

Nature Explorers Summer Camp
Environmental Examiner

Survivor

This week Nature Explorers learned skills to help them survive on trips into the woods. Campers entering 3rd and 4th grade utilized the natural environment surrounding the Essex County Environmental Center (ECEC) to work on these skills. Campers learned fire-making, packing for a backpacking trip, orienteering, and understanding trail markers.

Successful ‘Camping’ Trip

Rain can’t stop our Nature Explorers! This week campers learned how to pack for a backpacking trip. They worked together to create a packing list that was later compared to the materials Mr. Dave packed in his backpack. Campers also learned to use a compass in order to navigate their way through the woods, tried their hand at fire-building and also gave fishing a try!

South Mountain Reservation

For this week’s field trip Nature Explorers headed to South Mountain Reservation. South Mountain is approximately 2000 acres of park located in Essex County. Campers spent the day hiking a portion of the Lenape Trail. Along the way they learned about the local ecology and observed Hemlock Falls.



Interns and campers work together to paddle on the Passaic River.

Campers and staff acting silly at South Mountain!



Canoeing the Passaic River

Nature Explorers started the week by learning to work in a team. Campers were taught basic paddling skills, formed teams, and participated in a canoe trip. Nature Explorers paddled approximately 2 miles of the Passaic River. During the canoe trip, campers spotted Painted Turtles, a Green Heron, and Marsh Mallow flowers.

Nature Explorers Camp Counselor...

Vera Figueiredo

We continue our series with Vera Figueiredo. Vera has taken the summer to work as the Camp Counselor for NJ Audubon. Joining us from Union, NJ, Vera earned her BA at Keuka College in New York. Her original interest in veterinary medicine succumbed to her passion for environmental education after an internship with the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. She has dedicated much of her time to helping urban youth develop environmental awareness and sustainable community projects in Philadelphia, D.C. and Maryland. Vera received her Master’s degree in Environmental Science from Miami University in Oxford, OH, and has also spent time studying in Costa Rica, San Salvador, and Portugal. Vera also speaks Portuguese and Spanish!

