

**What seasons does the program run?**

Fall, Winter, and Spring. You can register for a season or multiple seasons at a time. The full three seasons will run from September 11, 2018 - May 23, 2019

**What curriculum will be used?**

We are using a variety of resources combined with our knowledge and experience. Campers will learn through experience and exploration of the natural world, as opposed to direct instruction. Here is a list of a few of the resources that we are using:

Growing Up Wild <http://www.projectwild.org/GrowingUpWILD.htm>

Project Seasons: <https://shelburnefarms.org/node/531>

Cultivating Joy and Wonder

<https://shelburnefarms.org/ourwork/resources/cultivatingjoyandwonder>

**Does my child need to be potty trained?**

Yes.

**Are there opportunities for parent involvement?**

Outside of program hours, there will be opportunities for parents to volunteering our camp gardens. During program hours parents and caregivers are welcome to hang out in our dining hall and read a book, work, and enjoy some coffee (provided by Skyline.)

**What makes the program different from a preschool program? Will it prepare my camper for kindergarten?**

Wild Child is an experiential learning program where the focus is on play, development of social skills, and direct interaction with the natural world. As a program of Skyline, Wild Child is licensed as a children's camp by the State of Michigan and follows the (stricter) accreditation standards of the [American Camp Association](#). While we will not be seeking to be considered a preschool, we are cognizant of [Michigan's Early Childhood Standards of Quality](#). Wild Child's objectives include skill development such as letter and sound recognition (pre-literacy), number values and counting (pre-numeracy), communications skills, listening skills, and problem-solving skills. Our goals are to establish the campers' connection with the natural world, promote positive self-esteem and relationship building, and develop resilience. We are confident that campers will succeed in the next steps of their journey with the development of these skills.

**What will you do in inclement weather?**

At camp, we like to say "there is no bad weather, only inappropriate clothing." Of course, there will be days where no amount of clothing can conquer the weather. For those days we have indoor spaces

which we will use. During those days we will keep to a similar schedule and bring nature inside. We aim to get outside each day, even if it's just a few minutes to get a breath of fresh air.

### **What is the registration process?**

You can visit the following link to register. You may register for one or multiple seasons at a time. Once registered, Skyline will receive a notification that you have 'applied' and Skyline's Assistant Director, Erin, will reach out to you by phone. After an in-person meeting, the camper will be moved to 'enrolled,' and further information for families will be distributed.

### **Is gear provided for campers?**

No, please see our list of recommendations for what brands/items to purchase. Over time we hope that families will consider re-selling their gently used gear for us to keep on hand for future campers to use.

### **Can my camper Drop in and out for days here and there?**

No. Our program is designed to build on community and develop friendships, and to have activities that progress. Of course, appointments and illnesses, etc., can arise, but we do not plan for single-day campers.

### **Are there any weeks off?**

Wild Child will follow the same schedule as Almont Schools; this includes snow days as well. Families will be given a schedule once registered. We will make phone calls or send text messages to notify parents of snow days or other emergency closures

### **Do you offer financial aid?**

We do offer some financial aid. If you would like to apply for financial aid, please contact Erin at 248-644-2043 or [erin@campskyline.org](mailto:erin@campskyline.org).

### **Who is leading the program?**

**Erin Furze** is Skyline's Assistant Director. Erin first came to Skyline in 2009 as a camp counselor, over the years she has served in the role of Arts and Crafts Director (2010), Head Counselor (2011 & 2012) and Day Camp Director (2015-Present) in our summer camp program. Erin completed her BS in Elementary Education at Eastern Michigan University and will be finishing her MEd in Educational Leadership in June 2018 from Oakland University. Erin has worked in several different educational settings as a Preschool Teacher's Assistant for a Montessori Program, a Substitute Teacher for Ferndale schools, After School Program Teacher at Upland Hills School, and has interned at Upland Hills School, Ferndale Upper Elementary School, and United Oaks Elementary in Hazel Park. Erin is a certified elementary school teacher through the state of Michigan and has her Wilderness First Responders Certification as well. Erin discovered her love and passion for nature education while working at Nature's Classroom, a non-profit outdoor environmental education program in the Northeast of the United States. Erin will be the Lead Teacher and overseeing the Wild Child Program.

**Liz Adair** is Skyline's Farm and Garden Manager. Liz is a nurturer, from each grain of soil to the tiny sprouts, lambs, and awe-filled children. She first came to Skyline as a camper in 1996, then spent her summers as a counselor while attending college. She earned a BS in Biology with a Spanish minor from Denison University in 2010. Liz has always loved animals and the outdoors, but she discovered her passion for sustainable agriculture while working as an educator at Heifer Farm in Massachusetts. She continued to work at educational and production farms across the country before returning home to

Michigan to begin farming and teaching at Skyline, while nannying for families with infants and toddlers outside of the growing season.

**Shana Henry** is Skyline's Program Director. Shana will join the Wild Child program for music and movement. Shana has led children's music programs both indoors and outdoors in both French and English for over 20 years on 3 continents, most often with her daughters. Music is one of her favorite ways to share her passion for the land, the animals, community and cross-cultural understanding. Shana has also worked with children in the garden for many years, both at home and at camp and looks forward to bringing herbal adventures to the Wild Child program.

**Matt Henry**, Skyline's Executive Director, has been involved in outdoor/experiential education since the mid-1990s, both in the US and his native Australia. Along the way, Matt has worked in youth ministry and child protection. He has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in education, a Doctorate in Ministry and a postgraduate diploma in Statutory Child Protection. In the camp world, Matt is the co-chair of Standards for the American Camp Association (Michigan), and is a Standards Instructor. He looks forward to writing and teaching some songs to the Wild Child campers if he's allowed...