



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CENTER



INSPIRE • EDUCATE • CONNECT

FIELD TRIP GUIDE

2026 Summer

Planning a Field Trip

Base pricing

\$3 per person (campers, leaders, counselors) due on date of visit as one lump sum payment
 \$50 non-refundable deposit is due at time of confirmation; deducted from total amount due on date of visit. *Permit changes requested less than 4 weeks in advance will forfeit the deposit and add-on fees.*

Add-ons

See pages 3-5 for more information

Self-led outdoor activity

\$3 per person admission fee for everyone (campers, leaders, counselors), made as one lump sum payment on date of visit
 \$60 activity fee for outdoor games reserved for one hour just for your group (Gaga pit, and variety of large lawn games)
 Activity fee(s) due 2 weeks after approving permit
 3-3.5 hours visit time

Educator-led outdoor session

\$3 per person admission fee for everyone (campers, leaders, counselors), made as one lump sum payment on date of visit
 \$90 session fee for each group of 20-30 students. (Example: For a group of 90 students; 3 sessions would be provided at a cost of \$270)
 Session fee(s) due 2 weeks after approving permit
 3-3.5 hours of visit time

Base format

2.5-hour self-guided visit for a *minimum 30 people (campers, leaders, counselors), and a maximum of 150 campers.*
 Hands-on exhibits.
 Habitat Lodge visit.
 Access to lunch room.
 Time to shop in the Gift Shop.

Sample schedule

Field Trip with 90 campers	Group A (30 campers)	Group B (30 campers)	Group C (30 campers)
9:30-9:45 AM	Arrival and orientation		
9:45-10:45 AM	Outdoor add-on	Explore exhibits	Explore exhibits
10:45-11:45 AM	Lunch/Lodge/Gift Shop	Outdoor add-on	Lunch/Lodge/Gift Shop
11:45 AM-12:45 PM	Explore exhibits	Lunch/Lodge/Gift Shop	Outdoor add-on
12:45-1:00 PM	Prepare for departure		

The OAC only schedules add-on times. This table is intended to provide an example of how groups may wish to structure other self-guided activities during their trip, while working around their scheduled add-ons.



SELF-LED OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

All Ages

Gaga Pit on the Front Lawn

Up to 2.5 hours (if requested)

All ages



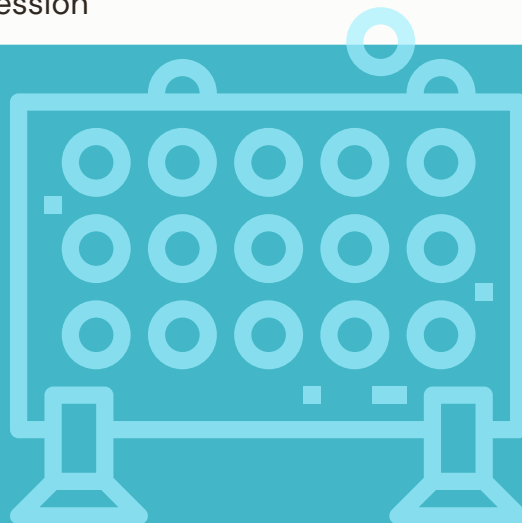
With this option, your group will have a gaga pit set up outside on the front lawn. This section will be reserved for just your group for one-hour.

The game of Gaga Ball takes only a few minutes to learn and doesn't require the mastery of specific skills so it creates a level playing field for children of all athletic abilities, including boys and girls in co-ed sports as well as kids with attention deficit disorders, social skills challenges, and others who haven't participated in traditional sports. Because the game of Gaga Ball has so much unpredictable action, it gives the non-traditional athlete an equal chance of winning. This does absolute wonders for their self-esteem even the very first time they play.

Please review OAC Gaga Ball rules with staff and campers before your scheduled trip, found on page 8 of this document.

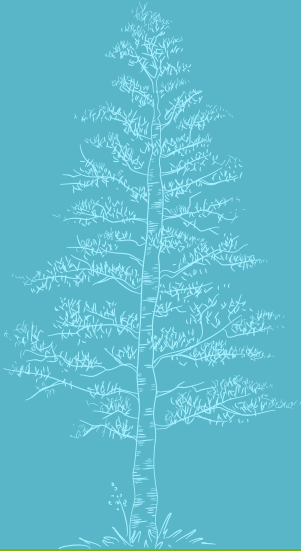
Maximum 150 campers per session

\$60 per one-hour session



EDUCATOR-LED OUTDOOR SESSION

Ages 3-6



Nature's Colors and Shapes

45 minutes

Ages 3-6



A walk in nature can reveal a variety of colors, shapes, sounds, and textures! We'll explore the surrounding area and the Riverfront with a nature "I spy" activity.

Maximum 30 campers

\$90 per session

Ages 6 or older

Nature on the Riverfront

60 minutes

Ages 6+

Nature is everywhere! We'll search for animal habitats large and small, signs of wildlife, birds flying overhead, and more on a guided scavenger hunt along Detroit's Riverfront and Milliken State Park. This program will include a short walk, hands-on components, and a group activity.

Maximum 30 campers

\$90 per session



Insect Investigation

90 minutes

Ages 6+

Nets, bugs, investigations, and discovery! After an introduction to insects and their important roles in our ecosystems, participants will search high and low for the different types of insects found in our local wetland/urban habitat at Milliken State Park. We will take an up-close look at their characteristics and what makes them an insect (or not!).

Maximum 30 campers

\$90 per session



EDUCATOR-LED OUTDOOR SESSION

Ages 8 or older



Michigan Predator-Prey

60 minutes
Ages 8+

Meet some Michigan mammals! We'll spend some hands-on time getting up close and personal with some of Michigan's wildlife and learn what makes them specialized as a predator or a prey species. Then we'll play an active game that illustrates the importance of predator-prey relationships to wildlife populations. This program will take place at Milliken State Park.

Maximum 30 campers
\$90 per session



Camping 101

60 minutes
Ages 8+

Come discover the wonder of camping in Michigan's great outdoors with a fun hands-on learning-experience. Participants will learn some about the essential gear for an outdoor campout/hike and discover how to choose a good campsite, pitch and breakdown a tent, survive the elements, and make the most out of a camping trip. These lessons give students the opportunity to partake in fun and educational games allowing the children to practice creative thinking, problem solving, and survival skills. This program will take place at Milliken State Park.

Maximum 30 campers
\$90 per session



Let's Go Fishing

60 minutes
Ages 8+

Discover the rich fish biodiversity on the Detroit River with a fun and educational Outdoor Adventure Center fishing experience! Participants will learn how to identify fish with a fun game, learn how to cast a fishing rod in a safe environment, and lastly try their hand in a fishing derby at the Milliken State Park Harbor. Participants will also learn how to identify various species of fish and find out how they as anglers can help the fight against aquatic invasive species. All fishing equipment is included with the cost of the program.

Maximum 25 campers
\$90 per session



Wetland Investigations

90 minutes
Ages 8+

During this outdoor program, students will visit the wetland area at Milliken State Park to discuss and observe the characteristics and benefits of wetland habitats for people and for wildlife. This will include hands-on components and an interactive activity.

Maximum 30 campers
\$90 per session





Preparing for your Field Trip

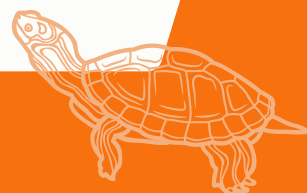
To ensure entry for your entire group, please confirm numbers with the reservations department ahead of your visit. If a group arrives with more attendees than quoted in the final count, general admission rates will be charged for all additional attendees.

Expectations for leaders and counselors

- We require one counselor per every six campers for ages 3-7 and one counselor per every ten campers for ages 8-17.
- Leaders - please provide attending counselors with a list of camper names in their groups.
- Counselors should remain with assigned campers during the duration of the field trip, as they explore the OAC in their travel group.
- Help enforce rules: No running, food and drinks only in the lunch room.
- If campers are enrolled in an educator-led outdoor session or a self-led activity, ensure that counselors know the time to attend the session. Counselors will attend and are encouraged to participate alongside campers.
- It is helpful for campers to have nametags indicating their camp name and time of session or activity.
- There will be a storage container available for packed lunches. To most easily identify and access lunches, it is helpful to transport them in larger tote bags organized by group.

Storage

- A coat rack will be placed near the stairwell and will be labeled with your group name.
- A lunch bin is provided to your group to store lunch bags and will be placed in the lunch room for access throughout your visit.
- Space is limited; unless a child is wearing a backpack for the duration of the visit, camper backpacks **MUST** remain on the bus.





Visit Day Information

→ ARRIVAL TIPS

- Early arrivals cannot be accommodated.
- Buses should unload on Atwater Street - see map.
- Wait on the bus for the OAC to greet your group and provide a brief orientation.
- Running late? Call **313-396-6886** to provide an estimated arrival time. Add-ons may not be accommodated for arrivals later than 15 minutes.

🎁 GIFT SHOP

- If your group is planning to shop at our gift shop, we ask that you spread out shopping over your entire visit.
- We can only accommodate 2 chaperone groups at one time.

🍴 LUNCH

- We will have a cart for all of your group's lunches at the entrance. The cart will be placed in the lunch room and will be available throughout your visit.
- The lunch room space is shared between visiting groups and daily guests, so we recommend chaperones take their groups to lunch as space is available.
- Lunch room space is not reserved.

🅑 PARKING

- Chaperones driving separately will park in the lot at St. Aubin and Atwater Street.
- The cost for parking is \$5 per car. Carpooling is recommended.
- Buses will need to find legal street parking on the surrounding side streets. Parking is not permitted on Atwater Street east of the OAC.

💰 PAYMENT

- After your group is greeted on the bus, the group admission payment can be made at the front desk while students proceed into the building with their chaperones.
- Cash, organizational check and credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, Discover) are accepted.

🚻 RESTROOMS

- Restrooms are located on the first floor near the entrance and in the cafeteria, and on the second floor in the hallway.
- A family restroom is on the second floor.
- A nursing room is available on the second floor.
- There is a Quiet Room on the second floor for those who may need a sensory break.

See the following page for additional details if you selected an add-on option.

In case of inclement weather, add-on(s) may be modified.

Program Locations

- If you selected Gaga Pit and Outdoor Games this will occur on our front lawn at your designated time, found on your permit.
- If you selected an educator-led outdoor session, these will take place at Milliken State Park. Please see the map below.



OAC Gaga Ball Rules

If you selected this self-led activity option, please review the following rules with your staff and campers before arriving. We know everyone's rules may vary but these are the rules that must be enforced while playing at the OAC.

One player holds the ball in the middle of the gaga pit. All other players put one hand on the outer boundaries.

The player with the ball bounces it three times, saying "Ga, Ga, ball". After the third bounce, the player can back away from the ball, or can use an open hand to attempt to get another player out.

- The ball must stay below the waist at all times.
- Only open hand hits.
- A player is out if the ball hits them at the knee or below, if they double-hit the ball, or if they hit the ball out of the pit.
- If the ball goes out the doorway nobody is out. Just return the ball to the center and resume play.
- There are no jailbreaks—players who are out must wait for the next round.
- Double hits are allowed when only two players remain in the game.
- A player may hit the ball against the wall and then hit it again towards another player.
- No "turtling"—bending over to cover knees and shins.

Game play continues until one player remains.



Join Us!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To register:

The following information is needed to apply for a field trip:

- Group name, district, address and phone number.
- Name, email and phone of person responsible for payment.
- Name, email and cell phone of main contact person attending field trip.
- Date you'd like to visit and two alternate dates.
 - Field trips are booked Tuesday-Friday from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Your earliest possible arrival time and latest possible departure time.
 - Be sure to check with transportation department to verify timing.
- Method of transportation.
 - Verify that your dates are available for bussing before completing application.
- Number of campers (maximum of 150 per visit) and adults in your group including counselors and adults.
- Ages of campers.
- Program session selection.
- Any accommodations needed: Email DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov to request accommodations for special needs groups prior to applying.
- Once your reservation is complete, we will send you a confirmation email including logistical details, a parking map, and an invoice. Payment is due 2 weeks after confirmation. Failure to confirm the visit or pay the deposit by the deadline results in cancellation of your permit.
- Final group payment is required on or before the date of your visit.



Michigan.gov/OAC
 DNR-OAC@Michigan.gov
 844-622-6367
 1801 Atwater St.
 Detroit, MI 48207



[Link to Register](#)