

5287 Otter Lake Road, White Bear Township, MN 55110

Phone: 651-266-0360
Email: tamarack@co.ramsey.mn.us **www.TamarackNatureCenter.org**

**Junior Assistant Naturalists**

We welcome you back to the

2021 Day Camp Adventures Team!

 Volunteers must be 14-17 years of age.

 Enjoy working with children, be willing to play, get your hands dirty and be active in all aspects of camp.

 Be a responsible and trustworthy team member. Be able to take direction and feedback, follow through with responsibilities and maintain a mature, positive, service-oriented attitude.

 **Participate in a 2-day training:**

* **Wednesday June 23rd, 1:00 to 3:00 pm virtually and 2 hours of independent training material.**
* **Thursday, June 24th, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in-person at TNC.**

 Commit to volunteering for **at least 3 weeks of camp.**

**What are the requirements this year?**



**What are the benefits of being a JAN?**

 As long as you work hard, remain positive and responsible, and meet the general requirements, you hold a position as a Tamarack JAN for as many summers as you choose until you are 18 years old!

 Get a Tamarack Summer Camp t-shirt and water bottle each summer.

 Build leadership skills; gain valuable, fun, hands-on experience working with children and nature.

 Volunteer time may be eligible for service learning credits and is always great for resume building.

 An exclusive JAN Campfire Celebration at the end of the season.

**How do I apply to be a JAN?**

Complete the enclosed application materials and return them to Tamarack by **Saturday, April 24th.** You will receive an e-mail notifying you that your application was received. Preference is given to returning JANs when we are making selections for the day camp team. You will be placed in camps according to your availability, skills and interests. Final camp assignments will be sent to you by the middle of May (earlier if possible).

**JAN Checklist:**

 Complete the enclosed application materials and return them to Tamarack by the deadline: **Saturday, May 15th**

  JAN Volunteer Application

  Personal Contract

  Availability & Preferences

 Mark your calendar for the mandatory training dates on **Wednesday, June 23rd and Thursday, June 24th**.

 The end-of-summer JAN Campfire Celebration: **Thursday, August 12th**

 **2021 Junior Assistant Naturalist**

**VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

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| --- | --- |
| First Name:  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Last Name: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Date of Birth: | Click or tap to enter a date. |
| Address: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| City: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Zip: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Primary Phone: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Cell Phone: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Grade Level:  | Choose an item. |
| School:  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Adult T-Shirt Size:  | Choose an item. |

***We communicate with our volunteers extensively through e-mail. Please list the e-mail address you want us to use when communicating with you throughout this application process and throughout the summer. If you need us to send communications to both parent and student e-mail addresses, please list both.***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Primary Email Address:  | Click or tap here to enter text. | belongs to:  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Additional Email Address:  | Click or tap here to enter text. | belongs to: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Additional Email Address:  | Click or tap here to enter text. | belongs to: | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**Please tell us what interests you. Check all that apply:**

[ ]  Water Recreation

[ ]  Mud and Mayhem

[ ]  Outdoor Survival Skills

[ ]  Storytelling

[ ]  Animal Care

[ ]  Character Role Play

[ ]  History

[ ]  Gardening and Plants

[ ]  Cooking

[ ]  Birds

[ ]  Insects

[ ]  Hiking

[ ]  Arts & Crafts

[ ]  Fossils & Geology

[ ]  Exploration & Adventure

[ ]  Experiments

[ ]  Birds

[ ]  Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **2021 Junior Assistant Naturalist**

**AVAILABILITY & PREFERENCES**

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**Name of JAN:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**How Many Weeks would you like to volunteer as a Junior Assistant Naturalist this summ**er? Choose an item.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Camp Week** | **Dates:****8:15am-4:30pm, Mon- Thurs** | **Please Check all the weeks you are available:**  |
| **Week 1** | June 28– July 2 |[ ]
| **Week 2** | July 6 – 8 (No Camp Monday)  |[ ]
| **Week 3** | July 12 - 15 |[ ]
| **Week 4** | July 20 - 22 |[ ]
| **Week 5** | July 27 - 29 |[ ]
| **Week 6** | August 2 - 5  |[ ]
| **Week 7** | August 9 - 12  |[ ]
| **Week 8** | August 16 -19  |[ ]

**If you are scheduled for a half-day preschool camp in the morning or afternoon, will you have transportation to or from Tamarack at lunchtime?**

 Choose an item.

**Review the enclosed document called “Connecting Children with Nature” to see what you can expect from each age of campers. Then tell us the top 3 age groups you would like to work with this summer. We will consider your preferences when scheduling but will also try to give you a well-rounded experience.**

**#1 Choice:** Choose an item.

**#2 Choice:** Choose an item.

**#3 Choice:** Choose an item.

 [ ]  Check this box if you are comfortable working with any age group!

**Please provide any other information about your summer schedule that you think would be helpful to us.**

Click or tap here to enter text.





**2021 Junior Assistant Naturalists**

**CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE**

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| **Sprouts ( 3 years old)** |
| **Developmental Characteristics:**Need opportunities to exploreBeginning to develop a sense of independenceEnjoy dramatic play with othersLearning how to shareEnjoy sensory learning and playNeed clear and consistent rules and consequencesCan make simple choices between two thingsPracticing their words and expression of feelings  | **Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:**Pick flowers and berriesFeel fuzzy leavesPlay Hide & Seek in the bushesBalance on a logRun through a fieldSplash in puddlesSing silly songsPlay I Spy |
| **Critters (4 & 5 years old)**  |
| **Developmental Characteristics:**Very talkative and enjoy discussionAsk a lot of “how” and “why” questionsDeveloping classification skills and reasoningWorking on fine motor skillsEnjoy a hands-on learning approach  | **Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:**Listen to and discuss a storyMake a tree bark boat and sail itBlow dandelion seedsGo for a blindfold walkStart a rock collection |
| **Discoverers (1st & 2nd grade)** |
| **Developmental Characteristics:**Enjoy doing and exploringWrapped up in selfIncorporate senses into activitiesHave a short attention spanLots of energyCan focus on teamwork rather than competitionNeed specific, clear instructionsBeginning to reason logicallyEnjoy collecting, organizing, and sorting | **Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:**Dig for wormsHunt for wild ediblesRun through sprinklersPlay organized gamesGo pond dippingGaze at the cloudsRead a bookPaint with watercolorsMake leaf rubbings |
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| **Explorers (3rd & 4th grade)** |
| **Developmental Characteristics:**Need recognition & praise for good workHave rapidly changing interestsEnjoy activities that use the whole bodyEasily motivatedBeginning to define self through accomplishmentsEnjoy imaginative playLearning to plan ahead and evaluateStarting to consider the perspective of others | **Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:**Make walking sticks and use themGo on a nature scavenger huntGo pond dippingHave a cookoutSkip stones at the lakeGo canoeingPlay organized gamesMake paper |
| **Trekkers (5th & 6th grade)** |
| **Developmental Characteristics:**Beginning to desire independenceVery concerned with fairnessGood listenersLike rules and logicPrefer new tasks and experiences over reflectionDeveloping a more mature sense of right and wrongMay shrug off responsibilityDifficulty making decisionsDeveloping ideals and selecting role modelsGood with teamwork, but can also be competitive  | **Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:**Build a fort with friendsGo canoeingWrite a poemBuild a fireDesign a tree housePaint with watercolorsSearch for wild edibles and make a saladPlay team building gamesLearn about animal tracksHave a relay race |
| **Adventurers (7th & 8th grade)** |
| **Developmental Characteristics:**Capable of abstract thoughtCapable of longer, more active adventuresEnjoy interacting with peersEnjoy solving real-life problemsCapable of independent, critical ideas | **Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:**Design and construct a gardenUse GPS units to navigate Debate an environmental issue with peersGo on a canoeing adventureCreate a nature challenge for younger kids |
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**2021 Junior Assistant Naturalists**

**PERSONAL CONTRACT**

**Name of JAN:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­­\_

I understand that, as a Junior Assistant Naturalist, the campers will look up to me. I will do my best to be a good role model for the younger campers. I will also do my best to be a team player and support my other team members to the best of my ability.

1. *I understand the Junior Assistant Naturalist training is required and my active participation is important.*

2. *I understand that I am an important part of the day camp team and once the 2021 schedule is finalized, I am responsible for covering my shifts or finding another JAN to cover my shift if I decide not to come. (Exceptions are made for illness or family emergencies.)*

3. *I will assist my team in maintaining appropriate control of day camp groups. I agree not to instigate activities that cause the campers to behave badly or cause them to engage in overly competitive behavior.*

4. *I will make the campers my priority. I understand this means putting the campers ahead of my own socializing.*

5. *I will not play “favorites” among the campers. I will treat all campers equally.*

6. *I will always show respect to all people. I will not label anyone as better or worse than anyone else. I understand that degrading comments or actions on my part will result in Tamarack staff calling my parents and sending me home.*

7. *I will always be safe. I understand campers look to me to help keep them safe.*

8. *I will be a team player and will be ready to assist staff and other volunteers with all tasks that need completing.*

9. *I will be open to feedback from Tamarack staff and leaders and will do my best to implement any suggestions they might have for making me more successful.*

10. *I will have fun! If I am having difficulties with anything or anyone, I will report it immediately to my supervisor so they can help me handle the situation appropriately.*

I have read and understand the above information and agree to these terms.

**Youth Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**