

Hickory Knolls Discovery Center

2025



Staff at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center

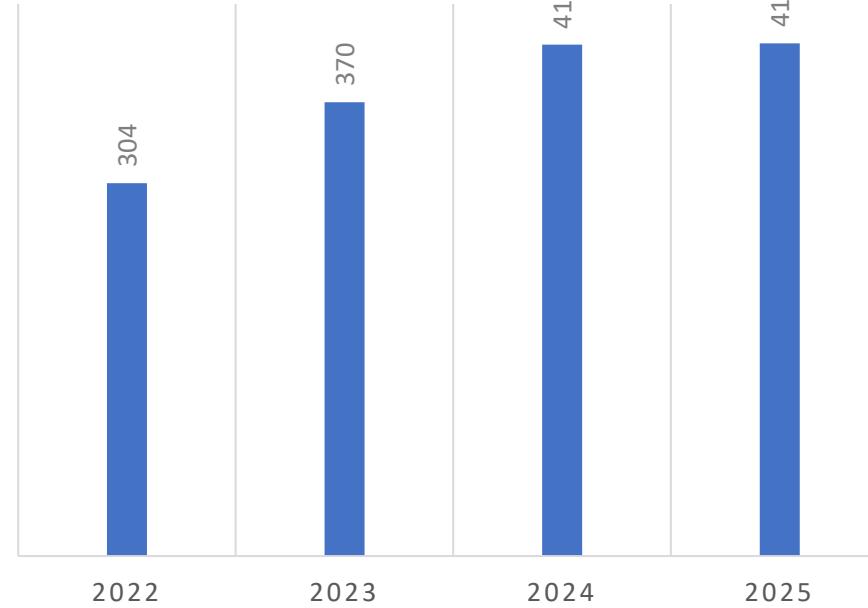
- Seasonal Summer Camp Staff
- Front Desk Attendants
 - Kevin Tate, Beth Maura, Beth Treichler
- Nature Program Facilitators
 - Hannah Makoui, Laura McKinsey, Lizzy Small, Olivia Marsden, Natasha Kiesler, Devon Eldridge
- Nature Based Preschool Teachers
 - Lauren Mastio, Lindsay VanGeem, Steph McCubbin, Triana Moffit
- Animal Curator and Custodian
 - Rachel Krotz
- School and Camp Supervisor
 - Morgan Brown
- Manager of Nature Programs
 - Emily Shanahan



Summer Camps

- 418 Campers
- 8 weeks of camp
- 299 campers participated in our full day summer camps (1st-6th grade)
- 88 campers participated in our half day Nature Discoverers Camp (ages 4-6)
- 22 campers participated in wee wonders (parent-child camp)
- 9 campers participated in our 1-week teen camp

CAMP PARTICIPANTS



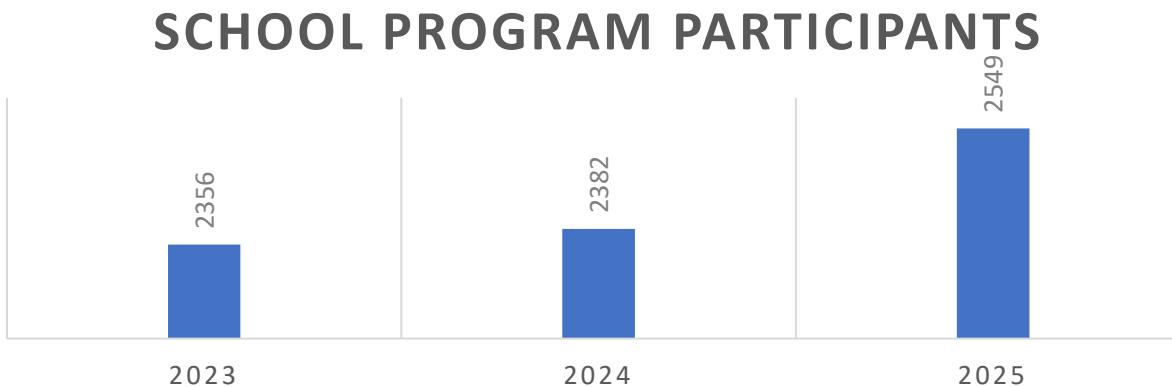
Summer Camp Highlights

- Counselor Retention
- Art Week- Art Show
- Year 2 of teen camp
- Gaga Ball Pit
- Friday Fun Days
- End of Camp Celebration

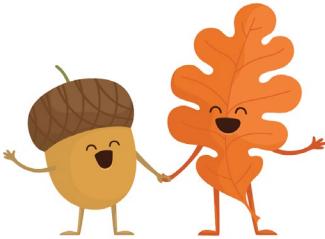


Field Trips/School Programs

- 2,549 students (71 separate visits)
- Next Generation Science Standards
- West Aurora Kindergarten STEM Experience



Acorns to Oaks- Nature Based Preschool

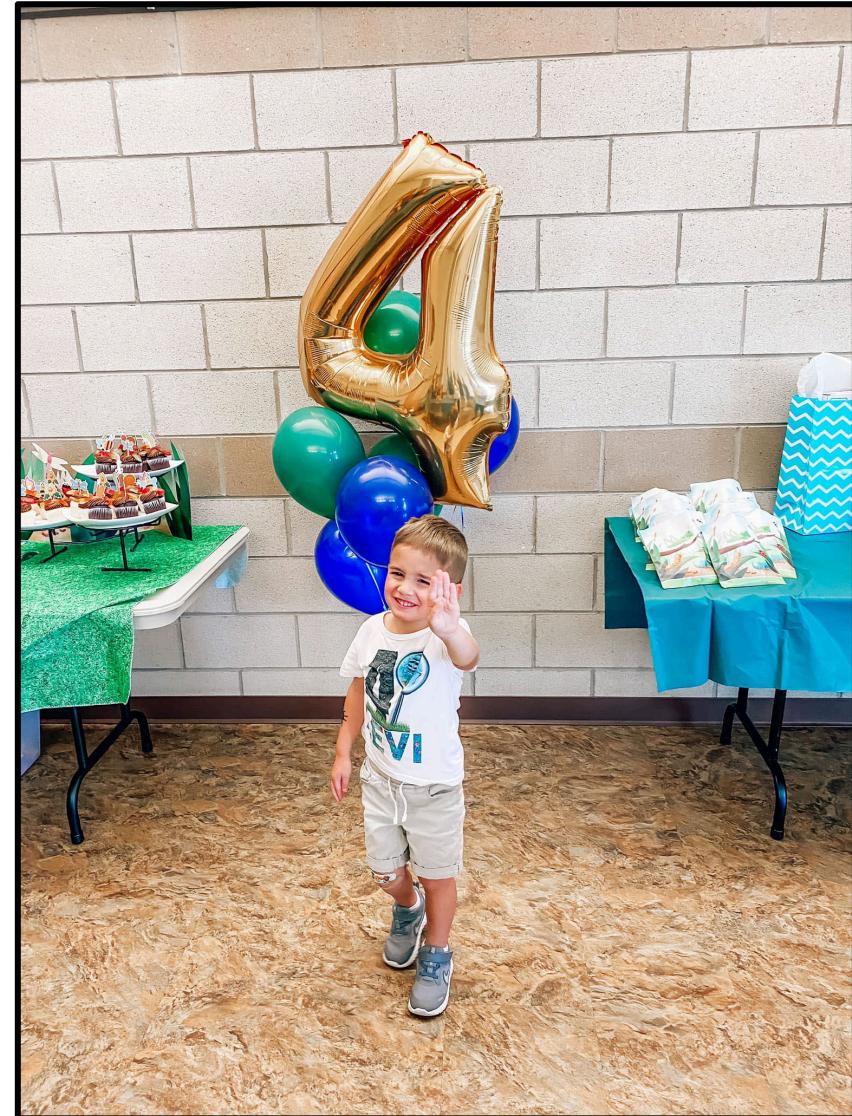


- 38 students (increase in 14 students from 24-25 school year)
- Waitlist of 35 students
- 2026-2027: 1 new class added



Scout Programs and Birthday Parties

- Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts (186 scouts)
- Birthday Parties (64 parties)
- ~20 kids per party (1,280 kids)
 - Critter Explorer
 - Rad Reptile
 - Fairy Garden and Gnome Homes
 - Dino Dig



Outreach Programs

- Visit ~15 assisted living and memory care centers per month
- Present for local garden clubs
- Monthly Topics
 - Squirrels
 - Animal Ambassador Visits
 - Butterflies and Moths
- We bring nature to them!
- Added 5 new facilities to the monthly schedule



Public Programs

- Nature PlaySchool
- No School Nature Days
- Little Acorns
- Twinleaf Tales
- Art of Nature
- **New Seasonal Offerings:**
 - Turtle Sundaes
 - How to Train your (bearded) Dragon
 - Enchanted Pumpkin Homes
- **Total Participants in 2025: 594**



Adult Education

- Kane County Certified Naturalist Program
- ENTICE Workshops



Events

- January Jamboree
(93 Participants)
- Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt and Hike
(151 Participants)
- Earth Day Celebration
(100 participants)
- Rusty Rodeo
(300 Participants)
- Trick or Treat on the Trails
(176 participants)
- Woodland Santa
(116 participants (4 spots open))
- Flashlight Candy Cane Hike
(100 participants (20 spots open))



Hickory Knolls Discovery Center

- Animal Ambassadors
- Casual Visitors
- Hangin' with Hickory Friends
 - Daily Drop-In Casual Visitor Experience at 11 am and 3 pm



Partnerships

- **Science Nights with D303**
- **St. Charles Public Library**
(Summer Reading, Seasonal Programs, Events, and Storytimes)
- **Riverlands Brewery**
(Turtle racing- spring and fall)
- **Chicago Steel Hockey**
(Turtle racing during intermissions)
- **The Conservation Foundation**
- **Campton Township Open Space**



Thank You!



ST. CHARLES *Area*
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Community Development Award

Presented to

HICKORY KNOLLS
Discovery
CENTER