

## 2024 Summer Day Camp Theme Descriptions

### Week 1 - June 10-14: Forests, Fields, and Pastures, Oh My!

How do humans use the land for our own benefit? How do we turn a grassland into a field of corn? How many different things can we use a tree for? Join Yampatika Naturalists as they help kids explore how we use land, what we can get out of it, and how we protect it for the future!

### Week 2 - June 17-21: Wetland Wildlife Wonders

Did you know that wetlands are one of the most important ecosystems in nature? Come and hang with a naturalist while we explore the different kinds of organisms that can be found in wetlands and why they are so amazing!

### Week 3 - June 24-28: Budding Birders

Come Explore with a Yampatika Naturalist as we investigate the wonderful world of birds! We'll learn what makes birds special compared to other organisms, become introductory birders, and see how important birds are for our amazing ecosystems in the Yampa Valley!

### Week 4 - July 1-3: Colorado Habitats!

There are loads of different habitats to explore in Colorado! Do you know which kinds of animals we share the ski slopes with in the Winter? How about what you should keep an eye out for down by the river? We'll look at what kinds of organisms live in different habitats and also why different habitats appear in different locations. The Routt Finders will be going on a two-night overnight to State Forest State Park where they will be able to explore some of these different habitats!

### Week 5 - July 8-12: Invertebrate Mayhem

What does it really mean to be spineless? Because there are loads of interesting and tough creatures that don't have one! From pollinators to decomposers to the bottom of the food chain, our world is full of interesting creatures smaller than a cell phone! Join a Yampatika naturalist as we look at insects, bugs, slugs, spiders, and more to learn about what makes each of these organisms unique and cool! Please be advised that this week will include some specimen collecting for our 7-11-year-olds that will involve the identification, killing, and preservation of insects.

### Week 6 - July 15-19: Into the Earth!

Have you ever been curious about the ground beneath your feet? How about where rocks come from? Did you know that mining continues to be a vital and important part of our everyday lives? Come and explore these questions and more as we learn all about the Earth and the interesting and continually changing rocks that make it up!

### Week 7- July 22-26: Kid vs. Wild

Back by popular demand! Come and battle the elements with the assistance of a Naturalist. Learn how to survive in the wilderness and what is important for you to have fun and stay safe while going outside. Join us as we learn about fire and shelter building, knot tying, Leave No Trace, hiking, and how to survive when we go outside!

### Week 8 - July 29-August 2: Ecological MythBusters

Are bats really blind? Does moss only grow on the North side of trees? Do owls throw up every time they eat? Investigate these questions and more as we spend this week looking at common ideas and stories from nature and determine if they are true or not! We'll spend time exploring different organisms to see what kinds of myths we can bust with the creatures that live here in the Yampa Valley.

### Week 9 - August 5-9: Mastering the Elements

Water. Earth. Fire. Air. This week we'll be exploring and learning about all of the nonliving factors that contribute to our environment! From extreme weather to capturing carbon to what is able to survive in an environment, we'll see how important each of these elements are and how they help make up our surroundings!

### Week 10 - August 12-16: Wildlife Detectives

Yampatika summer camp is where the wild things are! Come explore your wild side by learning all about a variety of wildlife in the Yampa Valley. We will learn to become strong observers of the natural world and how to look for signs of animals as we venture down local trails. We'll also learn about what animals need to thrive here and about the habitats where these animals live.

**\*\*\*Our Routt Finders have an overnight at a local campground on Thursday night. Dinner, dessert, and breakfast are provided. Pick-up on Friday is at noon.**

**At this time, we will not be offering a Routt Finders Group the week of August 12<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of low staffing numbers that week.**