

Naturalist Notes

Fall/Winter 2020



Programming For COVID-19

Wow— what a year it has been so far and it's only August! Things for the upcoming school year will definitely look different, but I want you to know that I will work with you any way that I can. Each school district is making their own rules when it comes to school visitors. I am more than happy to meet any district's requests for visitors- wear a mask, send you a list of standards a program meets in order to justify myself, make videos of certain programs, do, have programs exclusively outdoors, etc. Let me know what requirements you need me to meet or e-mail/call me with a particular situation and I'll see what I can do for you! Naturalists are more than visitors, we're a type of educator!

Monthly Program Series: Jr. Naturalists

I love that so many teachers took advantage of this series last year! I went into six different classrooms each month and

it was awesome! This program series is geared towards 2-5 yr olds and includes a story, craft, and other hands-on nature-themed activities. Even if you don't want the monthly program, I can adapt a topic you may like for your age group. I feel like this series could easily be adapted into a video format, if that works better for your school. I may create a channel or send a link with videos and worksheets if that's what way this program needs to go this school year. My list of topics starts in September, but if you want to start the series in October to see how school goes, we can do that too! **Topics are listed on page 3 for this year.**



Office Information

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Sign-up for *Smoke Signals*, our quarterly electronic newsletter!



Cherokee County Conservation Board programs are:

- Hands-on and engaging
- Available year-round, indoors or outdoors, and at multiple locations
- For all ages
- Adaptable to your needs and curriculum
- FREE!



Laura Jones
Naturalist



Programming For Physical Education—SAR & NASP

I wrote a grant and received SAR (Student Air Rifle) and NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program) equipment! I even purchased 3-D targets for archery to add a real world element to the program. Here are links to read about each program if you have not heard about them before: http://studentairrifleprogram.org/ and https://www.naspschools.org/. Contact me with questions!

Fall Specific Programming: Monarch Tagging & Bees

Monarch tagging takes place <u>only in September</u> as monarchs are migrating in large groups to their wintering grounds in Mexico. Tagging monarchs can help us discover more information about them. When a tagged monarch is recovered and reported, we will know the monarch's original location. Knowing where it's going and where it's from can give us a migration timeline and path! I can bring the monarchs to you, or we can meet in a natural area and catch them.

For a program on **bees**, I have safety equipment, empty boxes and frames for hives, and bee posters. My favorite item is a viewing box for a working hive frame that I could bring into the classroom! Talking about bees helps us to learn more about these insects, other important pollinators, and human impact. Depending on weather, there will be a point (mid-October to early November?) when I will leave the bees in their hive for the winter and not offer live bee viewing until the spring.



How to Schedule a Program

Contact me with a topic that you have in mind, your grade level, number of students, and a date. I can always stop by if you have a big event in mind or need to collaborate with other teachers. <u>Visit our website for program ideas.</u> Don't see a program that fits you? No problem! I can custom make one for you. There's no way I can list every potential program topic when it comes to nature! **My contact information**: **712-225-6709 or cccblaura@gmail.com**

Upcoming CCCB Events

September 20: Monarch Tagging Join Laura at the Cherokee Middle School at 2:00pm for monarch tagging!

TENTATIVELY October 10: Halloween Hike at Silver Sioux Trick-or-treat, hit the haunted trail, decorate a pumpkin, and more. (Due to the large number of participants, this program may be cancelled due to Covid.)

Program dates, locations, and content are subject to change. Check the CCCB website (<u>www.cherokeecountyparks.com</u>) and Facebook page for up-to-date information.

Jr. Naturalists

A once a month hands-on program for pre kindergarten to kindergarten aged students. Each month's program will be on a different topic and may include activities such as stories, crafts, games, and more.

2020-2021 Calendar & Topics

Time:

September ___ Flowers January ___ Winter

October Fish

Animals

November ___ Underground February ___ Snow

Animals March ___ Owls

December ___ Pokey Pines April ___ Worms

