



# Junior Naturalists FAQs



## What types of activities will Junior Naturalists do?

- Junior Naturalists is a highly active and exciting science-based, outdoor environmental program. Jr. Naturalists will focus on gaining the skills necessary to observe and interpret their environment, be it a forest, a field, a beach, a city street, or a landfill.
- Naturalists will take a deeper look at some of the themes that Children Gardeners focuses on—using renewable energy sources, discovering the natural habitats of local flora and fauna, conservation of various ecosystems, exploring ideas of environmental activism and stewardship, and of course gardening.
- Some example of activities Jr. Naturalists might do: trap, collect and record species of freshwater macroinvertebrates; contribute to Citizen Science databases; design and build solar cars; create recipes using garden produce; learn to use apps and technology to view trends of environmental data; design and plant their own garden space; contribute to a collective garden art project; and more!

## What should my child wear for Junior Naturalists?

- Clothes that can get dirty or wet since we spend most of our time outside
- Closed-toe shoes
- Sun hat for sunny days
- Jacket, sweater and other appropriate cool weather items
- Rain coat and hat on days when rain is forecasted

## Are cell phones allowed?

- Participants may bring cell phones, but they must remain off during the duration of the day. Cell phones may be collected and stored by staff for the duration of the day.
- Cell phones might occasionally be used for educational purposes, if guardians give permission for this use. Guardians will be required to approve this use prior to the start of the program and it is strictly optional.

## Can my child come and leave by themselves?

- Yes. If your child will be coming and leaving by themselves, if consent is given by parents or guardians.
- If your child does not have permission to come and go by themselves, parents or guardians must sign their child in and out daily.

## What if the weather is bad?

- The Junior Naturalists Program runs rain or shine. If the weather is unsafe, we will modify our curriculum for the day and plan to be indoors. We will still go outside if there is a light rain or if the weather is hot. Please make sure to have your child dress accordingly.
- Junior Naturalists takes place primarily outdoors.



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## **My child missed a class. Can we make up a missed class?**

- No. There are no make-up classes for Junior Naturalists.

## **Can my Jr. Naturalist stay for extended hours?**

- Yes. Extended hours are offered from 3:00-5:30pm. Early drop-off is available starting at 8:30am. Sign up for early drop off and after care is available on the registration page.

## **When and where is the campout?**

- The Jr Naturalists overnight takes place on Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. You will receive details of the campout closer to the time of the programs. The overnight campout and bonfire takes place on the secured property of the Garden.

## **More questions?**

- Contact Samantha Ross at [ssross@queensbotanical.org](mailto:ssross@queensbotanical.org) or 718-886-3800 x. 218.