

ACA, Ohio Grant Application

Contact:

Camp at the J

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Project Title: Camp at the J – Bird is the Word!

Camp at the J is situated between a highway and a residential neighborhood, however, we have a small nature trail where many birds migrate in the winter and feed during the summer months. This facilitates the creation of a meaningful environmental education program at Camp at the J, which will be led by our in-house Nature Specialist who is a Hazon JOFEE Fellow (Jewish Outdoor, Food, Farming and Environmental Education). As junior ornithologists, every camper will:

- Participate in sessions led by a guest Naturalist who specializes in Birding from Great Parks of Hamilton County.
- Research and learn about native birds.
- Learn how to identify birds by sight and sound, and learn how to keep a bestiary.
- Learn about current conditions of the natural world, how modern culture has caused a displacement among wildlife, and how the birds will benefit from the bird houses they will create.
- Investigate bird habitats and shelters, and learn how engineering approaches can be applied to natural systems.
- Design birdhouses to provide warmth during the cold months, a place for breeding, and safety from predators.
- Build and paint a bird house according to the design plans laid out by the Division of Wildlife “Nest Box Plan.” Campers will work in peer groups and learn to use tools safely.
- Place bird houses in private areas that require a small hike and in areas that are in the open.
- Participate in active bird watching, and will track which birds make visits or build nests. We will purchase bird feeders to set up at camp for this purpose.
- View video and photo footage from inside a birdhouse via 2 cameras we will install.
- By the end of the summer, campers will be able to predict which birds will show up at the different houses and feeders.

Purpose: One purpose of this project is to enhance our current nature program at camp. While the obvious goal of educating children about birds is itself worthy, we are also using this curriculum as a new and creative vehicle to enhance each child's physical, cognitive, creative, social, and emotional development. In this way, the benefits to campers are both immediate and long term. This program will enhance the camp experience in the following ways:

- Instill social and environmental awareness, caring, and personal responsibility.
- Improve social skills by working in teams.
- Provide hands on experience for campers to design and build bird houses. Campers will be introduced to tools and different building materials as well as learn pertinent safety precautions and tool skills.
- Exercise analytical skills by learning the identification process.
- Engage in social action by serving as a Mitzvah (service) Project for campers as a way to give back to Camp at the J.
- Experience the excitement of learning, the wonder of nature, and the beauty that can emerge from STEM in a real world application.
- Build lifelong support for conservation of the natural world.
- Additional long term benefits: This project will be continued year round at The Mayerson JCC by the school aged programs and the Senior Department, who will have the opportunity to continue bird watching through different seasons.

Budget:

Description	Price	Quantity	Total	
Cedar Boards	\$20.00	4	\$80.00	1"x6"x12' boards for 12 houses
1 1/8" Hole Saw	\$12.00	1	\$12.00	For opening of birdhouse
1 1/4" Hole Saw	\$10.00	1	\$10.00	For opening of birdhouse
Galvanized Screws	\$10.00	1	\$10.00	100 count box
Nails	\$5.00	1	\$5.00	1 lb. box
Birdfeeder Pole	\$40.00	6	\$240.00	To attach six houses away from trees
Baffle	\$33.00	6	\$198.00	To keep squirrels away
Wireless Camera	\$150.00	2	\$300.00	To go inside the bird house
Trail Camera	\$150.00	1	\$150.00	To put next to a birdfeeder
Solar Panels	\$60.00	3	\$180.00	To power cameras
Trail Cam Security Box	\$40.00	1	\$40.00	To make sure no one steals Trail Cam
RGA to USB adapter	\$10.00	2	\$20.00	Adapter for wireless camera to solar panel
Birdfeeder	\$30.00	5	\$150.00	For birds to eat
Naturalist	\$480.00	1	\$480.00	To teach campers about birding
Suet Feeder	\$3.00	4	\$12.00	To help birds create nests
Exterior Paint	\$50.00	2	\$100	2 gallons
Weather Proofing	\$100	1	\$100	1 gallon
Paint Brushes	\$10	15	\$150	
Tarp protector	\$40	1	\$40	To protect surface
Camp Specialist	\$2,500	1	\$625	9 weeks, 10 hours a week on birding program
		Grand Total	\$2,902.00	

The total cost of this new program is \$2,902. We respectfully request \$2,500 from the America Camping Association in support of this initiative. If awarded this grant, all of the grant money will be used to purchase the supplies listed above. If we are not awarded the grant, we will significantly minimize the program by having the naturalist from Great Parks come to camp fewer times, not purchase the cameras, purchase fewer feeders, and build less houses.

Time frame:

The campers will spend two weeks learning about the different birds native to the Cincinnati area and create designs for their bird houses. During the third and fourth weeks of camp, the houses will be built, painted, and hung. The bird watching, identifying and keeping a bestiary will take place during weeks four through nine of the summer. We plan to continue the bird watching and identification throughout the year in our School Aged and Senior programming.