COMMUNITY NATURALIST PROGRAMS

CELEBRATE YOUR CHILD’S BIRTHDAY IN NATURE
Celebrate your child’s next birthday at Morrison or Senac Creek Nature Center. Nature parties accommodate up to 20 kids and feature your child’s favorite local nature topics through fun games, educational activities and discovery time on the trail. Parties cost $85 for up to 3 hours (including set up and clean up) and are designed for children ages 4 to 12.

BOY AND GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMS
Our naturalist-led programs connect scouts to the natural world. Programs meet requirements for some badges, including the Cub Scout World Conservation Award. Scout programs require a $2 per scout fee and a $20 deposit when the program is scheduled.

COMMUNITY AND MEET-UP GROUPS
Need a guest speaker for your garden club, HOA meeting, Rotary or other professional or social group? Aurora naturalists offer engaging and relevant presentations on topics people love to learn about and discuss. Programs take place at any of our nature centers or open space areas. Community programs have a fee of $25.

SCHEDULING A PROGRAM
Choose a topic(s) and select a date and time. We recommend having several dates selected because our schedule can fill up quickly. Programs can be held at one of our nature centers or at one of our many open spaces. A minimum of 10 participants is required. Due to resource protection or limited facilities, some sites may have participant limits as low as 30 people. Remember that programs can be tailored to most special needs and interests. Let us know what interests you!

AURORA WELCOMES SUMMER

Some like it hot! With the warmth and blue skies of summertime upon us, some of Aurora’s local reptile species are leaving their state of brumation and joining us on the trails. Brumation is the term used to describe hibernation in cold-blooded animals, also known as ectotherms. While exploring Aurora’s magnificent parks and open spaces, keep your eyes peeled for these native reptiles: Bullsnake, Prairie Rattlesnake, Plains Garter Snake, Snapping Turtle and Colorado’s state reptile, the Western Painted Turtle.

JUNE

• This month’s moon has historically been called the strawberry moon and got its name from the Algonquin tribes, who knew it as a signal to gather the ripening fruit of wild strawberries.
• Summer solstice occurs on June 20, the longest day of the year. In Latin, solstice means “the sun stands still.”
• Elk, pronghorn and mule deer babies are born.
• Burrowing owlets appear above ground.
• Showy milkweed begins to flower.

JULY

• This month is notable because it will have two new moons this year.
• The Aquarid meteor shower will be visible during the last week of the month in the southeastern sky.
• Bats forage at sunset to provide for their young.
• Sunflowers light up the prairie and mushroom season begins.

AUGUST

• The Perseid meteor shower, likely the best Aug. shower of the year, peaks around the 12.
• Elk and deer begin to scrape velvet from fully grown antlers.
• Shorebirds like the Baird’s and Least Sandpipers migrate into Aurora.
• Blazingstars bloom at night.

Welcome summer and enjoy the natural beauty of Aurora by joining the Aurora naturalist team for a hike, kayak adventure or full moon walk!
Discover Aurora’s true nature through puppets, interactive activities and discovery time on the trail. No registration required.

Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

**JR RANGERS Ages 6-12**
Learn about Aurora’s true nature as you explore Star K Ranch.
12701 Things That Creep and Crawl June 9
12702 All Things Water July 14
12703 Bats Aug. 11
Sundays, 9:30-11 a.m.

**STAR K NATURE CAMP Ages 6-12**
Get outside and into nature for a fun, adventure-filled week exploring Star K Ranch! Join us with your little ones for puppets, games and discovery time on the trail at Aurora Reservoir. No registration required. Every Friday, 9-10:30 a.m.

**SENSAC TWEEN CAMP Ages 8-12**
Get outside and into nature for a fun, adventure-filled week exploring and enjoying Aurora Reservoir! 12748 July 23-26, Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon $50 per child

**HISTORICAL USES OF EDIBLE and MEDICINAL WILD PLANTS OF THE PRAIRIE**
Grasslands Ages 8 and older
Have you ever been curious about the plants you see on the outskirts of the city? It may be that those plants were once used to treat headaches, stop bleeding or help people sleep. Take a hike and learn about what some of the plants we see daily once did for the Native Americans and western colonizers.
12699 Sunday, July 14, 10-11:30 a.m.

**NATURE AT NIGHT Ages 2 and older**
12700 Summer Night Sky Friday, July 19, 8-10 p.m.
12784 Sunset and Sunrise Kayak Adventures Ages 12 and older. $3 per person. Join us as we look for wildlife and watch the sun rise or set from a kayak on beautiful Aurora Reservoir. 12739 June 7
12740 June 21
Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
12755 June 15
12756 June 29
Saturday, 6-8 a.m.
12757 July 12
12759 July 26
Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
12760 July 6
12761 July 20
Saturday, 6-8 a.m.
12762 Aug. 9
12764 Aug. 23
Friday, 6-8 p.m.
12765 Aug. 17
12769 Aug. 31
Saturday, 6:15-8:15 a.m.

**SUPERSTITION AND MYTHOLOGY OF AURORA OWLS Ages 6 and older**
The Greek goddess Athena saw owls as protectors while the Hopi see burrowing owls as gods of death. Come learn about the owls native to Aurora and some of the mythology historically associated with them. Program includes owl pellet dissection followed by a walk/wagon ride to look for owls.
12750 Sunday, June 2, 10-11:30 a.m.

**NATURE AT NIGHT Ages 2 and older**
11817 Coyotes Friday, June 21, 8:30-10 p.m.

**FULL MOON HIKE Ages 8 and older**
Discover Aurora’s true nature under the light of the full moon and learn a little about its history through this guided nature hike.
17893 Buck Moon Tuesday, July 16, 8-9:30 p.m.