



## ~ ECOLOGY FUN ~

# 2022

**Ages 4-6, 2:15-3:15 P.M. / Ages 7-10, 3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**We ask that children please wear shoes appropriate for outdoor adventures!**

**June 24**

### **Birding Bonanza**

Join **Lea Dyga**, Environmental Educator, Grand Traverse Conservation District, for a Birding Bonanza! We'll learn about bird adaptations and our local bird species through hands-on activities, a craft, and a nature walk!

**July 1**

### **Michigan Rocks!**

**Lisa Bouda**, Earth Science Teacher, will introduce you to the unique rocks that can be found on our local Lake Michigan beaches with special emphasis on Petoskey Stones. Participants will create a pet rock along with the rock's autobiography and learn to classify beach stones while having tons of fun! Older children will also have an opportunity to polish a Petoskey Stone.

**July 8**

### **Protecting Michigan's Waters from Invasive Species**

**Emily Cook**, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator from Benzie Conservation District, will be presenting the importance of stopping the spread of aquatic invasive plants and animals. Participants will learn how to keep the water around us healthy and about what invasive species they might spot while exploring this summer.

**July 15**

### **Reptiles and Amphibians**

**Amalia Fernand**, Executive Director, Nature Explorers International, will introduce you to a live gecko, corn snake, and tiger salamander. Learn about the similarities and differences between reptiles and amphibians while investigating bones, shells and sheds, searching for salamanders and frogs on a nature walk, and creating a take-home craft.

**July 22**

### **Seeds and Plants**

Take a closer look at the parts of a plant by building a grass-head and dissecting a seed with **Amalia Fernand**, Executive Director, Nature Explorers International. Explore the local environment on a botany scavenger hunt and create leaf-rubbing art while identifying native trees.

**July 29**

### **Insects and Spiders**

Search for invertebrates on a nature walk with **Amalia Fernand**, Executive Director, Nature Explorers International, while discovering the differences between insects and spiders. Make a take-home craft, play games, and learn the "Insect Body Parts" song.

**August 5**

### **Invasive Plants**

Come and learn about why our Habitats Matter with Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network Coordinator, **Audrey Menninga**. Learn why invasive species are bad for our habitats and insects and play the "Invasive Species" game!

**August 12**

### **Trees**

**Ellie Johnson**, District Forester for Leelanau, Grand Traverse, and Benzie Counties invites you to explore the woods and talk about trees. We will learn about the riches of the forest floor, the parts of a tree, and how plants support insects, wildlife, and people! Everything in a forest community is connected, and you will learn how you are also connected to the forest.