2023 PROGRAM & SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

Kittitas Environmental Education Network

www.ycic.org

Kittitas Environmental Education Network
Hello KEEN Families and Campers!

Remember how much fun it is to laugh with friends, be curious, and try something new? Remember what it’s like to be confident and use your courage to step outside your comfort zone?

Well now is your time to press PLAY on your KEEN year of fun and adventure!

If the past two years have shown us anything, it’s that you are strong and resilient. We know that you can do anything you set your mind to! It’s important to be kind to yourselves and others, practice self-care, and reach out to check-in on friends, family, and your fellow community members.

You should feel confident that KEEN will continue to adhere to all guidelines and protocols as we kickoff this year and camp season… your safety and well-being is our number one priority. We can’t wait for you to come to one (or more!) of our programs and camps to challenge yourself; chart your own map on a backcountry trek, journal the wildlife, plants, and stars, and explore other wonders of the outdoors. Whatever it is that you want to try, we have something for every age in this Program Guide. With a dozen programs and events to help you find the perfect match, it’s time to make memories that will last a lifetime.

Be sure to make a note of when we’re hosting our Summer Camp Open House and Information Sessions, which are listed on page 11. It’s the best opportunity to learn more about this year’s amazing Summer Camp adventures and meet me, your Camp Director, as well as our Program Supervisors and other programming staff.

In our Program Guide, you’ll find new events and programs all year long along with traditional favorites—exciting activities for all ages and interests.

Let’s Find Adventure. Together.

Carlyn E. Saunders
Environmental Education Director
Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN)
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KEEN Community Events

**KEEN’s Winter Fair**
Saturday, January 21, 2023 11am-3pm, Hal Holmes Center

For the 12th year, KEEN is providing a free, family-friendly way to connect with environmental, education, and sustainable opportunities in our community. KEEN’s Winter Fair is the perfect way to learn more about the place you call home! Free & family-friendly.

**Get Intimate with the Shrub Steppe (GISS)**
May 12-14, 2023, Yakima Canyon Interpretive Center (YCIC)

A free community event highlighting the endangered shrub-steppe habitat of Central Washington. Events kick off with a Friday evening welcome social. On Saturday, attend expert-led field trips that include birding, geology, reptiles, fish, history, and more. Educational booths are set up with free materials and other information to engage your mind. Saturday evening brings a keynote speaker with a shrub-steppe focused theme. Sunday includes self-guided field trips and additional guided field trips into this amazing shrub-steppe we call home. So much to do for ALL AGES! Free & family-friendly.

**Urban Streams & Brews**
Saturday, June 3, 2023 11:30am-4:00pm, Downtown Ellensburg

Our City of Ellensburg is interlaced with urban streams, many of them running underground. Several groups are working to increase our understanding of these creeks, restore them to daylighted habitat and re-introduce fish species to their waters. Join us to learn about their work, discuss the issues, and enjoy good friends and good brews along the way. We’ll walk about 2 miles total, stop at 3 local venues, and have a great afternoon! Event 21+ and over only. Tickets available at ycic.org.

**Habitat Restoration Work Parties**
Saturdays from May through October, at YCIC

KEEN adopted and has been restoring habitat at the Helen McCabe Park since 2004. Over the years, we have invested hundreds of volunteer hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars into restoring this shrub-steppe habitat. Out work focuses on transforming Helen McCabe Park into the Yakima Canyon Interpretive Center (YCIC), an educational and recreational hub for the Yakima River Canyon. KEEN has worked to re-establish native plant communities, build trails, teach outdoor classes, and expand the use and stewardship of the park. Look out for dates of upcoming work parties on our Facebook page.

**Windfall Cider Fest**
Saturday, October 7, 2023
Kittitas Valley Event Center—Western Town

The perfect pairing of cider and music meet again to celebrate the colors of fall in the center of Washington State. Cider houses from Puget Sound, Wenatchee, Yakima, and around the region will bring enough varieties to make the most experienced taster swoon. Live music gets the crowd dancing! Event is 21+ and over only! Tickets on sale at ycic.org.
KEEN’s Adventure Programs

Mountaineers
Mountaineers is a school-year adventure “club” for Kittitas County teens ages 11-15. Mountaineers meet weekly with their instructors and local guests specializing in different outdoor fields, engaging in exciting activities to prepare them for each upcoming excursion. Excursions include day trips and overnight adventures ranging in activities from backpacking, camping, hiking, snowshoeing, trail building, boating, and exploring our natural world.

Mini Mountaineers
Mini Mountaineers is a new school-year program starting THIS SPRING! Modeled after our wildly popular middle-school Mountaineers program, our Mini Mountaineers meet weekly to learn how to be responsible adventurers and engage in exciting outdoor play. Day trips will be planned throughout the year ranging in activities like hiking, boating, climbing, and more! An end of the year weekend camping trip gets us ready for summer! Mini Mountaineers is open to kids in 4th and 5th grade.

SNOW CAMP
Kids out on holiday break? Need some extra time to wrap presents without them snooping? Let your kids enjoy our winter wonderland for the week. SNOW CAMP is a week-long winter day camp for K-5 children to explore the best of the Kittitas Valley’s festive season. Every day is filled with games, crafts, science, and free play complete with snow, hot cocoa, s’mores, and campfires!

WOMEN WILD
Calling all WOMEN adventurers! Whether you’re a first-timer or a veteran backpacker, WOMEN WILD is an opportunity to learn new outdoor skills, grow your confidence as an independent hiker, and meet amazing friends and future hiking buddies.

KEEN’s Education Director, Carlyn, is excited to lead you through skill masterclasses that will build your knowledge of trip planning, packing, gear, food and cooking strategies, trail etiquette and essentials, and more. Throughout the year, you’ll join Carlyn and other fierce women on day hikes and overnight excursions to trail-test your skills. If you want to challenge yourself in 2023, WOMEN WILD is the right fit for you!

Sign up for programming at ycic.org

Windy City Park Rangers
Windy City is KEEN’s summer day-camp that takes place in City of Ellensburg parks. Registration cost is on a sliding-scale based on ability to pay. Day camps are open to K-8th grade kids and follow traditional camp activity patterns. This program is heavily dependent upon grant funding being available and may or may not be available in 2023. Please follow our social media accounts and website for updates about this program.

POND TO PINES SUMMER CAMP
KEEN’s traditional summer camp is called Pond to Pines and we are thrilled to be offering more choices than ever this year! Turn the page for more details and to find the camps that are the perfect fit for your family.
Defining what summer camp is can be a harder process than you think. Media has depicted camp as a rustic sleepaway experience deep in the woods where kids run around on their own and play elaborate pranks on other cabins. And while some aspects of this overromanticized depiction are true, “summer camp” is more about the unseen aspects of learning than the caricature seen in the movies.

In 2007, the American Camp Association identified the three pillars of the camp experience as

“our intimacy with nature, our authentic human connection, and our human-powered activities.”

When searching through camp offerings, many traditional summer camps fall short of fulfilling this holistic program approach. KEEN works hard to ensure that your camper’s experience touches each pillar intimately through our primitive facilities immersed in our local shrub steppe environment, our kid-centered learning and exploration, and activities based in natural movements and play.

**KEEN CAMP IS DISCOVERY**

At KEEN camp, your child will discover how capable they are as they build comfort in the outdoors, begin to take the lead, and try new things in an environment where it’s safe to fail and try again.

**KEEN CAMP IS COMMUNITY**

As your camper learns about themself, they’ll learn about others too—making new friends and building community unique to camp. Together they’ll tell stories, share about their lives, and sing songs. They’ll disconnect from that ever present screen and reconnect with the real world as they play, laugh, and grow, face to face.

An important part of your camper’s community is our skilled and qualified camp staff! These caring adults remain cheerful on dreary days, help your camper make friends, encourage them to drink enough water, keep them safe, teach them silly songs, and make sure every day is full of adventure and camp magic.

**KEEN CAMP IS ADVENTURE**

Along the way, whether tackling a team-building activity or learning to paddle across the pond, they’ll gain valuable leadership, social and community-living skills to use at home, at school, and throughout their lives. Campers will get to test their resilience, their confidence, and learn to assess risk in every activity they pursue.
WHY CAMP IS IMPORTANT

In 2007, the American Camp Association identified the three pillars of the camp experience as “our intimacy with nature, our authentic human connection, and our human-powered activities.” A good summer camp program fulfills all these holistic requirements, providing a safe place to build self-confidence, practice independence, make new friends, explore the natural world, and learn dozens of new activities. Summer camp is not only tremendously fun, but it is vitally important.

Here are just a few reasons why:

• At camp, kids get a close-up look at the compassionate leadership practiced by our camp staff. Kids also get many opportunities to practice being a leader by voicing their feelings, making individual choices, and negotiating group decision-making.

• Campers develop a sense of security and self-confidence that will help them develop a strong sense of self, form healthy relationships, take risks, and learn from mistakes.

• Camp embraces the natural environment and allows kids to unplug from their busy, digital lives and experience the wonders of the outdoors.

SEEKING ACCREDITATION

American Camp Association accreditation shows a commitment to high quality programs, safety standards, and best business practices. Learn more about accreditation and what it means for choosing a summer camp, visit https://www.acacamps.org/resources/aca-accreditation-key-messages-parents

A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY

Nothing is more important than the emotional and physical safety of our campers. Our programs are designed to allow campers to take healthy risks in a safe and nurturing environment. Our enthusiastic staff receive extensive training before camp and are chosen for their maturity, energy, and ability to be positive role models for your child. As our summer camp is currently seeking ACA accreditation, we work hard to adhere to all ACA standards. We have persevered over the last several years through a commitment to the health and safety of our campers, staff, and community. We remain committed to following the most up-to-date COVID-19 guidance and will communicate specific plans for summer 2023 as we get closer to the start of camp.
What do KEEN campers have to say about their experiences?

How has camp impacted your life?

“Swimming in the lake and building forts!”

“My first overnight camp!”

“Staying overnight made me feel confident!”

“I was scared of the lake, but I jumped in anyway. So fun!”

“It’s a fun, all-day outdoor camp. The activities are fun!”

“I was excited about overnight camp!”

What was your favorite part about camp?
Why do families send their kids to KEEN Summer Camp?

“My 9-year-old loved summer camp. She learned different things and loved overnight camp.”

“KEEN Camp has helped my kid navigate risk in unfamiliar situations. I appreciate the wider age range in activities and all the fresh air!”

“Childcare that’s fun AND enriching!”

“Kids need more nature!”

“I sent my kids to KEEN camp because it sounded like a great way for them to have fun playing and learning outside. Turns out that is exactly what they do and it is exactly what my kids love about it!”

“Because it is outdoor exploration and fun at its finest.”

“To get my grandson off electronics; he moved here from a big city, hardly going outside to do anything. I wanted him to experience more of the outdoors and what it has to offer. KEEN was the perfect fit for him!”

“We send our kids to KEEN because they love it! And I love that they spend time outside learning, creating, and meeting new people.”

“To make connections with others and get away from the intensity of traditional adolescent life.”
CAMP REGISTRATION & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Registration

Register for camp through your Enrollsy account. Once you check out all of the camp offerings in the Camp Guide and decide which ones are for you, log into OR create your Enrollsy account by following any registration link on our website, ycic.org. Once you’ve accessed your account, select ENROLL to complete program registration for each camper. KEEN will post an enrollment “how to” video to aid families through this process.

Registration Deadlines

Registrations are accepted until the camp session is full or the Friday before the session start date, whichever comes first. Camp session capacity and space availability can be viewed online.

Payment

A $50 non-refundable deposit is required at registration to secure your child’s spot. Total payment is due in full four weeks prior to camp’s start date, May 22. If full payment is not received by four weeks prior to camp’s start date, their slot will be forfeited and opened up to other campers. Your deposit will not be refunded.

Registrations within four weeks from the camp’s start date, May 22, are required to be paid in full at the time of enrollment.

Financial Assistance for Camp

KEEN is committed to making sure that camp is accessible to all our community. Families requesting camp financial assistance still need to register for a camp session and pay the non-refundable deposit. The process to request financial assistance for camp can be found at ycic.org/keens-summer-camp-pond-to-pines. More information about financial assistance can be found on the next page.

Refunds

Requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to keen@keenetwork.org at least four weeks in advance of the camp start date for consideration. The $50 deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE. Refunds are not issued for “no-shows” (registrants who do not attend). Refunds are not issued for cancellations occurring less than four weeks in advance of the camp start date. Refunds due to illness or injury require a doctor’s note for consideration.

Cancellations

KEEN reserves the right to cancel a camp session due to insufficient registration, acts of nature, or other reasons beyond our control. In the event a camp session is canceled, a full refund, minus the registration fee, will be issued. For cancellations, email notification will be sent to each registration. Phone numbers and emails can be updated at any time through your Enrollsy portal, which can be found on our website, ycic.org/keens-summer-camp-pond-to-pines.
Frequently Asked Questions

What training does camp staff receive?

All KEEN Pond to Pines camp staff are required to pass a background check and complete a two-week training program prior to working with campers. Training includes CPR/First Aid certification, health and sanitation procedures, emergency preparedness, child development, group management, sexual abuse advocate training, and more. Staff are trained in safety and facilitation practices for specialty programs (e.g. wilderness first aid, lifeguarding, water rescue, etc.). Our camp staff are selected based on their program skills, maturity, education, caring attitude, and experience with children. Camp staff are primarily college students. Many camp staff grew up attending similar summer camps and have had experience in various camp leadership programming.

What if COVID-19 is still a health concern?

We are currently preparing to run a traditional 2023 camp season and we will follow all COVID-19 health and safety guidelines outlined by local and national public health officials and the American Camp Association. The health and safety of our campers, families, volunteers, staff, and community continues to be our highest priority. KEEN staff and volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated and must show proof upon hire. Should the need arise to cancel camp due to COVID-19:

- KEEN will inform you of the cancellation via the email associated with your Enrollsy account
- KEEN will provide a credit to be used for a future KEEN program

Questions? Please email keen@keenetwork.org and KEEN staff will be happy to assist you.

Financial Assistance Information

Financial aid is awarded on a first come, first served basis and is based on need, household size, and income. Financial aid may or may not be available in any given year. We encourage you to apply early for the best chance of securing funds. The application can be found on our website at ycic.org/keens-summer-camp-pond-to-pines

Financial aid applicants are required to register and pay the required $50 non-refundable deposit through our registration portal, Enrollsy to secure their spot while the financial aid application is being processed. This deposit is not covered by your financial aid award and must be paid prior to your application to be valid. Any remaining balance after the camp award is applied must be paid by May 22, 2023 to avoid cancellation due to non-payment.

Completed applications must be submitted with proof of income. All information collected for financial aid is kept confidential.

**Announcement of financial aid will begin on May 1, 2023.** If you financial aid request is granted, your award will automatically be applied toward your camper’s balance. You will receive an email confirming your award as well.
Early Bird Pricing Structure!

Tier One
- Valid January 15—February 15
- $50 off tripping programs (6th grade and above)
- $50 off day camps (K-5th grade)

Tier Two
- Valid February 16—March 31
- $25 off tripping programs (6th grade and above)
- $25 off day camps (K-5th grade)

*On April 1, 2023, registration fees will go to their full and final prices

Join us at our Open House!

In-person Open House
Date:
Saturday, May 6, 2023, 1-3pm
*No registration needed for in-person open house!

Directions to Camp
Drive south on Canyon Road from Ellensburg. After proceeding under the I-90 overpass, continue for four miles on Canyon Road towards Thrall.

The Yakima Canyon Interpretive Center at the Helen McCabe State Park will be on your left, just past Thrall Road.

Camp parking is located in the main lot by the pond and bathrooms.
*Please display your Discover Pass in your window.

Camp Information Webinars

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 7pm

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 7pm

Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 7pm

Can’t make it to an open house? Need your questions answered sooner? Check out one of our camp webinars! In this short presentation, the camp director will go over need-to-know information for first-time camp families or for those wanting to know what camp is all about before registering. This is a live webinar and you will be able to ask questions and receive answers.

*Pre-registration is required for these webinars.

For registration information, please visit: www.ycic.org/keens-summer-camp-pond-to-pines

Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 7pm
Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvcemtrDssHdMr8AAV8Eo97Bf8on6AMxUE

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 7pm
Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqdeGsqTsoGdD8TfH-NZJlyFk6T8UL0Ny

Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 7pm
Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZItcO6tqjwtGdKjuo97qTcRzQVpLmGGRC88
Nestled in a ponderosa grove right outside Ellensburg, Camp Pond to Pines offers a thrilling blend of programs for every age group from first-time campers to seasoned adventurers.

Enjoy Helen McCabe pond as you row, swim, and stand-up paddle overlooking the majestic Stuart range. Enjoy arts and crafts, group games, singing songs, hiking, and splash pads to beat the summer heat.

If you’re ready for something bigger, join one of our tripping programs and head off into the wilderness to test your courage rock climbing, backpacking, canoeing, or white water rafting (6th grade and above)!
Important Camp Information

Camp Location
Yakima Canyon Interpretive Center
Ellensburg, Washington 98926

Camp Dates
June 19, 2023—August 6, 2023

Day Camp Hours
Monday-Friday, 9am—3pm
Drop Off, 8:45am—9am
Pick Up, 3pm—3:15pm

*Tripping programs have alternative schedules; see specific information emails for additional details

Bus/Van Transportation
Currently not offered at this time. Please join our Facebook group to seek out carpool/ride share options.

Activity Prerequisites

Swimming: Depending on the camp session, campers visit the pond for swimming and boating 1-3 times a week. We do not swim test, therefore all campers are required to wear a lifejacket while on the pond. There are no exceptions. Water activities are overseen by Red Cross lifeguards and staff trained in basic water rescue.

Backpacking: Campers signed up for a backpacking program are not required to have prior backpacking experience. However, campers should be able to hike comfortably for several miles with a weighted pack. Campers are required to have sturdy trail running sneakers or hiking boots that are broken in.
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<td>Cave On!</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>$700</td>
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<td>Wayfinders</td>
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<td>Wilderness Wanderers</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>$800</td>
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<td>Rock &amp; Rapid</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>$1000</td>
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<td>Cascade Quest</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>$1300</td>
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<td><strong>Leadership Programs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Leader (OL)</td>
<td>6-12</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counselor-in-Training (CIT)</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>8</td>
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</table>
Welcome to Summer! Camp Sampler Programs

ENTERING GRADES K—2

Trail Mix
June 20-21 (Tuesday & Wednesday)
$150
Ever wonder what camp is like? Join us for this 2-day camp sampler to get to know us! This is the perfect session to try it out and have some fun! Meet new friends and create lifelong memories while trying out camp’s best activities: games and songs, hiking and nature exploration, boating and swimming, and arts and crafts!

Camp Explorer
June 22-23 (Thursday & Friday)
$150
Not sure what you want to do at camp? Join us for this 2-day camp sampler to get to know us! Enjoy classic camp activities like games and songs, hiking and nature exploration, boating and swimming, and arts and crafts! Explore camp with friends and discover all of the exciting opportunities that await you this summer!

LET’S EXPLORE! Specialty Camp Programs

ENTERING GRADES K—1

Nature Creators
June 26-30
$300
Explore nature and your creative side during this week filled with outdoor themed art. Look to nature for inspiration as you paint, craft, and make music!

Wild Kids
July 3-7
$300
Adventuring in the wilderness can be fun, but it’s important to know how to be safe too. Spend the week learning exciting new skills like fire and knife safety, cooking in a solar cooker, making safe drinking water, Leave No Trace, and your Ten Essentials. Practice your knowledge on an obstacle course at the end of the week!

ENTERING GRADES 3—5

Paws & Claws
July 10-14
$300
Are you crazy about animals? Visit a local farm where you’ll pet a cow, gather eggs, and eat lunch in a barn! Spend the rest of the week learning about Washington’s wildlife, both here at camp and beyond. Don’t forget to enjoy plenty of arts & crafts, swimming, and exploring camp!

H-2-WOah!
July 17-21
$300
Beat the summer heat with this wacky week of water fun! Splish splash your way through camp as you enjoy extra time on the pond, challenge your counselors to a water duel, and eat a waterfront lunch. Discover all the cool creatures that love the water as much as you!

Junior Ranger
July 24-28
$300
Enjoy the magic of camp as you disconnect from technology and discover the beauty of nature. Draw a sound map by the pond, create art using natural materials. Identify shapes and patterns in natural objects like stones, flowers, and leaves all while enjoying classic camp activities.

Woodland Wisdom
July 31-August 4
$300
How do people today figure out what life was like a long time ago? Let’s look carefully at the clues those people left behind. Meet a real archaeologist and go on a mock dig. Learn how Indigenous peoples use storytelling to pass on their histories. Tell your own life stories through drawing, singing songs, and even dance!
ENTERING GRADES 2–3

All camp programs include themed activities, as well as traditional camp activities.

From the Earth to the Stars

June 26-30

$300

How do people today figure out what life was like a long time ago? Let’s look carefully at the clues those people left behind. Meet a real archaeologist and go on a mock dig. Learn how Indigenous peoples care for the natural world and what their methods can teach us about preserving our future.

Animal Investigators

July 3-7

$300

Calling all sleuths! The animals have run amok at camp and we need you to solve the mystery. Learn to identify tracks, where animals build their nests, and what they love to eat. When the hawks and reptiles visit camp, keep your eyes out for suspects. It’s a nature whodunit!

Water Warriors

July 10-14

$300

Water is LIFE! Spend the week soaking in every aquatic opportunity at camp. Learn about the Yakima river and its watershed, how certain animals rely on local rivers to survive, and discover how to help our waterways heal. Spend extra time on the pond: boating, swimming, and fishing!

KID Naturalist

July 17-21

$300

Become one with nature! Discover the beautiful surroundings of the Yakima Canyon by hiking the trails, identifying native plants, meeting the local wildlife, and learning ways to give back to the planet. This all while enjoying your favorite camp activities!

Get WILD!

July 24-28

$300

What do you do if you find yourself alone in the wilderness? This week you’ll find out what to do in an emergency and how to be a responsible adventurer. Learn fire and knife safety, how to read a compass and paddle a raft, make safe drinking water and more! Test your knowledge on a skills obstacle course!

Artist Adventures

July 31-August 4

$300

Discover the world of art all around you at camp! Dive into nature on the trails and floating on the pond. Take your inspiration to your easel to create your own masterpieces! When you aren’t crafting, enjoy all your favorite camp activities.

ECO Artists

July 3-7

$350

Discover your love of art and the outdoors! Discover the sights and sounds of nature and use them as inspiration for eco-friendly art projects. You’ll make music, sculpt, paint, and sing. Fill the days with traditional camp activities.

Planet Protectors

July 10-14

$350

The planet Earth needs our help! Explore the shrub steppe ecosystem of Helen McCabe Park and find what calls it home. Learn about Leave No Trace, how to recycle and compost waste, and even create artistic masterpieces from upcycled materials. Spend lots of time playing games, boating, and swimming too!
Nature Detectives
July 17-21
$400
Dive into the mysteries of nature and discover how everything is connected. Follow the tracks, find the patterns, and solve nature’s thrilling secrets. Spend Thursday evening searching for camp’s nocturnal residents and sleep in a tent.
Campers come back to camp in the evening on Thursday and leave at lunch on Friday.

Puzzles of the Past
July 24-28
$350
How do we know what we know about the natural world or people living in the past? Explore the meeting place of Indigenous knowledge and modern science. Put the puzzle pieces together through Native stories and mock archaeological digs. Fill the week with traditional camp activities!

Water Works!
July 31-August 4
$350
Have you ever wondered what it takes to bring clean water to your sink every morning? Do you want to know how lampreys help a river’s health? Spend your week plunging deep into a watery world, learning from experts and exploring camp’s depths. Spend tons of time by the pond as well as other exciting camp activities.

Wayfinders
July 24-28
$500
Spend the first two days learning wilderness first aid, how to use a map and compass, make safe drinking water, and build an emergency shelter. Learn ancient Indigenous knowledge of tracking wildlife, identifying edible plants, and how to navigate by the stars. Then take your skills to the trails for a 2-night backpacking adventure.

*Prerequisite: Campers must be in good physical condition and have broken-in hiking shoes/boots, but no prior experience is required. Bring your own gear or borrow some of ours.

Let’s Explore! Specialty Camp Programs, cont.

ENTERING GRADES 6-8

All camp programs include themed activities, as well as traditional camp activities.

When out of camp, groups carry non-perishable foods meeting calorie requirements based on the trip.

Challenge Accepted
June 26-30
$1,000
Everyday is a chance for you to test your nerve while exploring our amazing Cascade Mountains. Try your vertical skills on a wall of rock, explore a lake on a paddle board, discover the forest on horseback, visit a Bavarian village, cruise through whitewater on a raft, and soar through a treetop zipline.

*Prerequisite: Campers must be in good physical condition and have broken-in hiking shoes/boots, but no prior experience is required. Bring your own gear or borrow some of ours.

Cave On!
July 10-14
$700
Take your time this week exploring the world beneath the surface of the Earth. Visit two very unique caves in the Cascades with a geologist, hike around an active volcano, and enjoy the modern splendor of an indoor waterpark. All while base-camping near Mt St Helens!

*Prerequisite: Campers must be in good physical condition and have broken-in hiking shoes/boots, but no prior experience is required. Bring your own gear or borrow some of ours.
Let’s Explore! Specialty Camp Programs, cont.

ENTERING GRADES 9—12

All camp programs include themed activities, as well as traditional camp activities.

When out of camp, groups carry non-perishable foods meeting calorie requirements based on the trip.

Rock and Rapid

July 3-7 (includes holiday)
$1,000

Spend the week nestled in the mountains as we raft the rivers, hike the trails, zip through the trees, and climb the cliffs. We’ll basecamp at a campground and venture to a new activity every day.

*Location and activities to be determined.

*Prerequisite: Campers must be in good physical condition and have broken-in hiking shoes/boots, but no prior experience is required. Bring your own gear or borrow some of ours.

Wilderness Wanderers

July 17-21
$800

If you love to hike and want a challenge, then grab your backpack! We’ll host a pre-trip ZOOM to ensure everyone’s gear is in order so we’re ready to leave Monday morning. We’ll spend the rest of the day at a front country campground learning about safe backcountry travel before hitting the trails for a four-day backpacking epic!

*Prerequisite: Campers must be in good physical condition and have broken-in hiking shoes/boots, but no prior backpacking experience is required. Bring your own gear or borrow some of ours.

Cascade Quest

July 31-August 6
$1,300

Ready to have the most epic adventure of your life? We’re spending five days paddling kayaks around the San Juan Islands! We’ll host a Pre-trip ZOOM to ensure everyone’s gear is in order so we’ll be ready to leave Monday morning. We’ll be spending Monday evening (and Saturday evening) at a campground in Anacortes before hopping on a ferry to the islands. WOW!

*This camp is seven days and includes the following weekend, DATES: July 31-August 6

*Prerequisite: Campers must be in good physical condition , but no prior kayaking experience is required. Bring your own gear or borrow some of ours.
KEEN Leadership Camps

Leadership programs are available for campers entering grades 6-12. These camp programs deepen older campers’ understanding of what leadership development means and gets them excited about mentoring others. Is your camper interested in trying a leadership camp? Have your kiddo thoughtfully and honestly complete the leadership readiness questions below by selecting their answers for each question. Find out which leadership session is best for them by totaling the answers.

Are you ready to LEAD? Take the Leadership Readiness Quiz!

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have you attended an outdoor day or resident camp before?</td>
<td>Not yet.</td>
<td>Yes, with a different organization.</td>
<td>Yes, a KEEN camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you able to spend a day without a phone or access to the internet?</td>
<td>No, I can’t imagine it.</td>
<td>I’m willing to give it a try</td>
<td>Yes, I’m looking forward to it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you consider yourself an experienced leader?</td>
<td>Not yet, but I want to learn.</td>
<td>I have some experience.</td>
<td>I have lots of experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you approach group responsibilities like chores?</td>
<td>I will do it if it is required.</td>
<td>I help when I’m asked.</td>
<td>I seek opportunities to help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you like to meet new people and try new activities?</td>
<td>Not really.</td>
<td>Depends on the situation.</td>
<td>Yes, I love new things!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you enjoy outdoor activities and living in nature?</td>
<td>I prefer the indoors.</td>
<td>Sometimes.</td>
<td>Yes, I am most comfortable in nature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do you handle group conflict?</td>
<td>I shy away from it.</td>
<td>I prefer guidance.</td>
<td>I work together to find a resolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you enthusiastic about being a role model for others</td>
<td>I am not sure.</td>
<td>Yes, but I may need some guidance.</td>
<td>Yes, sign me up!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It might be a good idea for you to wait until next year to try a leadership program. Try one of our 5-6 day overnight tripping programs to get confident in your leadership skills.

You are ready to try a leadership camp! Sign up for the Outdoor Leader program so you can explore your leadership skills and style.

You are ready to be a Counselor-in-Training or CIT! To apply for this program, visit [www.ycic.org/keens-summer-camp-pond-to-pines](http://www.ycic.org/keens-summer-camp-pond-to-pines)
KEEN Leadership Camps

OUTDOOR LEADER (OL) ENTERING GRADES 6-12

Discover your leadership potential! Explore leadership skills and styles while you learn about group dynamics, community problem-solving, and what it means to be a camp leader. Help lead activities for groups of younger kids at camp. This camp session is a great stepping-stone between traditional camp sessions and becoming a Counselor-in-Training.

Outdoor Leader is a 2-day intensive camp program. Successful completion of the Outdoor Leader program permits OL’s to return for one week of summer camp as a volunteer junior counselor!

COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING (CIT) ENTERING GRADES 9-12

Want to be a camp counselor? Develop the skills and experience needed to make your dream a reality! Learn to plan and facilitate activities while developing leadership and outdoor skills. Practice working directly with campers and staff.

Counselor-in-Training is a 3-day intensive camp program. Successful completion of the Counselor-in-Training program permits CITs to return up to three weeks of summer camp as a volunteer junior counselor.

OL/CIT APPLICATION PROCESS

Due to limited space, high demand for OL/CIT programs, and a desire to provide the highest quality leadership experience, there is an application process for these sessions. These sessions are designed for those who have a love for camp and have demonstrated a strong desire to expand their leadership skills working with children.

Applications will be available at www.ycic.org/keens-summer-camp-pond-to-pines starting January 15, 2023. Application reviews and the scheduling of interviews will begin on May 1, 2023. Any applications received after this time will still be reviewed based on available space. See the leadership readiness questions on Page 19 to find out which leadership session is best for you!

Session 1A
June 19-20, 2023
$150

Session 1B
June 21-23, 2023
$250
A Day in the Life of a KEEN Camper

8:45 am Arrive and join your unit
9:15 am Morning circle and announcements
9:45 am Themed Programming
1:00 pm General camp activities
12:00 pm Lunch and free choice
2:45 pm Afternoon circle and dismissal

Tie-Dye Tuesday & Trading Post

Every camp, regardless of theme, will get to tie-dye a T-shirt (or an item from home) on the Tuesday of their camp session. KEEN Pond to Pines logo t-shirts are the perfect option for tie-dying!
Available to pre-order at registration.

*Excludes tripping programs

Summers in Kittitas County can be brutal!
Get your camper a 20 oz KEEN Pond to Pines logo insulated water bottle to keep them hydrated all day long!
Available to pre-order at registration.

Campers earn Success Tickets while at camp. When a counselor observes a camper helping a friend or eager to help clean up or actively participating in an activity, they are awarded Success tickets to be used at the Trading Post. Items in the Trading Post include treats, keychains, and even stickers to decorate their KEEN water bottles!
Camper Packing List

Please label all your camper’s belongings

Tripping program specific packing lists will be emailed after May 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Essentials</th>
<th>Overnight Camps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Water bottle (preferably insulated)</td>
<td>□ Sleeping bag</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Sneakers or closed-toe shoes</td>
<td>□ Sleeping pad or bed roll</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Insect repellent (25% DEET min)</td>
<td>□ Pillow</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Sunscreen (preferably aerosol)</td>
<td>□ Flashlight</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Sunglasses</td>
<td>□ Book or magazine (for after lights out)</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Ball cap or bucket hat</td>
<td>□ Stuffed animal (for after lights out)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Backpack to carry daily items</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Packed lunch</td>
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<td>□ Extra snacks (if required)</td>
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<td>□ Camera (consider a disposable)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Specialty Items</strong> (certain days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Swimsuit</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Towel</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Water shoes (not flip flops)</td>
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Things to Leave at Home

□ Cell phone
□ Tablet/laptop
□ Candy/gum
□ Toys

Volunteer at Camp!

Volunteers are at the heart of what KEEN believes in. From our working volunteer Board of Directors to our many committees to our events, KEEN relies on the help of dedicated individuals to make our many events and programs operate without a hitch.

Our Pond to Pines summer camp programs engage almost 200 children every summer and this year we’ve built our most ambitious camp season to date! From helping prepare essential programming materials, assisting in the set up/tear down of camp, parking aid for pick up/drop off, chaperoning our overnight campouts, to assisting in facilitating programming, we have something for you!

If you are interested in being involved with the Pond to Pines Summer Camp this season or if you are interested in volunteering with KEEN, please contact keen@keenetwork.org
The Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN) was established as a 501(c)3 in 2000 and has been operating in Kittitas County as an all-volunteer organization for the past 23 years. KEEN's mission is to cultivate an active understanding of the impacts of climate change on the endangered shrub-steppe and foster commitment to environmental stewardship by providing culturally relevant nature-based education.

To learn more about KEEN, visit us at ycic.org