

Summer Program FAQ

Bike Camp + Outdoor Skills Camp | Ages 9-12 | Summer 2026

DATES	LOCATION	BIKE CAMP	OUTDOOR SKILLS
July 25-31, 2026	Gezon Park 5651 Gezon Ct. Gezon Sports Complex south end fieldhouse	10:00 AM	1:00 PM

These free summer pilot programs are designed to help kids build confidence, practical outdoor skills, and a stronger connection to nature. OYBF provides the outdoor education, curriculum, gear, and instruction. Cultivating Futures provides nonprofit oversight, family outreach, logistics, and youth-serving infrastructure.

Families will receive final registration details, waiver information, what-to-bring instructions, and weather updates before programming begins.

General Summer Camp FAQs

Is there a cost?

The summer pilot programs are being offered free to families through the support of OYBF, Cultivating Futures, donors, grants, and community partners.

Who are the programs for?

The summer programs are designed for kids ages 9-12, generally grades 4-6. Bike Camp is best for students who can balance and pedal. Outdoor Skills Camp is beginner-friendly and does not require camping, hiking, or survival experience.

Where will the camps take place?

The programs will be held at Gezon Park, 5651 Gezon Ct., Gezon Sports Complex, south end fieldhouse area. Families will receive final arrival, parking, and check-in details before camp begins.

What are the dates and times?

The current schedule is July 25-31, 2026. Bike Camp is planned for 10:00 AM. Outdoor Skills Camp is planned for 1:00 PM. Final details will be confirmed through registration and parent communication.

How do we register?

Families will register through the Cultivating Futures registration process. Registration helps us plan space, supplies, gear, safety needs, communication with families, permissions, and waivers.

Who is leading the programs?

The programs are led by Jeff Potter, teacher, outdoor educator, author, and founder of Out Your Backdoor Foundation, with support from Cultivating Futures and program staff or volunteers.

How will families be contacted?

Families will receive program updates by email, text, or the communication method used during registration. Updates may include what to bring, weather plans, schedule reminders, and any changes.

Can my child attend both camps?

Possibly, depending on registration capacity, age fit, schedule, and family preference. Families interested in both should note that during registration.

What if more people register than there is capacity?

Programs are limited to approximately 10-15 students. If there is more interest than available space, a waitlist will be created and families will be notified. OYBF and Cultivating Futures may consider adding another week or a longer one-day camp experience if demand is strong.

Bike Camp FAQs

Who is Bike Camp for?

Bike Camp is designed for kids in grades 4-6, generally ages 9-12, who are ready to learn bike safety, basic riding confidence, maintenance, and route-planning skills.

Does my child need to already know how to ride a bike?

This camp is best for students who can balance and pedal, even if they are still building confidence. The focus is on safe riding, control, awareness, basic repair, and independence.

What will kids learn?

Students will learn bike safety, helmet fitting, the ABC bike check, basic maintenance, flat repair, road rules, hand signals, safe riding habits, route mapping, and group riding skills.

Will my child need to bring a bike?

OYBF's goal is to reduce barriers. If students do not already have a bike and helmet, they will be provided or coordinated as part of the program. Final gear details will be shared before camp begins.

Do kids get to keep the bike and helmet?

The long-term OYBF model is built around helping youth leave with the gear they need to keep going. For summer pilot programs, families will receive clear information about what gear is provided, what gear may be kept, and what may be part of a giveaway or shared program supply.

Is the camp safe?

Safety is built into every day. Students will learn helmet use, bike checks, braking, stopping, scanning, hand signals, riding near others, and how to make calm decisions while riding. Adult supervision and clear expectations will be part of each session. Biking is generally as safe as other outdoor activities, but tip-overs and scuffed knees can happen.

Will kids ride on roads?

The program will mostly be conducted on off-road bike paths and in controlled, low-risk areas. Any route riding will be age-appropriate, supervised, and based on location, student readiness, and safety conditions. Students may be introduced to bike paths and marked bike lanes with very low traffic exposure.

What should my child wear?

Kids should wear closed-toe shoes, comfortable clothes for movement, and weather-appropriate layers. Avoid loose pants or dangling items that can get caught in a bike chain. Loose pants can be tucked into socks or gathered with a rubber band.

Should my child bring water or snacks?

Yes. Please send a water bottle. OYBF will plan for basic snacks and water support, but families should share any allergies or dietary needs during registration.

What happens if it rains?

Light weather can be part of outdoor learning, but safety comes first. Families will receive updates if weather requires a change, delay, indoor activity, or cancellation. A pavilion or sheltered space will be available when possible.

Outdoor Skills Camp FAQs

Who is Outdoor Skills Camp for?

Outdoor Skills Camp is designed for kids in grades 4-6, generally ages 9-12, who are curious about nature, exploring, fabricating, journaling, and learning how to feel more confident outside.

Does my child need outdoor experience?

No. This program is beginner-friendly. Kids do not need camping, hiking, or survival experience. The goal is to help them learn basic skills step by step in a safe, encouraging environment.

What will kids learn?

Students will learn adventure basics, field bag use, nature journaling, observation, watercolor play, clothing and weather prep, map and compass basics, tree and plant identification, hazard awareness, knots, tarp shelters, tent setup, packing, camp food, and outdoor stewardship.

What is a field bag?

A field bag is a simple outdoor toolkit that may include items like a journal, pencil, compass, magnifying glass, bandana, cord, basic safety items, and nature observation supplies. Kids learn what each item is for and how to use it responsibly.

Will my child get to keep the field bag?

OYBF's model is built around helping students leave with tools they can keep using. For the summer pilot, families will receive final details about which items students will receive at the end of the week.

Will kids use fire?

Fire activities depend on park rules, weather, permits, and safety approval. If fire is allowed, students may learn fire safety, fuel types, setup, and how to fully put out a fire. If fire is not allowed, the day may focus on camp-stove or grill cooking, no-cook meals, fishing basics, or other outdoor living skills.

Will kids forage or eat wild plants?

Students will not eat wild plants, but they may learn how to identify some plants and understand the difference between safe, unsafe, and unknown plants. Foraging lessons will be educational. Kids will be taught not to eat any wild plant without trained family guidance and permission.

What should my child wear?

Kids should wear closed-toe shoes, comfortable outdoor clothes, and layers that can get a little dirty. Please apply sunscreen and bug spray before camp, and send water.

Are there risks like bugs, thorns, or poison ivy?

Yes, and learning about those hazards is part of the program. Students will learn how to notice and avoid common outdoor risks like irritating plants, stings, ticks, thorns, heat, and uneven ground.

Will parents or caregivers be involved?

The final day may include a family hike or outdoor sharing experience where kids show what they learned, share journals, explain features of the land, share a group snack, and celebrate the week.

What if my child is nervous about being outdoors?

That is completely okay. The program is designed to build confidence gradually. Kids will be supported, encouraged, and never pushed beyond what is safe or appropriate.

Safety, Supervision & Credentials FAQs

What is Out Your Backdoor Foundation?

Out Your Backdoor Foundation is an outdoor education initiative that helps kids, families, and communities build confidence, independence, practical outdoor skills, and a lasting connection to nature and healthy fresh-air fun. OYBF teaches hands-on programs in biking, outdoor skills, nature exploration, boating, and skiing, with a special focus on removing barriers so more young people can safely experience the outdoors.

What is Cultivating Futures?

Cultivating Futures is OYBF's nonprofit fiduciary and community partner for the summer pilot programs. Cultivating Futures provides nonprofit oversight, administrative support, access to youth and families, facility coordination, community connections, and program infrastructure so OYBF can focus on curriculum, instruction, gear, and outdoor learning.

What are Jeff Potter's credentials?

Jeff Potter is an educator, author, outdoor skills instructor, and longtime community organizer. He is the author of *New Wave Nordic Skiing* and creator of the Out Your Backdoor YouTube channel and website. He has helped build outdoor and recreation communities centered on biking, skiing, stewardship, and accessible adventure.

Are staff background checked?

Yes. Adults working directly with youth will be required to complete appropriate background checks before participating in programming. Safety, trust, and parent confidence are central to how these programs are designed.

How many adults will be onsite?

Programs will have multiple adults onsite, including a lead instructor and additional support staff or volunteers. This allows the group to stay organized, supervised, and supported during hands-on activities, transitions, water breaks, gear use, and outdoor exploration.

Are staff trained in first aid?

Program providers will include adults with first aid training and certification onsite. Families will also be asked to share emergency contact information, allergy details, medical considerations, and any support needs during registration.

How are kids supervised during outdoor activities?

Students will stay with the group and follow clear safety expectations. Activities will use age-appropriate instruction, buddy systems, adult supervision, designated boundaries, and step-by-step demonstrations before students use tools, bikes, gear, or outdoor materials.

What are the student expectations?

Students will be expected to follow directions, stay with the group, respect one another, and participate in a way that keeps the class safe and focused. If a student needs support, staff may give them a break from the activity or contact a parent or caregiver if additional help is needed.

What safety practices are built into the program?

Safety is part of the curriculum. Students learn how to prepare for weather, use sunscreen and bug spray, stay hydrated, identify hazards, move with awareness, use equipment responsibly, and follow instructions. Bike Camp includes helmet fitting, bike checks, braking, stopping, signaling, scanning, and safe group riding. Outdoor Skills Camp includes hazard awareness, navigation basics, tool safety, fire or food safety as applicable, and responsible outdoor behavior.

What happens in an emergency?

Families will provide emergency contact information during registration. Staff will have access to emergency contacts, basic first aid supplies, and a plan for responding to injuries, weather changes, or other safety concerns. Parents and caregivers will be contacted promptly if an issue arises.

Why should parents feel comfortable with OYBF and Cultivating Futures?

OYBF brings the outdoor education, curriculum, gear, and instruction. Cultivating Futures brings nonprofit oversight, community trust, family outreach, logistics, and youth-serving infrastructure. Together, the goal is to create a safe, welcoming, well-supervised experience where kids can build confidence, learn useful skills, and discover the outdoors in a positive way.

Questions or Registration Help

For registration and family communication, please follow the Cultivating Futures registration process. For OYBF program details, curriculum, gear questions, or partnership inquiries, visit outyourbackdoor.com/foundation.