

Thinking Outside: Linking the World of Books to Nature Through Environmental Programming

Schenectady County Public Library-Central

Thursday, October 11, 2018

Ten sample program ideas:

- Crafts with natural materials (pinecone buddies, leaf creatures, pet rocks...)
- Nature book clubs
- Nature costume making/costume fashion show/costume dance party
- Tiny field trip--collect, show/tell and identify using field guides
- Featured favorite items from patrons' collections ("visiting exhibit of the week/month")
- Snow creature construction (with food coloring and loose parts for accessories)
- Library yard habitat creation/observations (birdfeeders, toad abode...)
- Library garden, in yard or in containers
- Gnome home/fairy house building
- Nature backpack check-out or use on library grounds (seek donations and/or patrons build their own in a workshop)

A few key Richard Louv books:

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder (2005)

The Nature Principle: Reconnecting with Life in a Virtual Age (2012)

Vitamin N: The Essential Guide to a Nature-Rich Life (2016)

More on Nature Deficit Disorder from the Children & Nature Network: <http://www.childrenandnature.org/>

Sample nature-related apps:

Audubon Owls Guide

Merlin Bird ID

iNaturalist

Seek

Sample contents for nature backpack:

Binoculars

Magnifying glass

Blindfolds (sensory activities)

Nature activity card pack

Bug boxes or containers to look at specimens

Paper for writing or drawing

Clipboard

Snack

Crayons and pencils

Storybooks

Field guides/cards (birds, insects, trees, tracks)

Thermometer

Flashlight

Toys

Journal

Water bottle

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