

Independent Junior Naturalist Activities

In order to complete the 2009 Junior Naturalist Program students must engage in one independent naturalist activity of their choice and show/report their findings to the Refuge Naturalists. A list of possible activities follows (Junior Naturalists will not be limited by the following activities and are encouraged to discuss any alternative projects with the Refuge Naturalist to complete their certificate).

- 1.) Sit and Listen: Naturalist are to pick two different habitat types to quietly sit for 5 minutes each. During that time they will record all signs of nature they both see and hear within that time. Naturalist should be able to note differences and similarities within each habitat.
- 2.) For the Birds: Naturalist are to observe a home birdfeeder during the course of a week and record the different birds (and possibly mammals) that it attracts.
- 3.) Nesting Notions: Naturalist should pick an area (whether a nearby park or yard) and search for nesting activity. Students should record the number of nests they find and try to identify the types of birds that made them.
- 4.) Butterfly Flutter: Toward the end of the summer butterflies are everywhere! Naturalists should find three different types of caterpillars and determine what type of butterfly (or moth) they will morph into.
- 5.) Insect Hula - Naturalist should pick an area (whether a nearby park or yard) and search for insect activity using a hula-hoop. Toss the hoop into the yard and wherever it lands begin your research: Count and try to identify the number of insects within the hoop. After five tosses report your findings to the refuge naturalist.
- 6.) Hoot Call - There are a handful of owls living around the refuge that are very curious indeed. Naturalists are challenged to learn two different owl calls and try their hand at 'talking to the owls' right before bed. Report any success to the refuge naturalist and be ready to vocalize your best hoot.
- 7.) Coloring for Nature - Children 5 years old or younger may show artwork in order to complete their required independent activity.