

## TOUCH OF NATURE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

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- About Us
- Programs and Trainings
- Camps and Retreats
- Hospitality Services
- Events
- Touch of Nature Forest
- Support Us
- For the Community

### Contact Us

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Veteran Adventures

### 2019 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Summer Camps Season at Touch of Nature

Summer Camps has been a tradition at Touch of Nature since the 50's when Dr. William Freeberg created one of the first camps of its kind for adults and children with disabilities. That camp is now called **Camp Little Giant**, and it offers an authentic camping experience for adults and children with various disabilities and abilities. Find out about and register for [Camp Little Giant here](#).

Our EdVenture Camps offer a variety of exciting, educational and adventurous summer camps experiences for ages 7-15. Multi-camp and multi-camper discounts are available. Find out about and register for EdVenture Camps [here](#).

Have a look at our brochure below and register your campers.

## NEWS AT TOUCH

### Paddle for Patriots



Veteran Adventures Coordinator Greg Nejmanowski is paddling the entire length of the Mississippi River in support of our **Veteran Adventures Program**. Find out more information and help support Greg's incredible journey [here](#).

### 2019 Camp BETA



Registration for **Camp BETA 2019** is now open! A special thanks to our community partner [Southern Illinois Healthcare](#) who helps make this authentic overnight camping experience possible for children ages 9-15. [Click here](#) to register.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- [May 24-August 2019: Paddle for Patriots](#)
- [June 16-28: Camp Little Giant - Traditions II](#)
- [June 17-21: X-Treme Kids Day Camp \(Session 1\)](#)
- [June 24-28: Southern Adventures Day Camp](#)
- [July 6: Paddle For Patriots-The Loading Dock in Grafton](#)
- [July 7-12: Camp Little Giant - Traditions IV](#)
- [July 8-12: X-Treme Kids Day Camp \(Session 2\)](#)
- [July 8-12: Way of the Paddle Day Camp](#)
- [July 14-19 Camp Little Giant - Shawnee I](#)
- [July 14-25: Camp Little Giant: Shawnee II](#)
- [July 21-26: Camp Little Giant - Shawnee III](#)
- [July 28-Aug. 3: Camp Little Giant - Dyna Camp](#)
- [Aug. 11-14: Dawg Days New Student Retreat](#)
- [Sept. 14-15: Camp BETA](#)
- [Sept. 20-21 EEAI-EdVentures for Educators](#)
- [Sept. 26-29: Becoming an Outdoors Woman](#)
- [Oct. 18-20 Wander Down Music Festival](#)
- [Oct. 27: The Haunted Hollow](#)
- [Nov. 1-4: NAI-Certified Interpretive Guide Workshop](#)

## FIND OUT ABOUT OUR TOUCH OF NATURE MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK PROJECT AND TRAIL BUILDING TUESDAYS IN JUNE



### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

[Become a Member](#)

[Become a Partner](#)

[Donate to Touch of Nature](#)

[Donate to Campership Fund](#)

[Donate to Veteran Adventures](#)

[Donate to Trail Project](#)

[Get our E-Newsletter](#)

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## ADVENTURE EDUCATION



**Adventure Education** provides innovative team building and leadership development programs, rock climbing sessions, a high ropes course, two ziplines, a portable climbing wall, canoeing, backpacking, day camps and overnight camps, and various outdoor education programs to meet your group's needs. Program designs range in focus from leadership development, personal skills growth, technical outdoor living skills, community development, and certifications and trainings. Our professionally-trained instructors facilitate groups and participants through challenge course programs and adventure-based activities.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Environmental Education offers exciting outdoor learning experiences in natural resource education, nature interpretation and resource management. Programs are designed to increase environmental awareness, appreciation for the outdoors and community stewardship for our lands. Our environmental education staff offer numerous educational programs, provide teacher trainings, coordinate stewardship and service projects and can design programs according to your group's needs

## THERAPEUTIC RECREATION



**Therapeutic Recreation** provides recreational opportunities to individuals experiencing physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities. Programs like our award-winning and American Camp Association accredited Camp Little Giant have been offering recreation therapy to children and adults at Touch of Nature since the 50's. Our staff, led by a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, aims to help participants improve life skills, develop social connections, boost self-esteem and increase independence.

## VETERAN ADVENTURES



Veteran Adventures is a veteran program started by SIU's Touch of Nature Environmental Center. Our mission is to help ease the transition from military life to civilian life through powerful wilderness expeditions and events. Our aim is to: foster a healthy veteran community, present challenging and adventurous opportunities to strengthen bonds between veterans, offer an alternative to mental health assistance without the stigma of traditional mental health avenues, and show support and gratitude for the sacrifice that our servicemen and women have made.