

The Barn Nature Center Providing Environmental Education to the Public

The Barn Nature Center offers fun and educational parties, tours, camps, workshops, scout programs, and outreach presentations to engage the community in experiential animal education and conservation. We offer kids, parents, and people of all ages the opportunity to touch, hold, feed, and meet amazing exotic animals from around the world. Groups visiting the Nature Center also have the option to explore their adventurous sides by climbing our large indoor rock-climbing wall, participating in exciting team-building activities, or even enjoying a guided kayaking excursion on beautiful Lake Nockamixon.

counters with diverse and fascinating species. Come feed our 100-pound African-spurred tortoise and meet our friendly 12-foot albino Burmese python. With over 80 animals living at our facility, what you experience at the Barn Nature Center promises to be fun, educational, and unlike anything you've done before.

training and education programs, converses with the public, advertises Barn Nature's programs, books and hosts events, and participates in the constant expansion of the center.



Lizzy Schechner, Manager of the Barn Nature Center holding Stitch, a chinchilla

A lifelong animal lover, Lizzy Schechner has worked in hospitals, kennels, pet stores, and zoos, caring for everything from cockroaches, pythons and kangaroos to alligators, owls and tigers. While a biology major at Delaware Valley College (now University), she specialized in zoology.

Lizzy now manages the Barn Nature Center, creating new educational programming and caring for the animal ambassadors residing there. Her mission is to educate others about wild and domestic animals, proper pet care, and wildlife conservation. She enjoys caring for the animals, setting up and maintaining their habitats, researching and creating their diets, and training them to be educational ambassadors for their species.

She also oversees the staff and volunteers, conducts



Jamie Dawson, Director of the Barn Nature Center, holding Zeus, an adult black and white Argentine Tegu

Jamie Dawson is a Bucks County native who graduated from C.B. East High School. She spent much of her youth exploring local creeks and forests, dreaming of studying primates like her hero Jane Goodall. Her love for the natural world inspired her to study biology at Gettysburg College. After studying abroad in Belize and Zimbabwe, she developed another passion – traveling! She attended the Costa Rica Rainforest Outward Bound School and the National Outdoor Leadership School in Baja and has spent significant time volunteering for humanitarian and conservation organizations throughout Latin America and Africa. She is currently working on her Master's degree in biology with the Global Field Program of Miami University. She has returned to her roots in Doylestown to serve as the Director of the Barn Nature Center to share her love for wildlife and conservation with the community.



Kirsten Sheplock, Outreach Coordinator, of the Barn Nature Center, holding Beaks, a Blue and Gold Macaw

Kirsten's passion in life is to educate the public and students about conservation, energy use, wildlife, and sustainability. She feels that it is vitally important to help future generations learn how to

conserve water and energy while also helping wildlife survive in our overdeveloped world. As the Outreach Coordinator at the Barn Nature Center, Kirsten is at the forefront of the center's programming—a job she really enjoys. She loves talking about wildlife conservation and teaching others how they can help too. She has been public speaking since the age of 10, talking to anyone who would listen about wildlife conservation. It is a childhood dream that she will never outgrow. She is continuing her education and hoping to earn a Master's degree in Research and Strategy for Wildlife Conservation.



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The Barn Nature Center also offers meaningful youth community service and internship opportunities. As a nonprofit organization operated by Youth Services Agency, the Barn Nature Center relies heavily on income generated from visitors and scheduled events to provide quality care for our resident animal friends, many of which were rescued pets.

We take pride in our guests having wonderful experiences while enjoying up-close and personal en-