

# TALES FROM THE TRAIL

Nature Nuts Summer Day Camp | Summer 2016 | Columbia Springs Environmental Education



## Sun, Slugs and Survival Shelters...

... Oh my! What a week! The Columbia Springs critters were out in full force on Monday! We found slugs, worms, beetles, mice, and deer bones in the log piles. We built habitats for some and looked closely at others under the microscopes.

On Tuesday we ran past eagles and sharks, and jumped up a waterfall in the salmon life cycle obstacle course! We also built salmon habitat in the stream table, and practiced our casting skills with two of our volunteer superstars, Terry & Patrick. Some campers even caught the volunteers in their lines!

By Wednesday we could hardly wait to dissect owl pellets to discover what owls like to have for their dinner. We found bones AND skulls from many different small rodents! A little smelly, but mostly cool.

Thursday we found some shade in the woods and finally started the all-camp favorite activity: survival shelter building! Survival shelters requires team work skills, planning, and scientific knowledge of local plants. Are there native plants near-by that can be used for food or medicine? Is there a western red-cedar to protect us from the rain? The day flew by, and we still found time to design shrinky dink gems and other crafts!

Oh no! Is it Friday already?! Where did the time go?! Busy campers worked on finishing up the last of their crafts and put the finishing touches on shelters before it was time to say a sad farewell.

From our education team at Columbia Springs, thank you so much for joining us at Nature Nuts Summer Day Camp. See you next year!

- Ms. Worm (Camp Director)

### **PICTURE THAT! (Photo descriptions):**

1. Campers meet the worms that eat their lunch scraps... and decide to name all the worms "Jeff." 2. Pretending to be salmon, campers dodge predators and race to their spawning grounds! 3. Young aquatic scientists catch and identify the water bugs that trout love to eat! 4. Forest explorers always find something interesting on the trails at Columbia Springs, especially slugs!



## Partners Make it Possible

The City of Vancouver and Waste Connections Inc partner with Columbia Springs each year to bring Nature Nuts Summer Day Camp to the community. These partnerships allow students to learn the important skills of caring for our planet, while spending their days outside and immersed in nature.

From feeding lunch scraps to the worms to playing recycle relay and countless recycled art crafts, campers absorb valuable information about waste-reduction, recycling, composting and more!

Here were some camper favorites:

- Toilet paper roll binoculars!
- "Where does your garbage go?" & "Recycle Relay" activities and discussion with Ellen Ives, from Waste Connections
- "Shrinky Dink" gems, beads and necklaces made from recycled plastic containers
- Nature Picture frames made from re-used old file folders
- "Eagle Eyes" made from salvaged yarn and found sticks



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