



Outdoor Explore! FAQ

Q. Why should my family participate in Outdoor Explore!?

A. Playing in nature is known to have many benefits such as boosting academic performance, enhancing creativity and problem solving, increasing enthusiasm for learning, developing self-control, learning to focus attention, developing respect and care for living things, developing social skills, and increasing the level of physical activity.

Q. How long does an Outdoor Explore! event last? Is it possible to leave early if I need to?

A. All of our outings are intended to last from 10am-12pm. You are welcome to leave early if need be, but this may be difficult depending on the day's activities. Park activities are simple to leave early, nature hikes are not.

Q. I registered for an outing that I can no longer attend, what should I do?

A. Please email GreenSpectacle@jacksonvillezoo.org so we can open your spot for another family.

Q. Who is welcome to attend an outing?

A. The whole family is welcome! We encourage all siblings and parents to attend. Please keep in mind siblings may be asked to share exploration items if we have a particularly large group.

Q. How should I dress for an Outdoor Explore! event?

A. Dress comfortably and dress for the weather. We will meet rain or shine, hot or cold, so be sure to check the forecast. Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty and bring jackets or ponchos if the weather calls for it. Many outings will involve hiking, so wear comfortable, close-toed shoes to protect your feet. Pants and long-sleeved shirts will help protect from insect bites and scratches. Hats are also a great idea on sunny days.

Q. What should I bring to Outdoor Explore!?

A. You should bring a reusable water bottle, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a snack if you like. It is also helpful to bring a backpack to carry items in. The Zoo will provide tools such as nets, binoculars, etc. to be used for activities during the outing, but if you have your own items that you want to use, please bring them along!

Q. If I attended Outdoor Explore! one month, am I automatically enrolled for the next month?

A. No, we are doing registration on a month-by-month basis. We do hope you come back, but please only register for months you know you can attend.

Q. Are the outings safe for my children?

A. There is always some inherent risk when playing outdoors. We do our best to keep things as safe as possible but small injuries such as scrapes, cuts, or bug bites may occur. The Green Spectacle will always carry a first aid kit if needed. Engaging in managed risks can help children develop good judgement, persistence, courage, resiliency, self-confidence, and improve their motor skills.

Q. How do I find the group once I arrive?

A. You can look for the large Zoo van in the parking area to be sure you're in the right place, then look for the Outdoor Explore! leader, the Green Spectacle. He is rather hard to miss!

