

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are very excited your camper is joining us for this week of fun, green, sustainable learning. Here is a brief overview of what we will cover each day of Camp EarthWays. We've also included some questions to help you check in with your camper to discover what they are learning throughout the week, plus the daily journal entries and design challenges they will use for reflection.

Monday – July 8th, 2019

Welcome to Camp EarthWays! Today we begin our adventure by investigating communities, sustainability, green building, and energy efficiency at the Missouri Botanical Garden. We will learn about current sustainable design challenges and start thinking about our own green dream home. As a team, we'll define just what we mean by "Green Building," and take a trip around the Garden to see "Green Building" in action. In the afternoon, we'll learn about energy and explore how trees and other plants can benefit our homes.

Morning Journal: Describe the place where you feel (or have felt) most at home. What makes it a special place for you?

Design Challenge: Design a tree house that can protect you in all weather conditions.

Afternoon Journal: What does the term "Sustainable Community" mean to you, based on what we learned today?

Ask your camper: To identify one thing they learned about the basics of sustainable design and to define the word "sustainability". What is one thing that the Missouri Botanical Garden is doing to be sustainable?

Tuesday – July 9th, 2019

Today we are welcoming a couple guest speakers to Camp. South Grand Community Improvement District will be visiting to share with campers how South Grand has developed their street to be more sustainable. We will learn what LEED buildings are and how a home can incorporate sustainability principles. Campers will design the floor plans and start choosing materials for their dream Green Home!

Morning Journal: What is your favorite thing to do outside? What do you like about it?

Design Challenge: Create a system for a whole neighborhood to share solar or wind energy.

Afternoon Journal: Many of the things we saw today had to do with community. How can a home contribute to a green community?

Ask your camper: What are some steps that can be taken outside a home or building to create a more sustainable neighborhood?

Wednesday – July 10th, 2019

Today we are taking a trip to the newly renovated Soldiers' Memorial. Campers will learn how this memorial that is over 80 years old was transformed into a gold LEED-certified building. After a picnic at City Garden, we will have the opportunity to explore that space and discover many of its sustainable features. Campers will have more time in the afternoon to add to their Green Home design.

Morning Journal: Why do you think our homes look the way they do? What materials do they use? Why do you think they use those materials?

Design Challenge: Picture a castle from 500 years ago. Redesign the castle to be more energy and water efficient.

Afternoon Journal: Why is it important to pay attention to what materials you use when building a house? Why do houses in neighborhoods often look somewhat like each other?

Ask your camper: What are some changes that can be made to an existing building to save energy or water?

Thursday – July 11th, 2019

To begin today, we'll be taking a trip to South Grand to explore what features make it a sustainable street. Campers will gather information on how waste and water are managed. We will picnic in Tower Grove Park and look out how that park manages waste and water. Campers will be able to compare these two spaces to City Garden and give them ideas on how to design their own community spaces. We will also have a speaker from EcoBlock who will be discussing how to redesign urban neighborhoods to be prosperous for the environment, residents, and businesses. For the rest of the day, we'll focus on our individual building plans and construction. We'll get the chance to use solar power to cook a tasty treat, utilizing a clean source of energy.

Morning Journal: What do you like about your community?

Design Challenge: Design a park that captures and re-uses rain water.

Afternoon Journal: What are three things you could do with your own green home to help make it part of a sustainable community?

Ask your camper: What building features are you going to incorporate into your own plans? What makes a sustainable community?

Friday – July 12th, 2019

Rounding out the week campers will work on finalizing their green dream homes, and gear up for our Camp EarthWays Open House. We'll finish out our series of design challenges, prepare to show off our Green Dream Homes and welcome all visitors to the Open House.

Morning Journal: What is the best part about designing your own dream green home? Why?

Ask your camper: To reflect on what they learned through the week. Ask your camper to show you their camp journal and explain green dream home design. Where did they get their ideas? Did the things they learned and experienced throughout the week help them create a better home?

You're Invited! Thank you all for being such a wonderful group of parents and guardians to our campers. We would like to extend an invitation to our special Open House on Friday afternoon. The campers will be working hard all week to put together a showcase of what they learned, so be sure to stop by and check it out. We will start with a photo slide-show and presentation at 2:30p.m. in the Plant Lab followed by viewing of the student's work. Thanks so much!

Maggie McCoy and the Camp EarthWays Staff