

# Camp teaches kids nature in the field

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"Our goal is to get them to turn off their TV for a week and come to camp," Mattson says. "A lot of them have never seen the things they see here. If we teach them what is out here they'll learn to appreciate and respect nature."

Wilderness Nature Camp, sponsored by Pioneers Park Nature Center, switched its emphasis from a traditional day camp to a science and nature based camp in 1994. Since then they have had an average of 35 children a week go through the five-week summer program every year.

Most of the counselors at the camp also work for or volunteer at the Pioneers Park Nature Center. They are required to go through a week long training camp taught by the American Camps Association. For Nick Svoboda, camp coordinator, this is her seventh year at the camp. Svoboda says the camp tries to teach children learning is fun.

"If we can light a fire of interest in one kid in one group per week we

are doing are job," Svoboda says.

Based on the children's animated reaction to water day's muddy activities the camp seems to be lighting a fire of interest for more than just one child.

"I love getting to see the deer tracks in the mud" says camper Anna Henrichsen, 8. "We even saw a raccoon print."

"Water day is really fun," says Leah Bridges, 8.

"They let us get in the mud to look for bugs and tadpoles. We even got to look at stuff under a microscope so you could see their heart beating."

Camp counselor Leslie Picraux says she hopes the children who go through this camp will remember the park when they get older.

"We want them to learn that nature is fun," Picraux said. "Then, hopefully, in years down the road they'll decide to come back and volunteer at the park."

"This camp is here not only to teach about the present but also to ensure the future."

"Our goal is to get them to turn off their TV for a week and come to camp. A lot of them have never seen the things they see here. If we teach them what is out here they'll learn to appreciate and respect nature."

ERIN MATTSON  
Wilderness Nature  
Camp Counselor

# Freedom is a three-letter word

As a teacher of children with learning disabilities, as well as a teacher of their teachers, I can really appreciate all the new laws protecting our rights. But I always remember that if it weren't for MDA research and patient services, people with neuromuscular diseases wouldn't be free to enjoy these rights. That's why, to me, freedom is a three-letter word — MDA.



Shelley Obrant  
Professional educator

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## NU assistant named head coach at Mizzou

From Staff Reports

Nebraska Assistant Gymnastics Coach Rob Drass has been hired by Missouri to be the head coach, replacing Charles "Jake" Jacobson, MU Athletic Director Michael Alden announced.

Drass was an assistant for the Cornhuskers from 1994-99. His primary duty was as floor exercise coach and uneven bars.

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