

Making Summer Plans

By Michael Perez, Education Program Manager

Winter storms are in the rearview mirror, and a transition to normal weather is finally here. The warmer temperatures and changing of seasons remind us it is that time of year to prepare for summer. In order to book that desired experience, you must plan ahead. We at the Nature Center are here to help. This summer, we are planning to resume some activities that were hampered with the onset of COVID-19 last summer. One of those activities is Summer Natural History Adventures.

Summer Natural History Adventures is a summer camp for kids of all ages, providing them with opportunities to learn about nature through outdoor exploration and age-appropriate activities. Children will have the opportunity to explore the bottomland forests, prairies, and riparian areas along the West Fork of the Trinity River. Hikes will be filled with information about why these habitats are important and what forms of wildlife dominate them. Along with hiking, children will learn from naturalists about an array of subject matters through hands-on activities, games, and crafts.

Camps are designed for children **completing** grades Kindergarten – 7th grade during the 2020-2021 school year. Four groups will be available with the following pairings: Kindergarten & 1st grade, 2nd & 3rd grades, 4th & 5th grades, and 6th & 7th grades. Camps will run 4 days a week (Tuesday – Friday) from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Each group will have two available sessions. Dates are tentatively scheduled to begin in late June and finish in mid-August. The actual dates will be confirmed very soon.

Staff would like to ease your concerns and inform you that all proper health regulations will be followed to ensure your children are safe. COVID-19 has affected you—and us—in many ways. Between the time of this article's publication and the beginning of our camp, how we conduct in-person programs may change. We assure you we will adhere to all guidelines to create a healthy atmosphere.

Keep your eyes posted to our Facebook page (*Like us if you have not already*) for updates. Our website will also have updates and a flyer regarding session topics, dates, registration information, what to bring, what to wear, and what to expect.

We look forward to returning to our pre-COVID-19 days by offering fun and experiential programs for all ages. Summer Natural History Adventures is an exciting way to get started. See you this summer!



A staff naturalist shows campers wildlife tracks found along the trail. Sarah Memon Photo.