



Group Overnights at Ashland Nature Center



Overnights with Delaware Nature Society (DelNature) are a great kickoff or culminating activity for your group. Overnight experiences include multiple hands-on activities led by dedicated naturalists. Group leaders work with DelNature staff to create an exciting outdoor/ indoor adventure that includes just the features you want.

Based at [Ashland's Overnight Lodge](#), each traditional Overnight event includes a night hike, campfire, morning walk, and your choices of one evening presentation and one daytime field study. There are themed Overnight options with activities designed to highlight seasonal nature and natural history. Add to the fun by extending your Overnight experience with additional field studies or inquire about custom-designed programs and activities.

Enjoy the fun and adventure of toasting marshmallows, discovering wildlife, and connecting with the natural world. Overnights are an experience everyone in your group will always remember!



Overnight accommodations – [The Ashland Lodge](#)

- Two dormitories with beds for up to 42 people*
- Restrooms with showers
- Large catering kitchen and appliances with all cookware, dinnerware, drinkware & utensils
- Great Room/dining/activity area with fireplace
- Science/wet laboratory classroom
- Panoramic view of the Red Clay Valley
- Electrical emergency generator to ensure comfort and safety

*Larger groups can sometimes be accommodated – contact our staff for more information



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Contact us: 302.239.2334 • Info@DelNature.org • P.O. Box 700, Hockessin, DE 19707 • www.DelNature.org
Ashland Nature Center • Abbott's Mill Nature Center • Coverdale Farm Preserve • DuPont Environmental Education Center



Overnight Event schedule

PRESENTED BELOW IS A SAMPLE SCHEDULE — EACH OVERNIGHT EVENT IS CAREFULLY PLANNED WITH GROUP LEADERS AND CUSTOMIZED TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS

DAY 1

6:00 - 6:30 pm ~ Arrive & unpack

6:30 - 7:00 pm ~ Introduction & Orientation

7:00 - 8:00 pm ~ Choice of evening presentation

8:00 - 9:00 pm ~ Night hike

9:00 - 9:30 pm ~ Campfire

10:00 pm ~ Lights Out

DAY 2

7:30 – 8:15 am ~ Morning walk

9:00 – 11:00 am ~ Choice of field study

11:30 am ~ Clean-up & Depart

Overnight Evening Presentation Options

ASTRONOMY: Make your own star finder and learn how to use it. Climb Hawk Watch Hill for a breathtaking view of the heavens as you identify stars, constellations, and planets. If weather does not cooperate take a digital tour of the night sky projected in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

NOCTURNAL ANIMALS: No telling what creatures you might meet on a dark night. Discover night life in nature meeting feathered, furry & scaled live and taxidermy animals.

SKULLS & SKINS: Use your detective skills to identify mammals by their skulls and skins. Discover the adaptations that differentiate herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores.

...OR INQUIRE ABOUT SPECIALIZED ACTIVITIES

Overnight Daytime Field Study Options

BROWSE FIELD STUDY PROGRAM OPTIONS AT: DELNATURE.ORG/GROUPPROGRAMS

...OR INQUIRE ABOUT SPECIALIZED ACTIVITIES

For more information call Annalie at 302.413.5051 or submit our [Online Form](#)



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Ashland Nature Center Themed Overnights

Themed Overnight program options

OWL PROWL (JANUARY & FEBRUARY)

Beautiful, spooky, wise, ominous...Since ancient times, humans have associated owls with many different and often contradictory qualities. Learn the myths and truths about these amazing creatures. Discover the secret of owl ears and what we have in common with owl eyes. Listen to owl calls and use recordings to attract one close to us during a night hike. Dissect an owl pellet to discover what these silent hunters eat. Examine taxidermy owls up close and see how your senses stack up against theirs.

MAPLE SUGARING (FEBRUARY INTO EARLY MARCH)

What does a maple tree look like? How did local animals help Native Americans discover its sweet secret? Find out the answers as you "Meet the Tree", learn about the winter habits of some of Ashland's live animal collection, and try your hand at drilling, tapping, and boiling down sap to make syrup. Compare the flavors of maple and other syrups during a taste test and hear a story of "backyard sugarin".

SPRING CHORUS (LATE MARCH TO MAY)

Meet live amphibians, listen to frog and toad calls, go on a night hunt for amphibians and their eggs, and become a "citizen scientist" during an Ashland frog watch survey. After an early-morning birding walk, join in on games of "Fill the Bill" and "Bird Behavior Bingo", a Signs of Spring hike, and make a special take-home craft.

BIRDS, BEES, AND BUTTERFLIES (JUNE TO SEPTEMBER)

Explore habitats where birds are flying and feeding, flowers are blooming, and insects are buzzing. Search Ashland's meadows for butterflies, caterpillars, and other insects, Join a "Birding with Binoculars" hike and visit the Butterfly House. Learn who eats what and help collect food for resident caterpillars. Discover the secrets of attracting birds and beneficial (as well as beautiful!) insects to your own yard, and get a head start by taking home a plant that these creatures love.



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LENAPE LIFEWAYS (YEAR-ROUND)

The native Lenni Lenape depended on the natural world for everything in their lives. Experience life as they did. Hear stories from the people of "Turtle Island" and hike to a replica longhouse while tracking the animals and finding the plants that made their survival possible. Dress in Lenape clothing, examine tools and artifacts, whittle and crack nuts with stone tools, and make a clay pot.

Themed Overnight schedule

DAY 1

6:00 – 6:30 pm ~ Arrive & unpack
6:30 – 7:00 pm ~ Introduction & Orientation
7:00 – 8:00 pm ~ Themed presentation
8:00 – 9:00 pm ~ Night hike
9:00 – 9:30 pm ~ Campfire

DAY 2

7:30 – 8:30 am ~ Morning walk
9:30 – 11:30 am ~ Themed lesson
12:00 pm ~ Clean-up & Depart



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