



Naturalist Notes

Fall/Winter 2021

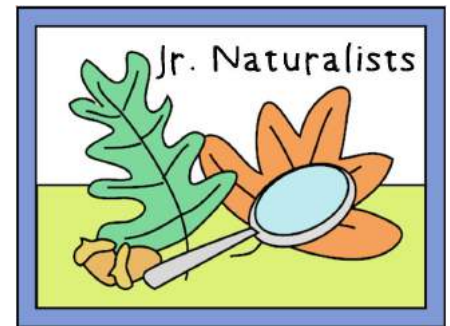


Update

Wow– where did summer go?! I thought that I’d give you a little update on what has been going on in my world recently. Chad Brown, the Director that hired me 9 years ago, resigned in May. The Board promoted me to Director, but since I still wanted to be the Naturalist because I LOVE visiting you and your students I now hold two titles. Our office is down one full-time person and I’m performing multiple positions worth of job duties. I’m in the process of hiring; however, my availability for programming will be limited this first semester. I’m hoping to hire someone that can help in the office and occasionally assist with Naturalist duties. Don’t hesitate to contact me for programming, but please be patient and flexible as I get things organized. Once I have someone hired, I should be back to something close to resembling “normal” availability. Thank you for your understanding! I’m excited to see you!

Monthly Program Series: Jr. Naturalists

It’s back again! This program series is geared towards 2-5 yr olds and includes a story, craft, and/or other hands-on nature-themed activities. You don’t have to commit to monthly programming, you can choose certain months. If you have an older grade, I can typically adapt a topic you may like for your age group. 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.** I have a topic rotation, so if early learners saw me the year before, topics will not be the same.



Office Information

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www.cherokeecountyparks.com
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
Director/Naturalist



Fishing during summer school

Program Highlight: Animal Coloration

Occasionally, I like to highlight a newer program. There are many reasons why animals are different colors in nature. This program explores those reasons and varying animal adaptations. The worksheet that accompanies the program involves students counting the number of camouflaged frogs vs brightly colored frogs in a limited time window to see how many they can find. In theory, they will see more brightly colored frogs in 10 seconds than camouflaged frogs. For older kids, they will create a pie chart or bar graph based on the number they counted and calculate the percentage of frogs they saw. The worksheet also includes big science words (because I love it when they learn a new big science word) on the back, so they would learn a word like cryptic coloration in place of camouflage. For little kids, we talk about coloration, count frogs, then do a coloring sheet on proper coloration for certain animals. Just an example of another program that includes STEM activities.



September Specific Programming : Monarch Tagging

Monarch tagging takes place only in September 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.

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. [Visit our website for program ideas.](#) 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 12: Monarch Tagging Join Laura at the Cherokee Middle School at 2:00pm for monarch tagging!

October 9: Halloween Hike at Silver Sioux Trick-or-treat, decorate a pumpkin, play Halloween-themed games, and more.

Program dates, locations, and content are subject to change. Check the CCCB website (www.cherokeecountyparks.com) 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.

2021-2022 Calendar & Topics

Time: _____

September ___ Leaves

October ___ Bats

November ___ Camouflage

December ___ Decorate a
Tree for Nature

January ___ Birds

February ___ Frog & Toad

March ___ Flowers

April ___ Grow As We
Go

May ___ Snakes



www.cherokeecountyparks.com

