

## **Low- to No-Prep Nature Center Activities**

- **Animal Identification Challenges (Do You Know Me, Can You Tell, Feet First, and Home Sweet Home):** Lay out the quizzes around the room. Give each person a pencil and answer form. Allow time for everyone to rotate through each challenge. The answer sheets are in the folder (may need to make copies). Clipboards are in the lower cabinets.
- **Animal Tracks (use any combination of the following ideas):** If it has rained recently, take a walk on the corral road to look for animal tracks in the mud. Use the poster or field guides to identify. If desired, use track trap and/or track clues worksheets in conjunction with a walk. Page 154 matching game. Use rubber tracks and paint to stamp on paper. Use rubber tracks to make prints in the mud. (Please wash tracks after using in paint or mud.)
- **For young children:** choose an animal in the Nature Center to look at and talk about. Information sheets on the following mounted animals: beaver, mink, white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, raccoon, red fox. Copy the coloring sheet.
- **Hands on Items:** In the lower cabinets, there is a box of hands-on items that children can use (fur swatches, turtle shell, etc.).
- **Wildlife Notes:** In the wooden rack, there are animal information sheets on many species. In the lower cabinets, there are additional sheets. These may be taken home.
- **Fish prints:** Use paint and rubber fish to make prints.
- **Nature-in-a-can Pond Study:** Use nets and buckets to find and identify species in the pond.
- **Use the pelts and/or mounted animals along with critter cards/wildlife notes** to have each camper or group of campers research an animal and create a poster to teach the group about that animal.

- Let's Wing It: discuss the information on the types of flight feathers that make up a bird's wing. Make copies of student worksheet in stock paper.

### **Higher Prep Activities**

- Orienteering: flags and survey tape, books on top shelf of upper cabinets. Ask Shawn for compasses.
- Scatology: discuss identifying animals by scat, make (& eat!) scat recipes.
- The Nose Knows: learn about animals' very important sense of smell.

### **Supplies For Your Use in the Nature Center**

The upper and lower cabinets beside the sink have supplies that are available for all summer camp programs to use. If you use the last of something, please let Shawn or Julia know so that the supplies can be replenished. The following is not an exhaustive list. If it is in those cabinets, feel free to use it!

Clipboards

Posterboard

Markers

Tablecloths

Crayons

Foam brushes

Paint

Scissors

Newspaper

Pencils

Paper

Magnifying glasses