

NDP BY THE #NUMBERS



York County Parks

2016 Nature Discovery Program

188
TOTAL
CAMPERS

8
CAMPS

615
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

1
AMAZING
SUMMER

Thank You NDP Participants!

We are feeling nostalgic at Nixon Park as we scrape papier-mâché from trays, hang up our nets, and pack away our adventure bags. Thank you for making this a summer filled with exciting new discoveries, creative constructions, and epic adventures.

Highlights from the season included building a cardboard castle, stream stomps and

hikes to The Rock, and exploring the water of Lake Redman and the Chesapeake Bay.

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

See you later alligator!

- Nixon County Park Staff



Small Wonders

Our summer started off with a great group of Small Wonders campers—ages 3 and 4—and their adult buddies. We worked together all week to explore and learn about habitats that can be found in Nixon Park. We learned about mammals who live in the forest, plants that live

in the pond, bugs that inhabit the field, and animals that live underground. Campers also built their own habitats and painted with their noses to see what being a Star Nosed mole feels like. After this week,



campers and adults left with new ways to explore being outside together.

Nature Discovery Program 1

Nature Detectives



Campers look for mini beasts during a stream study session

During Nature Detectives camp, campers learned about animals and plants that can be found in Nixon. Campers went on hikes on different trails throughout the park, looked for different colors in nature, and did a stream study to learn about the animals in Nixon's stream. Special guest Jeri Jones came in to talk to campers

about fossils and archaeology, and at the end of the week, Mark Kocher came in with birds of prey from a local rehabilitator. At the end of the week, campers left with fossils, painted worry stones, and new knowledge about native animals and plants.



*"My daughter's favorite part was getting in the water to explore and hiking in the woods.
- NDP 1 Parent*

*"I was very impressed with the level of organization – so glad to have several staff members greeting us everyday and making the kids feel comfortable."
- NDP 1 Parent*

Nature Discovery Program 1

Water Worlds

Our second week of NDP 1 campers came to Nixon Park and learned all about water! This week, we discussed what water does for us and who needs water, as well as the properties of water. Campers were able to move like different animals through the

sprinklers and perform water experiments such as putting water drops on pennies and pouring water down a string. We used nets and trays to look at plants and animals in the pond and stream at Nixon, and even walked in the stream for one of our

hikes. Campers made a painting by using water color paint and pipettes, and built boats for the stream. On Friday, Bob's Critters came in and campers learned about animals like snakes, lizards, and bearded dragons.

Nature Discovery Program 2

Wonders of Nature



NDP 2 campers decorate pieces of the castle

Our NDP 2 campers this week, ages 7 and 8, learned about what makes nature interesting and fun. On the first day, campers learned about animal super-powers including bioluminescence

(what makes fireflies glow), having sonar, and using venom. We made lemonade glow under a black light by mixing it with tonic water. We then learned about plants by going on a tree hike and making seed mosaics. Our campers learned about what animals need

to survive in their habitat and built their own habitats for pill-bugs and worms, and engaged in a pond study to learn about water striders. On the last day, we built a castle in the lawn and played animal themed games to wrap up our week.

Nature Discovery Program 2

Habitat Helpers



Insect hunt in the field at Nixon Park!

on habitats, then went on a hike where we looked for trash and erosion. Campers went on hikes to look at different

The last week of NDP 2, Habitat Helpers, was a hands-on week of learning how we can all help the habitats around us. We learned about pollution and the effects of it

habitats in Nixon Park, and planted grasses in the wetlands that are under construction. On our way back from the wetlands, we hiked through the stream and picked up trash that



Officer Hueser shows how Conservation Officers rescue injured birds

we saw. Campers also built and filled their own insect hotels, which will bring beneficial insects to their houses and gardens. Finally, we had a deputy conservation officer come in and talk to the campers about why keeping habitats clean is beneficial.

Nature Discovery Program 3

Eco Discovery

Our NDP 3 campers, aged 9 and 10 years old, spent the week learning about ecology in different areas of Nixon Park. We went on a hike to talk about what ecology is, how it affects us, and how important all parts of ecosystems are.

On Tuesday, we spent the day at Lake Redman canoeing and learning about lake ecology and food webs. On Wednesday, we hiked from Nixon Park to Lake Williams at William Kain County Park, talking about forest ecology. All week long, we made nature



inspired sculptures with our resident artist, Joan Austin, and families were able to meet with her at the end of the week when campers took their sculptures home.

NDP 3 campers battle wind with a smile as they canoe on Lake Redman

Nature Discovery Program 4

High Adventure

Campers this week, aged 11-13, explored the trails at Nixon Park, traveled to the Chesapeake Bay to learn about pollution and animals that live there, and to Roundtop Mountain Adventure to explore

outside challenges. The campers had an overnight camp-out where we went on a sunset hike, made s'mores, sang campfire songs, and slept under the stars. When campers woke up, we went on a morning

hike to build shelters and came back to a pancake breakfast for our closing ceremony.



Campers pet a flounder caught in the Chesapeake Bay.



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!

- Mary, Marilyn, Morgan, and Emily

Archaeology Week at the Horn Farm Center



Campers learn how teamwork was used to put out fires in the past.

At the Horn Farm Center for Agriculture Education, campers learned how to work on an archaeological dig site with skills like digging with a trowel, sifting, and leveling their dig site. Campers also labeled their own bags of artifacts and some even researched the artifacts that were found. Special presentations were done where students learned about electricity, the history of the Horn Farm, life in the 1930's, and the progression of firefighting tools. Campers shared the artifacts they found at the archaeology walk, and celebrated their closing ceremony.



Campers work as a team in their assigned square



Survey QR Code

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

Fill out our brief online survey at
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K63DY2H>

Look for
NDP 2017
Registration
Information
email or mailing in
early December!