

Rusk Ranch Nature Center
SUN School EarthWorks!
June 19-23, 2023 9 am - 1 pm Daily

Dear Families,

Thank you for your interest and participation in Earth Works! We have made some general changes to this year's program structure and would like to share with you our daily flow and student expectations for the program. This year, the Earth Works! Sessions will take place from **Monday, June 19, 2023 - Friday, June 23, 2023** from **9:00am - 1:00pm** daily. Student drop off will be at the clubhouse each day. This program is designed and intended for our younger children from 6 to 8 years old and in 1st through 3rd grades.

Arrival:

We begin receiving students at the clubhouse each morning at **9:00am**. Our activities begin promptly at **9:15am**. Please ensure that your student is prepared for the day. Students should eat a healthy breakfast before arriving. We serve a light snack around 11:30 am each day. If you arrive prior to 9:00 am, there will **not** be any adult supervision provided. Please wait with your student in your car. Instructors spend the morning planning and preparing materials for the day. Please do not leave your student unattended. If for any reason you are running late, please contact the instructor. The group leaves the clubhouse each day at 9:15am.

What Students Need Each Day:

This program is strictly outdoors. We will be hiking in the woods, playing in the river, and getting our hands dirty in the forest while preparing exhibits. While the program day is a succinct four hours, our students need to be prepared with some basic gear to be comfortable and successful. **Footwear:** Students need to wear comfortable, closed toed shoes with socks each day. We will be hiking quite a bit. It is suggested that students bring an extra pair of socks to keep in their pack in case they need them. **Water Bottle:** Please send your student with a reusable water bottle. We will have cool water available to refill bottles. **Daypack/Backpack:** Your student needs a daypack/backpack for the week. This does not mean go and buy something new! We will only be carrying basic supplies such as snack foods, water, and project supplies. We are in hopes that we will have extra daypacks available for students who need one. **Swimsuit and Towel:** We will be visiting the river several times over the course of the program. If students would like to swim, they will need to bring something to change into and a towel. A pair of water sandals or other shoes for the river is highly recommended.

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Student Safety and Expectations:

To ensure the safety and comfort of all students during the week, instructors have set forward clear expectations for students. The rules are basic. Be respectful, responsible, safe, and have fun! Instructors and students alike come from a variety of backgrounds. It is important to respect all individuals at all times. We all must be responsible for ourselves. We are in the wild and taking certain risks. Being responsible means being prepared for the day, arriving on time, and listening to and following directions from the instructors. Safety is the most important aspect for the success of the program. Trails can be bumpy! The river rocks will be slippery! We will be exploring the habitat of wildlife. The instructional team includes a first aid/AED certified responder in case an emergency arises.

Departures:

Our program concludes at 1:00 pm daily. Families should arrive by that time to pick up their students. The instructors begin post planning and clean up at 1:00 and are not available for supervision. Student pick up will be at the clubhouse each day.

We are very excited to welcome you all to our summer Earth Works program! Many hours of planning and design have been poured into this program over the last couple of years to give it a fresh new look and make each day full of exploration and experiential learning. We aim to encourage students to be observers of the natural world and to understand our connection with nature. Students will immerse themselves into nature and take part in mimicking natural processes.

In Case of Emergency: In these times we always like to be prepared. Should there be an emergency, like a local fire, we will do our best to reach you. But if you are looking for your child and the center is closed, or you cannot reach us, we have a standing plan to meet behind Coffee Heaven near the Chevron Station in Cave Junction for child pick up.

Important Contacts:

Chad Free Nature Explorers Lead Instructor (971) 208-3054
Patty Downing Board President (541) 596-2543