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## Nature & Science Adventures

### Syllabus

### Fall 2020

**Description:** Ten-week semester-long hiking and science course designed for families and children ages 5-11. Get away from the computer and couch and get ready to get moving and learning. Meet at the Cibolo Nature Center Visitor Center for a two-hour family adventure! Hit the trails with Jasmine and learn about science and nature in this in-person themed family hiking series. The course will fill up quickly so register for our Tuesday or Wednesday mornings program from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Parents, guardians, families, and children must stay through the duration of the program, as this course is designed with family lead participation.

**Date:** Tuesday Series September 22nd - December 2nd, 2020  
Wednesday Series September 23rd - December 3rd, 2020

**Number of classes: 10**

**Number of Participants: 10 families**

### Unit 1: Pollinators

September 22nd and 23rd: A Whole New World

- Introduce microscopes and compasses
- Discover the world that exists on a flower and learn why it is important that pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and bats are around
- Learn how to use a compass and create their own “flower map”

September 29th and 30th: Pollinators

- Use a compass to find clues to get them to the pollinator meadow and then to the farm
- Explore the garden in search of various pollinators such as butterflies and bees
- Plant milkweed to get them started for next years pollinators

### Unit 2: Changes in Nature

October 6th and 7th: Ever Changing

- As fall begins to set in explorers will observe the changing colors of nature (trees)
- Conduct a leaf chromatography experiment as well as an experiment to visualize and better understand capillary action

October 13th and 14th: You can't step in the same creek twice

- Explore the flowing creek to determine where various animals might make their homes/nesting grounds (fish). Is it in an area of fast flowing water or slow-moving water?
- Conduct a math experiment to find the flow of the water in the creek using rubber ducks

### **Unit 3: Fusion of Nature and Culture**

October 20th and 21st: Nature and Culture

- Explore a few different cultures and the role nature plays in each
- One Example: Native American culture
  - Explorers will learn about how they used the land
  - Create something made in Native American culture

October 27th and 28th: Dia de los Muertos

- Learn how nature is integrated into the celebration of Dia de los Muertos
  - We will be revisiting monarch butterflies
- Create their own alebrijes using natural materials

### **Unit 4: Animals in Nature**

November 3rd and 4th: Birds

- Explore the world of birds as we hike around the nature center with binoculars
- Hiking scavenger hunt exploration to find various bird skulls and nests
- Collect natural fallen materials to create their own nest

November 10th and 11th: Tracks and Scat

- Learn the basics of tracking while following various “hunts” to find out whodunnit!

### **Unit 5: Nature and Art Clash**

November 17th and 18th: Art in Nature

- Group scavenger hunt to various pieces of nature art
- Create a nature journal
- Create one large mandala together and learn to press flowers/leaves in their nature journals

November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26th: **No Class**

December 1st and 2nd: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Learn the importance of the 3 R's
- Participate in service learning as we hike around the nature center and collect all trash that we can find!
- Create a piece of art
- Create a holiday gift out of recycled materials