

Youth Natural Science Program

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The Youth Natural Science program is designed to reach youth and educators in Jackson County with the goal of increasing youth awareness of natural resources and their uses, the interconnectedness of forest ecosystems, the importance of conservation and stewardship, and related natural resource topics.

The support of Jackson County despite the loss of timber entitlement funds allowed the Youth Natural Science program to reach nearly 5,000 young people in the valley with a variety of natural science programs.

Kids Unlimited Camps

The Youth Natural Science team at SOREC partnered with the Klamath Bird Observatory to offer an exciting series of classes to children in the Kids Unlimited Summer Camp program. Weekly natural science activities with two Kids Unlimited clubs introduced participants to a world of local natural resources.

Outdoor Explorer Day Camp

SOREC's own week-long summer camp introduced students from all over Jackson County to outdoor skills ranging from fire safety to leave-no-trace camping, hiking and outdoor cookery. In addition, campers helped Klamath Bird Observatory interns band local birds, climbed Grizzly Peak, had a geology lesson atop Mt. Ashland, and participated in habitat workshops at North Mountain Park.

Youth Natural Science Educational Kits offer equipment and information for students and teachers, extending the program's reach.

Kids in the Woods Camp

A week-long camp designed and run by SOREC at Evans Valley Elementary School in conjunction with Kids Unlimited introduced local students to local resources on the 28-acre campus of Evans Valley. The three-way partnership will serve as a model for other outreach programs.

Bugs at Camp Latgawa

SOREC put the science in Central Point Parks and Recreation's Art and Science Camp, located at Camp Latgawa. Activities based on this year's insect theme were boosted by a science lab set up by SOREC for campers to use during their free time.

Owl Pellets at ScienceWorks

SOREC reached out to many Jackson County families through a week-long owl pellet dissection station at the popular ScienceWorks museum. The Youth Natural Science staff trained ScienceWorks volunteers to run the station, effectively leveraging SOREC's reach and augmenting ScienceWorks' in-house capabilities.

Education Kits Extend Reach

Another successful approach to extending the reach of the Youth Natural Science Program is the Educational Kits project, through which teachers or students can check out kits on topics ranging from tree rings to water quality monitoring to GPS skills. Our web site, <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/natsci/home.shtml>, offers kit descriptions and an online checkout service.