

Bird Nerds! Summer Camp Scholarships

Submitted to: Denver Field Ornithologists

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Bird Nerds! Summer Camp Scholarships

Project Abstract

Evergreen Audubon in Evergreen, CO, is seeking a grant to provide summer camp scholarships to families in the Front Range and surrounding area for our 2022 Bird Nerds! Summer Camp. Evergreen Audubon is a 501(c)3 organization that provides nature-based programming to all ages in our mountain communities. Our Bird Nerds! Summer Camp programming objective is to cultivate positive outdoor experiences for middle school students in Clear Creek County through bird observation and study. Our camp aims to instill an appreciation for birds in the larger scheme of conservation and the interconnectedness of our mountain ecosystems. Funding in the amount of \$1,225 is requested to support five middle schoolers' participation in our 2022 camp offering.

Statement of Need

Evergreen Audubon is expanding our educational offerings to previously unserved communities in Clear Creek County. Our efforts to diversify outreach are primarily focused on economic inequality in areas surrounding Evergreen. This grant funding would provide access to high-quality outdoor education in areas of economic disparity. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Clear Creek County has a median household income (in 2019 dollars) of \$67,060 with 7.3% of people at or below poverty level. This is contrasted by Evergreen with a median household income of \$116,594 and 5.2% of people at or below poverty level, and Jefferson County with a median household income of \$82,986 and 6.1% of people at or below poverty level

(<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/evergreencolorado,jeffersoncountycolorado,clearcreekcountycolorado/PST045221>).

Program Description

Evergreen Audubon's Bird Nerds! Summer Camp serves as an introduction to the expansive topic of birds and aims to cultivate joy and wonder in participants through nature journaling, outdoor exploration, and science-based inquiries. We are hosting the first four days of this camp at Easterseals Rocky Mountain Village (RMV) in Empire, CO. This 750-acre property is located just off of I-70 and features a diverse offering of habitats to explore. Utilizing this location will increase accessibility to families living in Clear Creek County. The final day of camp will be hosted at Minton Park in Empire, CO, in partnership with the Town of Empire. These two community connections are providing programmatic opportunities that were previously unused by Evergreen Audubon.

Our Bird Nerds! Summer Camp curriculum focuses on the following learning objectives for this week-long, half-day camp, to:

- understand what makes a bird a bird,
- appreciate various bird adaptations,
- identify differences between bird species adaptations and behavior,
- classify birds into appropriate groups, and
- explore relationships between birds, insects, plants and other wildlife.

Camp participants will be given a birding journal to use during their week of camp and will also receive a custom Evergreen Audubon Camp T-shirt as part of their registration.

A brief outline for each day of camp is provided below:

- Day 1 – Introductions, bird journal customization, corvids (*Location: Easterseals RMV*)
- Day 2 – Raptors: hawks, owls, and falcons, pellet dissection (*Location: Easterseals RMV*)
- Day 3 – Hummingbirds, native plant connections, seed bombs (*Location: Easterseals RMV*)
- Day 4 – Woodpeckers and nuthatches, beak adaptations, insect connections (*Location: Easterseals RMV*)
- Day 5 – Waterfowl and riparian habitats (*Location: Minton Park, Empire*)

Project Timeline

Activity	Completion Date
Submit Grant Proposal	February 1, 2022
Expected Grant Notification	February 2022
Camp Registration LIVE	March 1, 2022
Marketing and Online Promotional Pushes	March 2022 – May 2022
Registration CLOSED	May 15, 2022
Camp T-Shirts Ordered	May 16, 2022
Camp Program Run Dates	August 1 – August 5, 2022
Evaluation Survey Distributed to Parents	August 8, 2022
Final Data reporting	September 2022

Budget

Item	Price	Quantity	Total
Base camper fee	\$185	5	\$925
T-shirt	\$15	5	\$75
Easterseals (RMV) Property Usage	\$10 per person, per day	\$50 x 4 days	\$200
Minton Park Property Usage	\$25	1	\$25
Total			\$1,225

Evaluation

Evergreen Audubon uses a post-participation survey to continually improve our program offerings. Evaluations are sent via email to parents the Monday following the last day of camp. Survey data is collected online through Google Forms. Each survey consists of quantitative and qualitative data points with additional space for comments. Surveys are then evaluated by staff to make adjustments based on feedback. Success is determined by the overall quality of the camper's experience.