



Engaging with Nature

WEEKLY IDEAS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Look at the Natural World

What do you see?

Look in your yard, local park or out your window. What animal signs do you see?

What trees and plants are a source of food for wildlife?

What sources of shelter do you see for animals and insects?

What type of plant life do you see?



No Tech Activities

No devices or apps needed

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Create a list or draw the things you think you will find on your hunt:

- Blades of grass
- Acorns
- A leaf on the ground
- A pinecone
- Signs of a spider or a spider
- An anthill
- Plants or insects

National Wildlife Federation - Great American Campout Activity Sheet:
<https://tinyurl.com/ya6un58e>

Low Tech Activities

Flashlight/ Binoculars/ Magnifying lens/Camera

Create a Nature Journal

- Gather supplies (notebook/sketching supplies, pencil, flashlight, magnifying lens, binoculars, camera, nets, field guides).
- Create a haiku about a nature scene you are observing.
- Describe/draw leaves you find.
- Sketch/describe birds you see.
- Look for tracks and traces of wildlife.
- Identify/describe/draw insects.

Maryland DNR Journal:
<https://tinyurl.com/yd3tyuos>

High Tech Activities

Device/Internet Access/Online Tools

Virtual Field Guides

From Adkins Arboretum

<https://tinyurl.com/y6vvr8gz>

- Learn about native shrubs, trees, wildflowers, grasses, and ferns.
- View videos and support materials with activities
- Explore the natural world around you.

Tips to Recreate Responsibly

from the National Park Service


- **Know before you go.** Make a plan, follow the *10 Essentials**, and if you are sick stay home.
- **Keep it close.** Follow the state and county open orders
- **Keep your distance.** Follow CDC social distancing guidelines.
- **Keep it with you.** If you brought it, take it with you.

* 10 Essentials: <https://tinyurl.com/ybxzys6w>

Complete Guidelines: <https://tinyurl.com/ya3b5mnm>

COVID-19 PARENTING RESOURCES
From the World Health Organization




#HealthyAtHome - Mental Health
<https://tinyurl.com/ydz8vzv9>



**Great American Backyard
Campout**

The National Wildlife Federation

<https://www.nwf.org/great-american-campout>

CAMP IN.
Pitch a tent or build a fort from the comfort of home.

CAMP OUT.
Grab your gear and head for the backyard or an open park.

CAMP ON.
No matter where you are, take some time to enjoy the nature that connects us all.

Summer Camps - For Kids



Pickering Creek Audubon Center EcoCamp From Home! <https://tinyurl.com/y9rdn75c>
Week-long themed adventures from mid-July to mid-August. Campers receive a kit with themed indoor and outdoor activities, a guided activity book, and supplies to help them explore outdoors in their own backyards! **Register here:** <https://act.audubon.org/a/ecocamp-home>

Evergreen Heritage Center Evergreen Camp <https://tinyurl.com/yc46xke8>

July 27-31 from 9 am to 4 pm

An interdisciplinary camp that includes modules from the Art, Science, Grow it Cook it, and Appalachian Adventure programs.

Camp in a Box: Virtual camp kits include five days of activities, with step-by-step instructions and supplies, along with access to a Google Classroom of videos, supplementary materials, and phone time with instructors. **Register here:** <https://tinyurl.com/y8lcervf>

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) <https://tinyurl.com/y8lwk843>

Summer Science Series

July 7 to August 4 (every other Tuesday): 5 to 7-year-olds learn about one animal that lives in the Bay. An activity to do at home will be provided.

July 16 to August 6 (every other Thursday): 8 to 12-year-olds explore Bay Sharks, Planktons, and Zombie trees. An activity to do at home will be provided.

For Adults

Professional Development

**Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Virtual Educator's Retreat**
<https://tinyurl.com/y87slbh4>
July 6-August 9, 2020
To register:
<https://tinyurl.com/y9bfd4hr>

SERC

Virtual Training & Certificate Programs

<https://tinyurl.com/yanvq8uw>

- July 7, 17, 24 (10am -1pm)
Understanding & Teaching Climate Change
- July 28 and 29 (10 - 11am)
River Otters of the Chesapeake Bay
- July 7 (9am-3pm)
Wildlife & Fish of the Chesapeake Bay

To register: email mcdonald@si.edu

Creek Critters App

From the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) in partnership with the Audubon Naturalist Society

- Find and identify bugs in your stream
- Easy to use
- Protocol instructions and identification guides provided

App instructions: <https://tinyurl.com/ycqcvghe>

Activity Books & Guides

IWLA also has a slew of activity books and guides for students at home which are available here:

<https://www.iwla.org/outdoor-recreation/youth>