

NATURALIST

- Make an insect keeper from wood (Craftsman). Collect crickets or buy them sort year local pet shop. Make sure to give them water and food! Use a plastic coke bottle cap inside the keeper for water. (req. #1)
- Visit the Arboretum or Armand Bayou Nature Center. Tie this into Forester (req. #3)
- Visit a natural pond or lake during the fall to see bird flyways. (req. #5)
- Visit Residence Camp during the summer. Find poison ivy for boys to look at, not touch. Discuss other poisonous plants such as Poinsettias, some household plants, and Mistletoe. Make sure the boys know about Copperheads, Rattlesnakes, and water moccasins. They should know the difference between a coral snake and a milk snake, but should also treat all red, yellow, and black snakes as Coral snakes. Leave them alone! (req. #6)
- Can also watch for wild animals at Residence Camp during the summer. A nature preserve in the Fall is another place to watch. (req. #7)
- Get a caterpillar and watch it turn into a butterfly.
- Do leaf rubbings. Place a leaf under paper and rub with a crayon or pencil.
- Create and use a waterscope.
- Contact the County for free bird house or bird feeder kits to make. After making these, put them up at a nature preserve as a service project.
- Make plaster prints of animal tracks.

Resources:

- Nature Discover Center 713-667-6550
- Mercer Arboretum Nature Tour 713-443-8731
- Museum of Natural Science 713-639-4629
- Edith Moore Nature Sanctuary 713-464-4900
- Houston Arboretum 713-681-8433
- Southeast Texas Poison Center, Univ. of Texas, Galveston 1-800-POISON1

Bird Flyways

What is a bird flyway? Where are the main flyways located?

Which birds use the flyway from this area?

Why do they use the flyway?

NATURALIST OUTDOOR HAZARDS WORKSHEET

Venomous Snakes

Why is a snake Venomous and Not Poisonous?

Red touch yellow- kill a fellow, Red touch black -friend of Jack
What 2 snakes is this referring to? Which is the friend?

Are snakes slimy?

We would be better off without snakes. (True or False?)
(Hint: what do snakes eat? Rats, mice?)

There are six venomous snakes in Harris County. Name four.

If you are going to the swimming pool at camp, while you are wearing your thongs (slippers) , and you see a snake right next to your foot, what should you do?

- a) Jump
- b) Scream
- c) Run
- d) Hit the snake
- e) None of the these

Since a Milk Snake is non-venomous, should you ignore it, or try to pick it up to show to your friends?

What is a Dry Bite?

If you get bitten by a snake, and it doesn't hurt, should you go to the Doctor?

Poisonous Plants

Name 3 poisonous plants found in this area.

What does poison ivy look like?

My dog loves to run through the woods, where there is a lot of poison ivy. Why doesn't she itch? Should I pet my dog after she has run through the woods with the poison ivy?

Since poisonous plants can be a real *pain', it's ok to burn them, so that they won't grow back. (True or false)

There is a big beautiful vine with white berries at the Edith Moore Nature Preserve. Do you know what it is?

What do you think of when you hear: 'Leaflets three, let it be'?