



Photos (clockwise from top left)

CAMP COUNSELOR Leslie "Bones" Picraux shows a fishing spider to camper Mick Steiner, 8, during their water day excursion to the wetlands in Wilderness Park. Campers also got to explore the Park's creeks as they looked for tadpoles and waterbugs.

BRITTANY MOGA, 8, gets a liberal dose of bug spray from her camp counselor, Tony "Squirrel" White, before hitting the trails at Wilderness Park.

CAMP COUNSELOR Erin "Ivy" Mattson helps campers identify a spider they found in the water. Campers are taught that it's OK to look at the creatures they find in park as long as they return them to their environment unharmed.

CAMPERS STAY out of the rain in their "magic spot" while working on their nature journals under the eaves of the park's covered bridge. Every group of campers chooses a special place in the park to work on their nature journals each day.



Getting back to nature

Camp lets children learn in park

By **SANDY SUMMERS**
Staff writer

It is every adventurous child's dream. Thick, gooey mud hiding untold secrets of tadpoles, crawfish and fishing spiders. The kind of mud and slime deep enough to sink up to your waist in. Especially if you're only 8 years old.

For many campers at the Wilderness Nature Camp their favorite day is water day. This is the day they spend exploring the wetlands and creeks of Lincoln Parks and Recreation's Wilderness Park. This week long camp, catering to

children ages K-6, hopes to instill the love of nature into it's campers by showing them what nature has to offer.

Each day focuses on a different aspect of nature in Wilderness Park. After orientating the kids to the park on Monday followed by water day on Tuesday, the children can look forward to prairie day, forest day and nature skit day the rest of the week.

For Erin Mattson, a Wilderness Nature Camp Counselor, showing the children who come to camp all the neat things they can find to do in nature is what it's all about.

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