

KIDS IN PRINT SPONSORED BY KID MADE CAMP A service of The Nugget Newspaper



Hikers draw a "story map" so they can share and learn from their experience in nature.

Photo by JD Berger

Wandering the Whychus willows

By T. Lee Brown

Families from Sisters and Bend gathered for a rare chance to explore Willow Springs Preserve. It is closed to the public except during guided tours led by Deschutes Land Trust.

Nature educator Susan Prince led everyone on a "Fox Walk + Owl Eyes" walk. She taught people to walk quietly like a fox. Then they learned to watch nature like an owl would—by paying attention to their peripheral vision. That means noticing things that are at the edges of what you can see, without turning your head.

They spent 20 minutes quietly observing nature, taking notes, and drawing among the willow trees. Then they walked more.

The day was just getting hot as the group approached a pleasant bend of Whychus Creek. Kids and grownups alike kicked off their shoes.

"I'm aliiiiiiiive!" sang Lucie W., jumping onto hot sand and rocks. Then she plunged her feet into the cold creek, bubbling with melted snow.

One mile of Whychus Creek runs through Willow Springs Preserve. A campaign to save and restore the creek allowed Deschutes Land Trust to buy the 130 acres. The preserve is home to salmon, steelhead, deer, elk, raptors,



PHOTO BY TL BROWN

Willows shade a hidden curve of Whychus Creek. The restored curves give fish a nice place to hang out under the creek's edge.

lizards, and many songbirds.

The group moved across grassland toward a rocky hill. At the bottom, kids discovered the collapsed remains of an old wooden structure. They imagined what the stacks of silvered boards might have once been. "A potato cellar!" someone guessed.

Susan invited them to sit nearby and make a Story Map of the day's adventures. The kids drew pictures of what they'd seen. They talked about their favorite moments.

"Being really close up to the geese," one said. Another mentioned a tiny, speckled spider.

While kids drew the Story Map, grownups heard from Susan about how stories help people of all ages connect with each other and nature.

In some indigenous cultures, Susan said, "scouts would go out during the day and hunt, and seek." At night they'd gather around the campfire with everyone else, and share the story of their day.

Storytelling helped them "integrate what they'd learned, and helped the community integrate everything: where the plants are, where the predators are."

"When you get home from a hike," Susan said, "you can ask your kids to tell the story of their hike to someone else." That helps them and their community learn and understand.

The finished Story Map showed geese, bugs, birds, rocks, and Whychus Creek. A young hiker named Ronin asked, "What else is there to draw?"

"Hmmm," said Susan. "What are you sitting under? What's making the shade?"

"A tree!" the kids responded. "A pine tree." Trees were added to the Story Map, too.

To help draw the next Story Map, sign up for "Fox Walk + Owl Eyes." Susan will lead hikes to Indian Ford Meadow Preserve and Metolius Preserve in the summer months.

Youth ages 8-14 are invited to attend, free of charge, with an adult. Registration is required, at deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes.



PHOTO BY TL BROWN

Nature hiker Lucie W. and leader Susan Prince with a Story Map. It was made by all the kids on the "Fox Walk + Owl Eyes" hike at Willow Springs Preserve.

Lizards and creeks By Lucie W., age 9

What I found really exciting was when we sat for 15-20 minutes, and I sat down on a log... I saw something moving next to me.

It was a little black lizard—and that was really

exciting. I went to write it down, and the lizard disappeared.

I had a really good time with the other kids. We really just talked, and I made up a funny joke by the creek. We all had fun in the creek.

MYSTERY TALENT



Does this dancer look familiar? How about the little ukulele player? They are two kids from Sisters Country showing their talent—but the photos were taken a few years ago. **Could they be someone you know?**

Come find them at Sisters Sunday Showcase Talent Show on June 16. It's a fun thing to do on Fathers Day. If you'd like to perform, too, you can send in an audition video. It can be a phone video, nothing fancy.

You can also join a kids' performance workshop. You'll make a mini-play to perform at the talent show. Fun!

Sisters Sunday Showcase Talent Show
June 16, 1 p.m. at Fir Street Park

Performance Workshop for Kids: 11:30 am-12:30 pm
Presented by Sisters Farmers Market & Starshine
To register or audition: see starshine-theater.com

TELL US YOUR JOKES!

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?

A: To see if Sisters kids could come up with a better punchline!

Do you like telling jokes? Making up your own jokes? There are two new places to share your brilliant wit. **Send your jokes to The Nugget and they might show up in the next "Kids in Print."** Email kidsinprint@nuggetnews.com.

In June, you can tell jokes in person at the Sunday Showcase Talent Show. See "Mystery Talent" on this page for more information.



Kid MADE KID MADE CAMP
Make, Earn, & Learn



NOW ENROLLING —
Summer Day Camps in Sisters & Bend

Is your kiddo a budding chef, entrepreneur, or artist? They'll love what's on the menu at Kid Made Camp this summer! Now enrolling grades K-4 and 5-8.

kidmadecamp.com | phone 760-415-6345

Looking for writing, photography, & journalism classes?
Email t@kidmadecamp.com.