique behaviors and adaptations. Say goodbye to myths and fears as you learn to respect and appreciate these often misunderstood creatures.

Sleepover Magic: Nights at My Nature Lab

Experience the magic of summer camp sleepovers with your fellow adventurers! As the sun sets, the Lab comes alive with nocturnal creatures, providing the perfect backdrop for nighttime activities. The bonds you form at camp will last a lifetime, as you connect with like-minded peers who share your curiosity and passion for the environment.

A Summer You'll Never Forget

At our Critter Camp Overnight Adventure at My Nature Lab, we're more than just about outdoor adventures—we're about fostering a lifelong love for the natural world. This camp is your chance to connect with nature, gain hands-on experience in wildlife conservation, and spark a passion for protecting our planet. Don't miss out on the adventure of a lifetime. *Your journey into the wild starts here!*

Tentative Daily Schedule (weather permitting for field activities)

Day 1 - Monday

- 9:00 AM - Check-in and unpack
- 10:00 AM - Day hike for snakes and lizards
- 12:00 PM - Lunch in the field
- 4:00 PM - Downtime at the Lab
- 6:00 PM - Dinner at the Lab
- 8:00 PM - Night hike for snakes
- 11:00 PM - Lights Out

Day 2 - Tuesday

- 5:00 AM - Nesting Snapping Turtles
- 8:00 AM - Breakfast at the Lab
- 9:00 AM - Day hike for snakes and turtles
- 12:00 PM - Lunch at the Lab
- 2:00 PM - Pool
- 5:00 PM - Dinner at the Lab
- 6:00 PM - Night road cruise for snakes
- 12:00 AM - Return to the Lab and lights out

Day 3 - Wednesday

- 8:00 AM - Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - Day hike for snakes and turtles
- 12:00 PM - Lunch in the field
- 1:00 PM - River walk for turtles
- 4:00 PM - Downtime at the Lab
- 6:00 PM - Hike for nesting turtles
- 9:00 PM - Movie Night at the Lab
- 11:00 PM - Lights Out

Day 4 - Thursday

- 8:00 AM - Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - Day hike for snakes and turtles
- 12:00 PM - Lunch in the field
- 3:00 PM - Pack up
- 4:00 PM - Check Out

Meals

All meals and snacks provided at our Critter Camp Overnight Adventure are prepared with dietary restrictions in mind, ensuring that every camper can enjoy delicious and nutritious food throughout their stay. We will happily accommodate campers with gluten-free and dairy-free requirements, providing tasty alternatives that meet their specific needs. Our camp chefs (Cameron and Becca) are experienced in creating meals that are safe, nutritious, and satisfying for all campers, so you can rest assured that your child will be well-fed and energized for all of the exciting activities and adventures that await them.

Equipment Provided

The field equipment below will be provided by My Nature Lab for all campers. Lights, hooks, and nets will be assigned to each camper in the morning and checked back in for charging, etc. each evening. Lost or damaged equipment will be charged the cost of replacement at the end of the program.

- Flashlight/ headlamp
- Net
- Snake Hook

What to Bring

- Sturdy Footwear
- Water Shoes - we recommend old tennis shoes
- Flip Flops/sandals for pool
- Insect Repellent
- Sunscreen
- Day pack - about 20 liters - big enough to carry a water bottle, rain jacket, and change of clothes
- Water Bottle - At least 24 ounces - staying hydrated is crucial, even at night
- Layers of Clothing: Prepare for temperature changes, bright sun, tall grass, creek wading and pack changes of clothes
- Rain jacket
- Sleeping Bag: Provides warmth and comfort during the night
- Sleeping Pad or Twin Air Mattress
- Pillow
- Swimsuit
- Toiletries: Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, medications, etc.
- Towel: For drying off after swimming or showering

Cost and Application Process

The all-inclusive cost of \$1,600/participant for the Critter Camp Overnight Adventure at My Nature Lab covers all aspects of your child's unforgettable experience. This fee includes nutritious meals and snacks throughout the camp, lodging at My Nature Lab, transportation to and from exciting field trips and excursions, and a refreshing visit to a local pool to beat the summer heat. With everything taken care of, your child can focus on learning, exploring, and creating lasting memories.

The priority application deadline is April 1, 2025. All applications received by this date will be reviewed promptly and decisions will be sent by April 15, 2025. If spots remain, applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until May 15th when applications will close. The Overnight Adventure Critter Camp application has two parts; part one must be completed by the prospective student participant, and part two must be completed by parents. Parents may not complete part one of the application for their children. If we suspect that parents applied for their children or if an application was written using AI, we may require a follow-up interview or ask you to resubmit your application.

If your child's application is accepted, an \$800 non-refundable deposit due within two weeks of acceptance notice is required to secure your child's spot. The remaining balance is due two weeks prior to the start of your child's camp.

Participant Requirements

All participants must: meet the age requirements, be willing and able to walk up to two miles, be willing and able to get up early and stay up late, be comfortable walking through tall grass and wading across shallow creeks, follow directions, and stay with the group at all times. If your child does not meet all of these requirements, My Nature Lab reserves the right to withdraw your child from the program without a refund.

Age Policy

Age eligibility for programs is evaluated based on a child's age as of October 1, 2025. If you register your child for a camp and they are not of the appropriate age, your registration will be refunded minus a \$25 administrative fee.

Cancellation and Transfer Policy

No refunds will be given for cancellations. If your child is unable to attend a camp session for which they are registered, you will be charged the full amount and it will be considered a donation to the Center for Snake Conservation - My Nature Lab. If your child cannot attend, you can:

(1) Transfer your child to another session. Transfer requests must be submitted to info@mynaturelab.org at least 30 days prior to the start of the camp for which they are registered.

(2) Transfer your registration to a family member or friend of the appropriate age. Transfer requests must be submitted to info@mynaturelab.org and must be approved before a transfer is accepted. Restrictions may apply.

(3) Request a donation receipt for the full amount of a canceled camp registration.

In the event that a program is canceled by My Nature Lab, registrants will receive a full refund. Transfer requests will incur a \$25 administrative fee.

Please email info@mynaturelab.org for questions, cancellations, or transfer requests.