

NDP BY THE #NUMBERS



York County Parks

2015 Nature Discovery Program

163
TOTAL
CAMPERS

8
CAMPS

715
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

1
AMAZING
SUMMER

Thank You NDP Participants!

We are wrapping up another fantastic summer here at Nixon Park, reliving the adventures as we pack away scavenger hunts, nets, and craft supplies. Thank you for being a part of this summer— both as explorers and supporters! Our Nature Discovery Programs were full of hikes, experiments, observations, games, and more! We looked at nature from all angles— from sweeping views to magnified tiny treasures. We painted, sketched, stamped, constructed, and created!

Highlights from the season included canoeing with Chesapeake Bay Foundation educators in Annapolis, uncovering artifacts at Horn Farm, working with local artists, visiting researchers, and exploring the field, forest and stream at Nixon Park.

Thank you for making this season such a great success. We are already looking forward to sharing new adventures with you next summer!

- Nixon County Park Staff



Volunteer Emily and NDP I campers give their best dinosaur impression!

"I had a blast this summer playing games, hiking trails, exploring, and getting my hands dirty in ways I wish I would have gotten to do as a kid!"

- Oliver, staff member

Small Wonders

We started the summer off strong with a great group of Small Wonders campers— ages 3 & 4— and adults. Each pair worked together to explore the world of animals. We got to know each other through animal sounds and communication and spent the week learning about different types of animals and their lifestyles. Campers and adults got their feet wet exploring our pond and stream

habitats. We tested our jumping, running, and memory skills against those of local animals. Participants searched the trails

at Nixon Park for animal signs and homes. In this busy week, they still found time to **WOW** us with creative collages, feather painting, and other animal crafts.



After a week of discovery, campers and adults left to explore their local surroundings using new tools and ideas.

Nature Discovery Program 1



Campers got to put on their archeologist hats and dig for fossils and bones in NDP 1

This week at camp, we learned all about habitats, plants, animals, life cycles, food, and fossils. The 5 and 6 year-old campers had loads of fun playing to learn. Some of the highlights were designing a terrarium for insects to live in, excavating deer antlers, and making our

very own food webs. At the end of the week, our campers bore the true title of “Nature Discoverers” as they received their certificates in our award ceremony.

“The best part about these camps is watching the campers learn and have fun at the same time!”
- Ketsy, staff member



“My son loved the camp, thank you.”
- NDP 1 Parent

“Thank you for offering such a wonderful experience!”
- NDP 2 Parent

Nature Discovery Program 1

REPTILES

Campers, ages 5 & 6, got to explore all the different kinds of reptiles during this week of camp! The week started off with an exclusive feeding— with the Nature Center to themselves, NDP 1

campers had a chance to feed some of the many reptiles that were on display for our Reptile Week event. Each day we focused on a different type of reptile and learned all about their specific

“superpowers” or adaptations. We made a variety of crafts— including one of their favorites: turtle shells! We saved the best for last by ending our exciting week with a presentation by Bob’s Critters.

Nature Discovery Program 2

NDP 2 campers on a “Campers’ Choice” hike!



This week, campers learned about the impact that humans have on nature and vice versa! We started our week off by pondering pollution and then investigating our

stream for specific insects that tell us about the water quality. Campers discussed all the things that nature gives them and how they might be able to give back to nature in their neighborhoods. We dedicated one day to

finding out where energy comes from and how we use it. Campers took part in several different experiments that tested out the power of solar and wind energy. We ended the week by making our own paper out of recycled paper and competing in our Nature Olympics!

Nature Discovery Program 2

INSECTS



Insect hunt in the field at Nixon Park!

Campers, ages 7 & 8, had a blast discovering the world of insects during this week of camp! We started the week by asking “What makes an

insect?” and investigating to find the answer. We hopped, jumped, crawled and skated in our six-legged race in order to imitate how some of our insects move around. We spent most of our days collecting insects from different habitats, including



Andrew gets an up close look at a grasshopper with “The Bug Man”

the field, forest, and stream. Our campers enjoyed competing in our Insect Olympics to see if they could beat our insects in some of their everyday activities. The week ended with a visit from “The Bug Man” Ryan Bridge who brought along insects and their relatives for us to hold and examine!

Nature Discovery Program 3

Campers, ages 9 & 10, started their week of camp off by working together to canoe across Lake Redman!

“I’ve never done art outside!”

- Maria, NDP 3

We then made our way to Spring Valley Park where we were able to meet entomologists from the United Kingdom that

were doing research right here in York County. Campers also started their weeklong Miró inspired art project on this day of camp using a variety of organic shapes, such as leaves and sticks. Campers learned all about different land uses when we visited John Rudy Park and conquered the hike



NDP 3 campers and staff show off their sculptures created with local artist Joan Austin and the Cultural Alliance of York County.

from Nixon Park to Lake Williams later on in the week. At the end of the week, campers were able to piece together their masterpieces in order to form three different sculptures to be displayed at Nixon Park.

Nature Discovery Program 4

During this camp week, we had the opportunity to explore all over York County and even traveled to the Chesapeake Bay! Campers, ages 11-13 years old, hiked the trails of

Codorus State Park, and canoed with educators from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. They experienced building their own slingshots, shelters, and fires, in a week-long

team competition. They set up camp inside Nixon Park’s Nature Center on a stormy night for a sleep-over to conclude our week.



Campers rescue fish captured in the seine net at the Chesapeake Bay

Have a comment or suggestion? Help us improve the program!

Fill out our brief online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2F5CC2T>



Thank You

to all our volunteers!
 Our many adventures
 would not have been
 possible without your time,
 dedication, and hard work.
YOU are the spirit of our
 summer programs!

- Ketsy, Oliver, Mary, and Jeri

Archaeology Week at the Horn Farm Center

During our week at the Horn Farm, we got to venture through the past as we sifted through layer after layer of the farm's soil. Our team of 10-13 year old campers were trained on how to become an expert archaeologist and uncovered hundreds of artifacts. They



Volunteer Jeani and campers sift through soil

learned how to master the skills of digging sifting, cataloguing, and leveling their

dig sites. They also had the chance to learn how to forage for edible plants, build their own mini hot air balloons, and make pretzels in the Horn Farm's summer kitchen. At the end of the week campers had the opportunity to demonstrate the archaeological process, present their findings to the public, and celebrate the conclusion of the week.



Campers work as a team in their assigned square



Look for
NDP 2016
Registration
Information
 email or mailing in
 early December!