

AWESOME OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR SUMMER 2018



How are you and your pals going to spend your summer vacation? School is out, it's sunny and warm- time to get outside! Nova Scotia is home to a variety of organizations, programs, and events that connect us with nature. We can learn to help the Earth, explore our province, and keep active all summer long!

Multiple Locations

Farmers Markets - Visit our many markets this summer. Grab some fresh veggies and fruit, baked goods, and unique handmade items while supporting local farms and businesses. Remember to bring your reusable bags!
<http://farmersmarketsnovascotia.com/>

Hike Nova Scotia - Hike Nova Scotia encourages and promotes a growing hiking culture throughout our beautiful province. They offer organized hikes around the province year-round.
<https://www.hikenovascotia.ca/>

NS Bird Society - This organization hosts free outdoor events and field trips throughout the province.
[http://www.nsbirdsociety.ca/community/upcoming/field-trips?filter_tag\[0\]=](http://www.nsbirdsociety.ca/community/upcoming/field-trips?filter_tag[0]=)

Nova Scotia Nature Trust - Guided walks, hikes or paddles help us explore and learn about Nova Scotia Nature Trust conservation lands. Some are free or priced affordably.
http://www.nsnt.ca/newsevents/connecting_with_nature/

Nova Scotia Provincial Parks - Visit dozens of provincial parks in Nova Scotia. There is also the "Learn2Camp" program to help people learn to camp in a safe, guided overnight camping experience for all ages and levels.
<https://parks.novascotia.ca/learn2camp>

Parks Canada - National parks, historic sites, programs and much more! Free entry for those 17 & under!
<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/index.aspx>

Municipal Recreation Centres - A variety of day camps and events happen at provincial rec centres. Many also host Free Lending Programs with awesome gear like canoes, scooters, skateboards, paddleboards and more.
<http://www.recreationns.ns.ca/partners-links/recreation-departments/>

WWF Count for Nature - We're all interconnected with nature. For ideas about how to help protect nature, check out the various WWF projects such as a Shoreline Cleanup this summer.
<http://countfornature.wwf.ca/en>



Young Naturalists Club - Awesome free nature club geared toward youth and their families, with many active chapters spread across the province!

<http://yncns.ca/>

Halifax Regional Municipality

Adventure Earth Centre - Many experiential learning programs are offered that foster environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and active, healthy lifestyles. Look for day camps and more!

<http://earthrootsns.ca/partners/adventure-earth-centre/>

Big Cove YMCA Camp - With programs for kids aged 6-17, youth will engage in a variety of activities including canoeing, archery, low and high ropes, swimming and snorkeling, arts and craft, wilderness trips, sports, gardening and earth education.

<https://www.ymcahfx.ca/ymca-programs/ymca-child-care/camps/ymca-big-cove-camp/>

Dalhousie University Camps – Day camps are offered on a variety of themes from sport to recreational summer camp. For example, SuperNOVA is a not-for-profit initiative of Dalhousie University that promotes science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM) for ages 5 to 18 years. Camps help students learn about STEM concepts, careers, through mentorship and hands-on activities.

<http://www.supernova.dal.ca/camps/>

<https://athletics.dal.ca/kids-and-camps/summer.html>

The Deanery Project - A not-for-profit organization with a focus on the environment, youth and community, natural building, and the arts. Many exciting programs and events are hosted at on-site, or you can drop in. Check out annual events like Sealight Skylight Festival, or renewable energy day camps called ReNEW.

<http://thedeaneryproject.com/>

Ecology Action Centre - This organization has been working at the local, regional, national and international level to build a healthier and more sustainable world. They host lots of great programs and events year-round!

<https://www.ecologyaction.ca/>

Friends of McNabs Island Society - Stroll through Canadian history on McNabs Island! Learn about the important role the Island played for the Mi'kmaq First Nations, and settlers in the Port of Halifax. Six Sunday tours are available this August, as well as special events and field trips throughout the year.

<https://mcnabsisland.ca/events/summer-tours-2018>

Halifax Youth Programs & Services - There are many programs available for youth, to name a few: Drop-In Programs, Leadership Program, Youth Advocate Program, Youth Live Program, and Girls United Program.

<https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/programs-activities/youth-programs-services>



Public Gardens Summer Concert Series - Take in a free Sunday afternoon concert at the Public Gardens.

<http://www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca/>

Roots and Boots Forest School - An outdoor recreation program for children ages 3-12 with a focus on child-led, inquiry-based, play- and place-based learning. Events take place in woodlands in Hubley and Fall River.

<http://www.rootsandboots.ca/>

Sierra Club Atlantic - There are multiple Sierra Club Atlantic programs: Wild Child Forest School, Watch for Wildlife, and the Blue Whale Project. Check out the Wild Child videos on Facebook for outdoor inspiration!

<https://wildchildns.wordpress.com/>

St. Mary's Boat Club - You can take a canoe out from St. Mary's Boat Club on weekends between June 1 and September 30th for up to one hour, free of charge.

<https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/programs-activities/canoeing-kayaking-paddle-boards>

Trips by Transit - Join this awesome organization for weekly trips that access local natural areas around HRM.

<https://adventurebybus.wixsite.com/home>

Free Splash Pads - Visit a playground where you can cool down for free and have fun with the family!

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/halifax-splash-pad-sprinkler-sackville-water-playground-kids-families-1.3680700>

Cape Breton

ACAP Cape Breton - Check out the Facebook page for the latest events and updates on their mission to preserve the watersheds of Cape Breton through action, education and ecosystem planning.

<http://www.acapcb.ns.ca/>

Cape Breton University Camps - Children's University Camp schedule coming soon! Programs include: Lil' Critters, Discovery Camp, Creative Cape Bretoners, FUN-damentals Rec Camp, and Capers Basketball Camps

<http://www.cbu.ca/student-services/daily-living/childcare/camps/>

CBRM Fun Van - The Fun Van is a mobile day camp for kids to encourage physical activity such as biking, geocaching, and games!

<http://www.cbrm.ns.ca/recreation-programs.html#funvan>

Marine Explorers Summer Camp - The Gulf Aquarium Marine Station Cooperative (GAMS) is hosting annual summer day camps in August on Cheticamp Island (schedule TBD). Their Discovery Centre opens June 15th.

<http://www.cmag-gams.org/index.php?lang=en>



Cape Breton Regional Library - Great programs like summer reading are happening all year across Cape Breton Island. Check out the website and Facebook page for up-to-date details.

<https://www.facebook.com/cbrlibrary>

<http://cbrl.ca/events/>

South Shore

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation - This awesome organization works hard to protect, enhance and restore ecosystems through research, education and action. Check out the Earth Adventure Camps & family events at the Morton Centre for 2018: World of Wizards, Nature Detectives, Trail Blazers, Wild Adventurers, Sprouting Change Camp, Environmental Leadership Camp and more!

<http://coastalaction.org/Wordpress/morton-centre/>

Harrison Lewis Centre - This is an educational retreat for the promotion and advancement of environmental conservation through research, instruction, literature, and the arts. Check their calendar for upcoming events!

<http://www.harrisonlewiscentre.org/>

Sea School - The Nova Scotia Sea School programs build skills and encourage environmental stewardship. Summer 2018 offerings: Sea of Islands Base Camp, Youth 7-day Coastal Expedition, and Take It Outside Girls!

<http://www.seaschool.org/>

Central Nova Scotia

Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park - This amazing place is home to hundreds of awesome animals and makes a fantastic all-ages day trip. While you're there, check out the Ducks Unlimited Interpretive Centre and their day camp programming on site. The incredible program offerings all year long are a huge bonus!

<https://wildlifepark.novascotia.ca/programs/ParkEvents.aspx>

Colchester East-Hants Public Library - With five branches in Truro, Stewiacke, Tatamagouche, Elmsdale and Mount Uniacke, there are many different programs and events for all ages. Learn about backyard chickens and have fun outdoors while being tick-safe. There's always something happening, so check the Program Guide.

<https://lovemylibrary.ca/>

Tata Fest 2018 - Join this coastal community in a celebration of arts, social justice, and sustainability from August 17-26, 2018. You can participate in workshops, children's activities, see performances, enjoy local fare and more! The Tatamagouche Free School is always a fan favourite.

<http://www.tatafest.com/>



Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival - Central Nova Scotia communities will host the Wild Blueberry Festival August 17-September 1, 2018. There are a variety of events celebrating one of our most abundant locally grown fruits.

<http://wildblueberryfest.com/>

Annapolis Valley

Clean Annapolis River Project - Promoting the sustainability and health of the Annapolis River Watershed. Highlights include the annual Annapolis River Festival and the Youth Leading Environmental Change program.

<http://www.annapolisriver.ca/>

Annapolis Valley Regional Libraries: From Little Ray's Reptiles, teen yoga and Mad Science, and, of course, BOOKS, there are great events and programs happening at libraries near you!

<http://www.valleylibrary.ca/calendar>

Annapolis Valley Events: Get the latest event listings or submit your event to be published on this website! From farmer's markets to festivals and yoga, this is the place to look for activities in the Valley.

<http://ourannapolisvalley.com/events/>

