



5287 Otter Lake Road, White Bear Township, MN 55110  
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[www.TamarackNatureCenter.org](http://www.TamarackNatureCenter.org)

## Junior Assistant Naturalists

We welcome you back to the  
2020 Day Camp Adventures Team!

### What are the requirements this year?

- 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 1-day training on **Thursday, June 18**.
- Commit to volunteering for **at least 3 weeks of camp**.



### What are the benefits of being a returning 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.
- See old friends and make new ones.
- 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 returning JAN?

Complete the enclosed application materials and return them to Tamarack by **Saturday, April 13**. 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).

#### Returning JAN Checklist:

- Complete the enclosed application materials and return them to Tamarack by the deadline: **Saturday, April 18**
  - ✓ Returning JAN Volunteer Application
  - ✓ Personal Contract
  - ✓ Availability & Preferences
  - ✓ Parental Consent & Emergency Contacts
- Mark your calendar for the mandatory training date: **Thursday, June 18**
- The end-of-summer JAN Campfire Celebration will be the last day of camp: **Thursday, August 6**



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## 2020 Junior Assistant Naturalist RETURNING VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

*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.*

E-mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

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

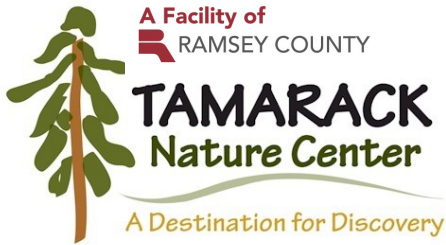
- |  |  |  |                                      |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Recreation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Mud & Mayhem            | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration & Adventure | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Character Role Play             | <input type="checkbox"/> Fossils & Geology       | <input type="checkbox"/> Storytelling            | <input type="checkbox"/> Birds       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor/Survival Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Insects     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & Crafts                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening & Plants      | <input type="checkbox"/> Experiments             | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please describe): _____ |  |  |                                      |

Describe a fond memory you have from last summer while volunteering as a Junior Assistant Naturalist:

What did your previous year(s) as a Junior Assistant Naturalist teach you and why is it important to you?

What experiences have you had or skills have you developed over the last year that will make you an even better Junior Assistant Naturalist this year?

What helpful advice would you give to new Junior Assistant Naturalists?



## 2020 Junior Assistant Naturalists

### PERSONAL CONTRACT

Name of JAN Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

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 2019 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 show respect at all times 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 be safe at all times. 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: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2020 Junior Assistant Naturalists AVAILABILITY & PREFERENCES

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

How many weeks would you like to volunteer as a Junior Assistant Naturalist this summer?

- 3 weeks (minimum)     4 weeks     5+ weeks

Camp Week	Dates: 8:15am-4:30pm, Mon- Thurs	Please Check all the weeks you are available:	Please check all weeks you are available for Before Camp Care (7:30-9am)
Week 1	June 22 – 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	June 29 – July 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	July 6 – 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	July 13 – 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	July 20 - 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	July 27 - 30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	August 3 – 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	August 10 -13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

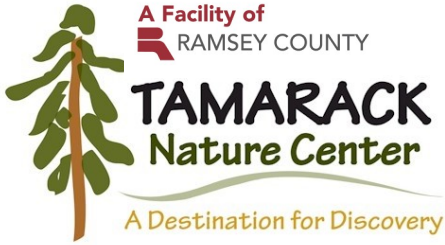
If you are scheduled for a half-day preschool camp in the morning or afternoon, will you have transportation to or from \_\_\_\_\_  
During weeks you are not working as a JAN, are you interested in helping with Backyard Bunch, a play-based, drop-off program for preschoolers on select Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings?  YES     NO

Some of our camps are held at Snail Lake Regional Park. If transportation will be an issue for you on those days, please let us know so we can schedule you for camps that do not go to Snail Lake. Can you be dropped off and picked up at Snail Lake Regional Park if you are scheduled for a camp that is held there?  YES     NO

Review the enclosed document called “Connecting Children with Nature” to see what you can expect for each age group 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 \_\_\_\_\_      • *Sprouts & Critters = 3, 4 & 5 years old*
- #2 Choice \_\_\_\_\_      • *Discoverers = 1st—2nd grade*
- #3 Choice \_\_\_\_\_      • *Explorers = 3rd—4th grade*
- I am comfortable with any age group!      • *Trekkers & Adventurers = 5th—8th grade*

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



# 2020 Junior Assistant Naturalists

## PARENTAL CONSENT EMERGENCY CONTACTS

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

I give permission for my child (named above) to serve in the capacity described in these informational materials, and I agree to the terms and conditions described. I understand that:

- As a youth volunteer, my child will be working to support Tamarack’s educational programs both directly (working with young children) and indirectly (assisting staff with program-related tasks).
- My child will be provided with the orientation, training and ongoing support necessary for safe and responsible performance of his/her duties.
- My child will be expected to meet all of the requirements of the position, including on-time attendance, dependability, trustworthiness and a positive, service-oriented attitude.
- If my child fails to uphold the personal contract he/she has signed, I may be asked to engage in a discussion with Tamarack staff and my child about an improvement plan.
- My child will not receive any monetary compensation for the services he/she provides.

I understand that in the event of an emergency involving my child (named above), Tamarack Staff will attempt to contact me. If I am unable to be reached, they will try to reach the emergency contacts listed below. I give permission to Tamarack Nature Center/Ramsey County and its employees and agents to take whatever emergency steps are necessary to safeguard the health and welfare of my child.

I also authorize Tamarack Nature Center/Ramsey County to take photographs of my child (named above) and publish them, with or without his/her name, for educational and publicity purposes.

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against Tamarack Nature Center/Ramsey County and its representatives for any and all injuries suffered by my child (named above) in connection with participation in this program.

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

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship to Child:** \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship to Child:** \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sprouts ( 3 years old)

**Developmental Characteristics:**

- Need opportunities to explore
- Beginning to develop a sense of independence
- Enjoy dramatic play with others
- Learning how to share
- Enjoy sensory learning and play
- Need clear and consistent rules and consequences
- Can make simple choices between two things
- Practicing their words and expression of feelings

**Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:**

- Pick flowers and berries
- Feel fuzzy leaves
- Play Hide & Seek in the bushes
- Balance on a log
- Run through a field
- Splash in puddles
- Sing silly songs
- Play I Spy

### Critters (4 & 5 years old)

**Developmental Characteristics:**

- Very talkative and enjoy discussion
- Ask a lot of "how" and "why" questions
- Developing classification skills and reasoning
- Working on fine motor skills
- Enjoy a hands-on learning approach

**Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:**

- Listen to and discuss a story
- Make a tree bark boat and sail it
- Blow dandelion seeds
- Go for a blindfold walk
- Start a rock collection

### Discoverers (1st & 2nd grade)

**Developmental Characteristics:**

- Enjoy doing and exploring
- Wrapped up in self
- Incorporate senses into activities
- Have a short attention span
- Lots of energy
- Can focus on teamwork rather than competition
- Need specific, clear instructions
- Beginning to reason logically
- Enjoy collecting, organizing, and sorting

**Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:**

- Dig for worms
- Hunt for wild edibles
- Run through sprinklers
- Play organized games
- Go pond dipping
- Gaze at the clouds
- Read a book
- Paint with watercolors
- Make leaf rubbings

## Explorers (3rd & 4th grade)

### Developmental Characteristics:

- Need recognition & praise for good work
- Have rapidly changing interests
- Enjoy activities that use the whole body
- Easily motivated
- Beginning to define self through accomplishments
- Enjoy imaginative play
- Learning to plan ahead and evaluate
- Starting to consider the perspective of others

### Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:

- Make walking sticks and use them
- Go on a nature scavenger hunt
- Go pond dipping
- Have a cookout
- Skip stones at the lake
- Go canoeing
- Play organized games
- Make paper

## Trekkers (5th & 6th grade)

### Developmental Characteristics:

- Beginning to desire independence
- Very concerned with fairness
- Good listeners
- Like rules and logic
- Prefer new tasks and experiences over reflection
- Developing a more mature sense of right and wrong
- May shrug off responsibility
- Difficulty making decisions
- Developing ideals and selecting role models
- Good with teamwork, but can also be competitive

### Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:

- Build a fort with friends
- Go canoeing
- Write a poem
- Build a fire
- Design a tree house
- Paint with watercolors
- Search for wild edibles and make a salad
- Play team building games
- Learn about animal tracks
- Have a relay race

## Adventurers (7th & 8th grade)

### Developmental Characteristics:

- Capable of abstract thought
- Capable of longer, more active adventures
- Enjoy interacting with peers
- Enjoy solving real-life problems
- Capable of independent, critical ideas

### Age-Appropriate Nature Activities:

- Design and construct a garden
- Use GPS units to navigate
- Debate an environmental issue with peers
- Go on a canoeing adventure
- Create a nature challenge for younger kids