

Madrona Marsh Junior Naturalist Program

All participants will follow the City of Torrance Covid protection policies

Welcome!!

Welcome to the 2022 Junior Naturalist program held at the Madrona Marsh!! We are so happy your child will be participating in this Program. We have a lot of fascinating, exciting, and fun activities planned for the Junior Naturalists. We look forward to sharing our love of nature with your child!!

Parents, please drop off and pick up your child in the Nature Center Classroom on time: 9:00 drop off and 3:00 pick up. If someone other than a parent/caregiver is picking up your child they must be at least 18 years old. Please provide a written note with that persons name.

Junior Naturalist Leaders:

Suzan Hubert: suzanhubert@sbcglobal.net

Junior Naturalist Goals:

Through learning experiences teach children to appreciate, protect and preserve our unique and diverse wildlife, and habitats.

Program Details:

Our week will rotate around group and individual activities that focus on different themes: Soil/Water/Sun and energy, how to make observations, birds, insects, animals, plants and photography. Each child will receive a journal for their personal use. Each student will complete a project of their choosing related to nature. Children will spend 10-20 minutes a day individually observing and journaling. Students will have the opportunity to partner with the preschool Friday Fun Class to practice being a naturalist. Each activity will help students grasp what it means to be a naturalist while practicing the necessary skills to become one. The program provides a light lunch: prepackaged sandwich, fruit, chips and cookies. Water will always be available.

What to Bring:

- ❖ Jacket, hat and sunscreen. A good portion of our time will be out on the Preserve or the gardens.
- ❖ Face Mask for indoors
- ❖ Closed toed shoes
- ❖ Small snack optional
- ❖ Re-usable water bottle.
- ❖ Small backpack for all of your belongings.
- ❖ Marker pens, colored pencils for drawing

- ❖ On Wednesday we will have a photographer teaching *Photographing Nature*. Children may bring an iPhone, tablet or camera for this activity. The child is solely responsible for this equipment. Don't forget to bring a charger!
- ❖ Children with approved individual film projects may bring the appropriate equipment as needed. Children are responsible for any equipment they bring.

LABELLING YOUR CHILD'S ITEMS IS A GOOD IDEA

What to Not Bring:

Please leave any electronic games, iPods, fidget spinners, special toys or any other distracting items at home. These objects divert a student's attention from the group's activities and can be distracting or dangerous to other students. Dangerous items that can be considered weapons, such as matches or pocketknives, will not be allowed.

Jr. Naturalist Behavior Expectations:

- ❖ Stay within sight of the group.
- ❖ Be respectful of others—teachers, other students and yourself.
- ❖ Keep your hands to yourself. Do not touch other people or their belongings without permission.
- ❖ Come prepared for the day's adventure with the appropriate clothing and equipment. (Sunscreen & bug spray should be applied in advance.)
- ❖ Look after yourself. Pick up your own belongings and put trash away properly.
- ❖ Be willing to experience new things –new activities, new places, and new friends!
- ❖ **DO NOT** feed the animals at any time. This includes education animals.

Examples of Behaviors that are not accepted:

- ❖ Angry or vulgar language, including swearing, name calling, and shouting.
- ❖ Poses a safety threat to him/herself or others
- ❖ Physical contact with another person in any angry or threatening way (such as pushing, shoving, hitting or biting)
- ❖ Harassment or intimidation by words, gestures, body language or any other menacing behavior
- ❖ Disrespectful "talking back" to the group leaders, other adults or other children
- ❖ Theft or destruction of another's property

Consequences of unacceptable behavior:

1. We will give your child a warning and redirect his/her attention to the group activities
2. Second occurrence – Your child may not be able to participate in the activity for the day and you will be informed at pick up time

3. Third occurrence – You will be called and your child will not be able to participate. There are no refunds for exclusion due to unacceptable behavior

We want every child to feel comfortable. If your child is experiencing difficulty during the program, please let us know.

We want this to be a fun, safe, and educational week for all our participants!

Health Issues/ Emergency Procedures:

Our program is designed to have the children outside and active for most of the day. Please monitor your child's health each morning and do not bring a sick child to the program. A child who is ill will likely be miserable and may make the other children and adults sick too. If your child becomes sick during the day, we will contact you or your designated contact to pick up your child.

If a minor injury or health problem arises, and your child needs medical attention, we will follow these procedures:

- ❖ The parent or adult family member will be notified of the incident at the end of the day unless the injury calls for immediate parental notification.
- ❖ Our staff will provide first aid and record the incident on an accident form.
- ❖ The child will be observed continuously and made comfortable during and following first aid. In the event of a serious injury or health problem requiring professional medical care:
 1. Parent's/emergency contact will be notified immediately.
 2. 911 Emergency will be called
 3. A staff member will accompany the child to the hospital if the parent/emergency contact person cannot be reached.
 4. The incident and any first aide given will be documented.

Our goal is to provide a wonderful, fun and safe Junior Naturalist Program that has great learning opportunities for all children.

Get excited for a fantastic week!