

Nature Explorer Pack "Character Counts" for The Outdoors

Respect - Be considerate of the beauty of the outdoors. Don't harm or disturb wildlife or plants.

Responsibility - Leave nature better than you found it. Pick up trash as you explore.

Caring - Quietly observe nature. Don't harass or harm wild animals. Understand that everything is connected and counts on each other.

Trustworthiness - Have the courage to lead by example and do the right thing in taking care of the environment.

Fairness - Follow the Jones County Conservation park/natural area rules when visiting your county parks and preserves.

Citizenship - Learn ways to help the environment and actions you can take to make the world better. Plant a tree or native pollinator garden, use fewer chemicals, recycle, make your home energy efficient. Volunteer your time and skills to help your communities' natural resources.

What is the Nature Explorer Backpack?

Explorer packs are designed to help families, scout groups, home school, daycare, and school classes explore the wonders of nature.

Each pack comes with a field guide, books, study items and a variety of activities.

Ways to use your backpack:

- ❖ Take on a camping trip with your family.
- ❖ To help meet Scout Badge or Campfire requirements.
- ❖ Exploring your backyard or park.
- ❖ Help teach classroom concepts.
- ❖ Home school activities.
- ❖ Educational Daycare experiences.

**FREE 1-Month
Check-Out!**



**Contact the
Central Park Nature Center:
(563)487-3541 Ext. 3 or
naturalist@jonescountyiowa.gov
to reserve a backpack.**

NATURE Explorer Backpacks



Sponsored by the
Jones County Conservation Board
& Friends of Jones County
Conservation & Nature Center



Our Nature Explorer Backpacks:

❖ Birding Basics:

What makes a bird a bird? In this pack you will find binoculars, field guides, bird books, bird identification sheets and checklists, bird activities, and ideas on where to explore in Jones County.



❖ Geocaching is Fun!

Have you ever gone geocaching? Find out how you can become a geocacher. Our geocaching backpack includes Etrex beginner Garmin Geocache Units and batteries, several books on geocaching, several geocache containers, log sheets, map pages, beginner geocacher instructions, and geocache hunts available in Jones County.



❖ Animal Tracking: Learn how to read animal tracks and sign. Venture outdoors to see if you can find any signs of animals. Learn how to preserve an animal track you find.



❖ Discovering Geology:

Discover how rocks form. This backpack contains rock and mineral books, field guides, a rock pick and safety goggles, a rock and mineral test kit, observation notebook, collection bags, magnifier, trowel, rock and mineral specimens, and handouts.



❖ Weather Wonders: Learn how clouds form, why it rains and snows, what creates rainbows, and what to do when severe weather appears. Books, cloud charts, and weather activities included.



❖ Wetland Explorer: What lives in a wetland? How do wetlands help us? Books, pond nets, bug observation boxes, bug ID sheets, and a variety of activities included.



❖ Discovering Backyard Bugs:

Use the nets, bug cubes, and insect field guides to discover the variety of insects in your backyard or local park. Learn about insects' lifecycles and why they are important.



❖ Camping Fun: Learn the basics of camping. Learn how to set up a small tent and practice tying knots. Includes campfire cooking recipes, story books, tent, flashlight, and rope.



Nature Explorer Backpacks are a great catalyst to get you started investigating, hiking, and learning about Iowa's natural resources. (May contain small parts.) - Supervision of children required.