



FALL 2024


SEPT/  
OCT  
2024  
ISSUE 8

# EXPLORER

for lovers of Art and Nature!  
www.artandwildernessinstitute.com



**THE FIRST DAY OF MENTORSHIP**  
by *Waleed Khalife*  
Page 5

AWI  
Kidtography Society Page 17



Shutterbugs & Beetles

Edited by  
Ibrahim  
Dada  
Newsletter  
Intern

Art and Wilderness Institute is a community centered Institute focused on getting the community re-connected with Nature.

We are based in Southern CA and believe that by Exploring, Creating, and Connecting, we grow as people and as community.

All of our programs aim at incorporating service-learning in order to give back to our local communities and the world.

To learn more



[CLICK HERE](#)



**WILDERNESS AWARENESS DAY**  
BY IBRAHIM DADA  
page 19



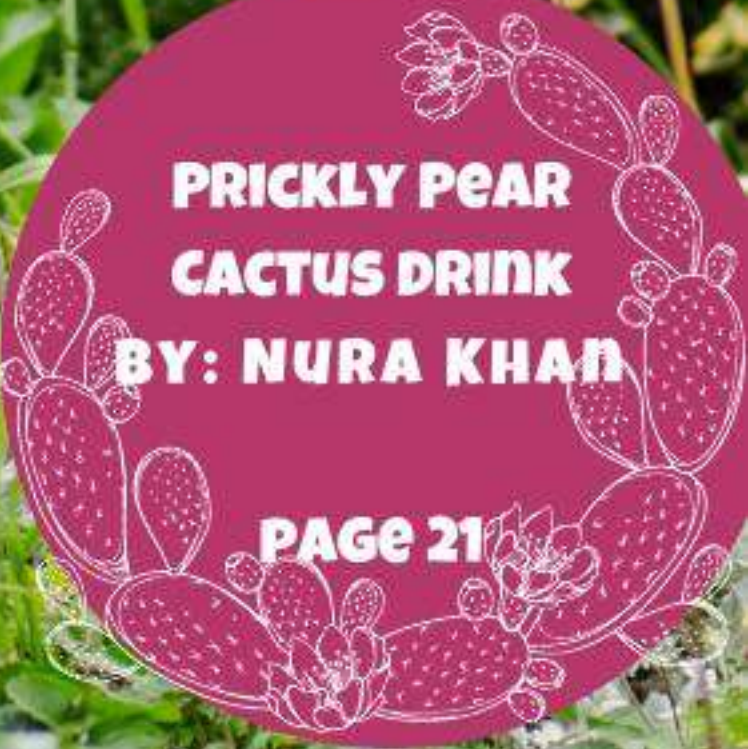

**THE ART OF GARDENING, A LEADERSHIP GUIDE**  
WITH HASAN HBOUBATI  
Page 13

*Sea Otters*  
By *Nura Soliman*  
Page 10



**PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS DRINK**  
BY: **NURA KHAN**  
PAGE 21



**ISA JOKE**  
**PAGE 22**



# Nature Quote

"It is He who has made you successors upon the Earth"  
Surat Al-Baqarah [2:30]

Humans are considered stewards of the Earth, responsible for its care.

# October Trait

October's character trait is self discipline

In school:

- I come to class prepared
- I follow directions
- I listen with my ears and my eyes

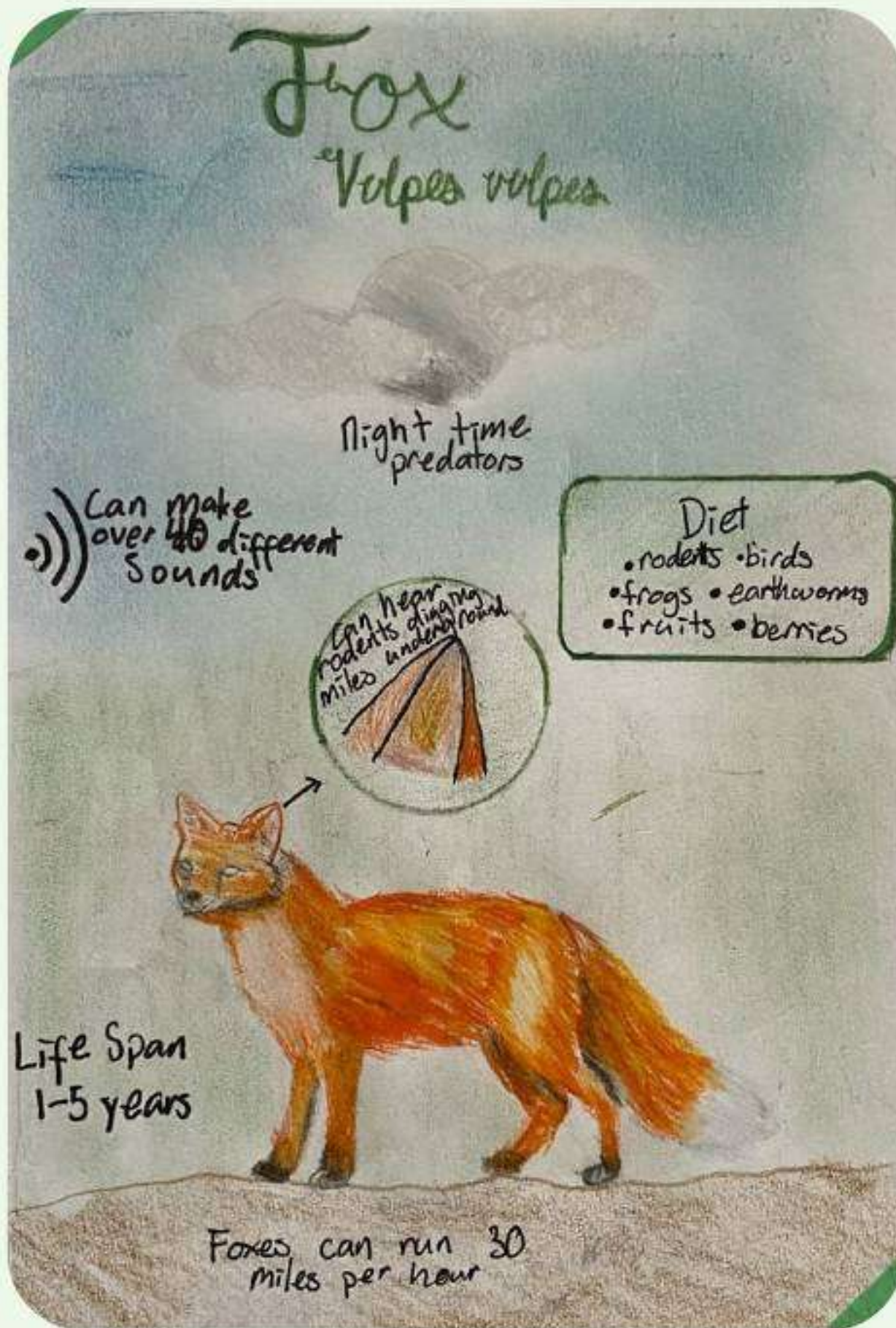
With people:

- I think before I speak
- I allow others to talk before me
- I am calm when someone is mean
- I use my words and not my hands

With myself:

- I know when to stop
- I know when to keep going
- I build my habit muscle

# Nature Journaling Gallery



Featured Artist



Imani Hussein  
12 years old

# Nature Journaling Gallery

Featured  
Artist



Habiba Yousef  
10 years old



# THE FIRST DAY OF MENTORSHIP

Sept. 12, 2024

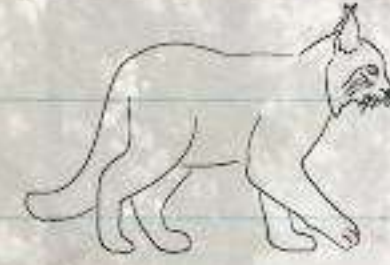
by Waleed Khalife

**We were at Carbon Canyon Park and started the day with 10 pushups which sounded weird but we did. After that Ms. Sama asked us, “What are our goals this year?” We told Ms. Sama our goals for the year. (Mine was to win the trading card contest.) When we were waiting for everybody to come Ms. Sama told the rules for mentorship. After everybody came, we headed to the trail.**

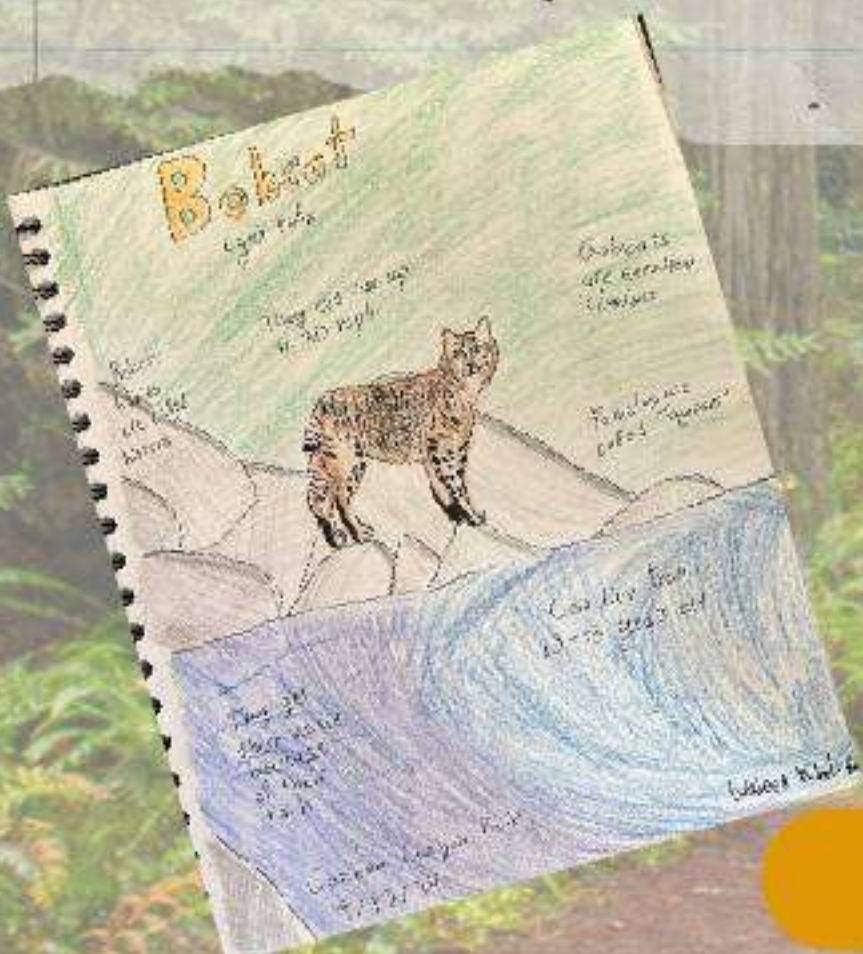


**Ms. Sama had a game in which she pointed to a plant and we had to guess what it was and it was 1st year mentorship students against 2nd year mentorship students. We got the first point and the answer was mule fat. And she told us facts about it like, you can make bows and arrows out of it because it is very straight, when mules stopped to drink water they ate the leaves and for some reason it made them fat, and it is a tattle tale plant because it tells that there is water close by.**

Then we walked some more and we saw a run. Ms. Sama explained that animals go in and out in the same area then it naturally forms. We looked in there and we first saw canine footprints one was bigger than the other so Ms. Sama said, "Two different animals use this run, a coyote and fox."



After we backed away a bit we saw a different paw print. It was a bobcat's footprint. When we were walking we saw a scat. Ms. Sama said that they are from a mountain lion. After that we started heading to the redwoods and when we were heading there we saw some interesting plants like poison hemlock and castor beans. She also told us interesting facts like there is a chemical in the castor bean called ricin that could kill you if you ate it. I remembered when we saw the mountain lion scat and the bobcat footprints and asked Ms. Sama, "Since we saw mountain lion scat does that mean I can draw a mountain lion." She said yes. ( If you were wondering why I asked, it is because that is my dream animal to draw) After a bit we finally arrived at the redwood forest.



I actually drew a Bobcat instead.






Try to Find Me!

We first ate for ten minutes then we wrote as much as we knew about the plants that we saw that day. After that we learned how to draw a realistic redwood tree. Then we played something kind of like hide and seek but different. Ms. Sama had to hide and we needed to find her, but you have to spread out. And if you find Ms. Sama you have to hide with her until there is one person left.

Ms. Sama said, I could be anywhere in the whole redwood forest, but if she whistles we have to come back. After she explained how to play the game, we counted to 100 and looked for her. Since she said, "I could be anywhere in the redwood forest," we thought she would be in the farthest part of the redwood forest. So, we ran there first, but we couldn't find her. Then, we went back where we heard Ms. Sama making a hooting noise. We thought it was the whistle so we went back and looked in the bush we thought we heard Ms. Sama whistled. Then somebody shouted, "Here you are!" So we all ran over and saw her, but the student wasn't supposed to shout. We explained, when she whistled, she made the whistling sound like the sound she made, so Ms. Sama said, "it is a tie."

We got ready to head back and when we were walking Ms. Sama saw an owl feather and she asked, "What kind of owl feather is that?" I said, "A great horned owl feather," and Ms. Sama gave me the feather because I was correct. And we went back and Ms. Sama told me what my homework was. Then we arrived and huddled. The word of the day was "Mule fat makes mules fat." After our break we headed back to the cars.



I thought I was looking pretty good



# WOULD YOU RATHER GATHER

Introducing a fun new page to the newsletter. Now get to know what the community thinks about things and what they prefer!



# House Drinks

## The Smoothie of Redwood Creek



six strawberries



one banana



milk of your choice



blender needed





# Sea Otters

By Nura Soliman



We eat, sleep, mate, and are born and raised in  
the water.

We are not big talkers.

Now listen up,

See what I shall say,

We love to play,

We love to groom,

And we never give each other room!

What's for lunch?

Urchins, crabs, and clams.

I open them using a rock then ...

**BAM!!!**



# Poems: Sea Otters [continued]

Who eats us?

Evil Killer whales.



Meat, that's what they eat!

Anyway, we love to cuddle, we love to snuggle,

We hold hands at night,

Too sleepy to fight.

During the day we hunt for food,

Even if we are in a bad mood.

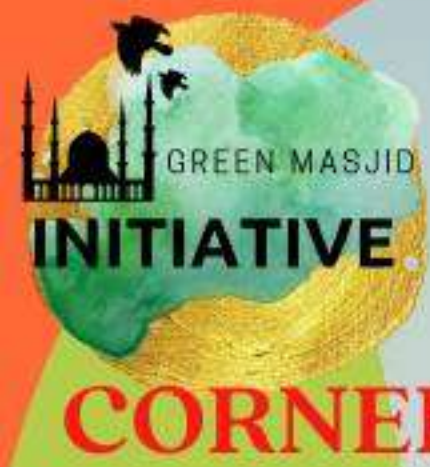
Don't mess with us,

Or we will make a big fuss!

We are very intelligent.

We are magnificent!!!





# FIND OUT HOW TO BECOME A GREEN AMBASSADOR FOR YOUR MASJID!

The Green Masjid Initiative aims to support our masjid transition towards more sustainable and responsible practices in accordance with the Quran and Sunnah.

We have been endorsed by the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California.

Visit our Website

[CLICK HERE](#)



Click here for free educational flyers and resources to share with your masjid!



Email us for free zoom training on how to host a Green Info table at your masjid!



[awigreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:awigreenteam@gmail.com)

# The Art of Gardening, A Leadership Guide



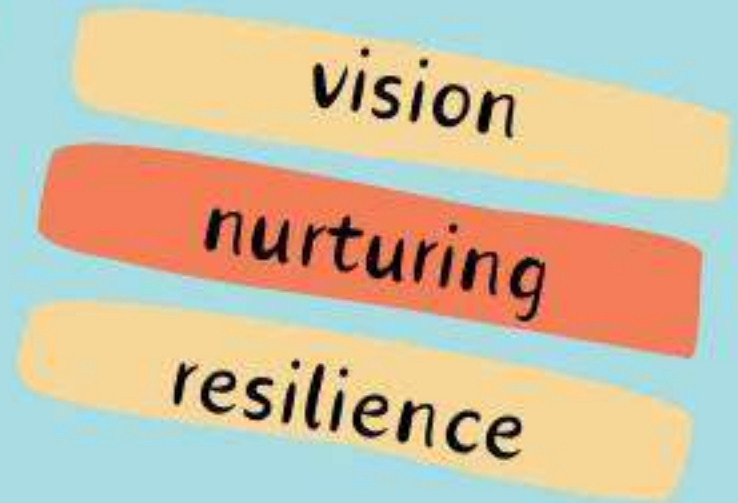
with Hasan Hboubati



If you're reading this, then you should be aware of my bias for drawing inspiration from nature.

Today, I want to impart a thought-provoking observation on the striking parallels between leadership and gardening.

In their unique ways, both leadership and gardening require a delicate blend of vision, nurturing, and resilience. How, you might ask? Let's explore this analogy through how we built the Enterprise Land team at Alteryx.



The Enterprise Land team had humble beginnings before it matured into a prolific force of 16 Sales Engineers and two managers, each a logo-hungry hunter with a passion for acquiring new business. Notably, this team recorded the highest employee satisfaction score within the company – a testament to strategic cultivation (pun intended).

# Here's How We Did It:



## 1. Planting seeds:

Leaders are like gardeners who sow seeds of vision, ideas, and values within their teams. Setting up the Enterprise Land team required an intentional strategy of choosing the right seeds for the soil. This initial process involved the selection of hungry individuals with the right skills and growth potential. Some of whom have never sold software before.

## 2. Providing the Right Environment:



Just as plants thrive in suitable conditions with sunshine, water, and nourishing soil, teams prosper in a supportive environment bolstered by resources and encouragement. Establishing a culture conducive to creativity and growth is a leader's obligation. It's analogous to my experience with a withering fig tree, which sprang back to life simply because I moved it to a more favorable location.



### 3. Nurturing Growth:

A gardener sustainably maintains a garden through consistent watering, weeding, and pruning. In a similar vein, it's a leader's duty to offer ongoing support, feedback, and developmental opportunities to team members, while swiftly (and I mean swiftly) resolving any arising issues.



SUPPORT



### 4. Dealing with Challenges and Uncertainty:

Gardeners encounter impediments such as pests, inclement weather, or unforeseen changes in the environment. In leadership, challenges might manifest as organizational changes, internal conflicts, strategy shifts, or competing priorities. When Alteryx was going through hypergrowth, every day presented a new challenge. Mastery in conflict resolution and adaptability were indispensable for the team's success.



## 5. Sowing Diversity:

A diverse garden is invariably more robust and resilient. Leaders who have the foresight to cultivate teams composed of varied backgrounds, experiences, and skills introduce new perspectives that help fortify the team's creativity and problem-solving capabilities. The value of diversity cannot be underestimated. I am very proud and grateful for having had the opportunity to establish such a diverse team.



## 6. Reaping the Rewards:

A thriving garden bears a fruitful harvest – a direct mirror to a well-led team that accomplishes its goals and contributes enormously to the organization's success. It was extremely gratifying to see what the team was able to achieve. Several original members of the Enterprise Land team have since assumed more significant roles, both within Alteryx and elsewhere.

Having lived and seen this firsthand, I know the joy a gardener experiences in nurturing a flourishing garden mirrors a leader's fulfillment in seeing a team reach its full potential. By embodying the principles of patience, care, and adaptability, leaders can foster equally rewarding and harmonious team environments. The rewards of such dedication, whether extended to plants or people, are bountiful and deeply satisfying.

New Club  
Highlight

# KIDTOGRAPHY SOCIETY



## A Kid Nature Photography Club



Rattlesnake by Farouq M. (age 10)



Carved pumpkin by Niyah M. (age 12)



Turkey Vulture by Ibrahim D. (age 12)



Redwoods by Farouq M. (age 9)



Bee on flower by Nur Diyana D. (age 10)



Castor Bean at Sunset by Isa D. (age 7)



Small but mighty Ant by Farouq M. (age 10)



Buckwheat on Rocks by Nur Diyana D. (Age 10)



Rattlesnake Hiding by Muhammad M. (age 9)



Western Fence Lizard by Farouq M. (age 10)



Rattlesnake by Nur Diyana D. (age 10)



Western Fence Lizard by Ibrahim D. (age 12)

# KIDTOGRAPHY SOCIETY



In nature's embrace, we find our way,  
With cameras in hand, we greet the day.  
Kids and friends, a joyful band,  
Exploring the wonders of this vast land.

Through forests deep and meadows wide,  
We seek the secrets nature hides.  
With every step, a new surprise,  
In the dance of leaves and the flight of butterflies.

Scavenger hunts, a thrilling quest,  
To find the treasures nature's blessed.  
A feather here, a footprint there,  
Each discovery, a memory to share.

Photo competitions, friendly and bright,  
Capturing moments in the perfect light.  
Plants and animals, our subjects true,  
In every shot, a story anew.

We focus on the flora, the fauna, the sky,  
Preserving knowledge as the days go by.  
In nature's classroom, we learn and grow,  
With every click, our love does show.

So let us wander, let us see,  
The beauty of the world, wild and free.  
With kids and friends, our hearts aligned,  
In nature's splendor, peace we find.





# Wilderness Awareness Day

by Ibrahim Dada

- WILDLIFE TALKS
- ARCHERY
- WILDLIFE TRACKING
- FOOD



Wilderness Awareness Day was a blast! There was Ms. Sama's talk about tracking animals and being stewards of the earth. Mr. Raef spoke about how hunting works. He explained what happens when people over-hunt and how it effects the environment.

Go search: "how the wolves changed the river" on youtube

The speeches and presentations were interesting. There were also bake sales, face painting, and an ICYL table for fundraising for Gaza and Lebanon. Ms. Dana even brought her chicken to teach us about animal care.



Afterwards, there was Archery and everybody was there shooting at the haybales. We had an Archery demonstration from two AWI volunteers, Mariam and Fatimah Wingate and a special demonstration from Coach Abu from East Meets West Fitness. Everyone had a great time learning about how to shoot with a bow and arrow for the very first time.

Overall, the whole event was pretty great! Thank you Islamic Center of Yorba Linda for hosting it!

# Wilderness Awareness Day

by Ibrahim Dada

- WILDLIFE TALKS
- ARCHERY
- WILDLIFE TRACKING
- FOOD



# PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS DRINK

BY: NURA KHAN



## DIRECTIONS:

### Step one:

Prepare the fruit by cutting both ends of the prickly pear fruit, peeling away the skin to reveal the fruit inside and scrape off the flesh and chop it finely

### Step two:

Blend in food processor or hand blender

### Step three:

Strain the liquid away from the seeds

### Step four:

Add sparkling water, honey, and lime

### Step five:

Mix everything together until completely mixed

### Step six:

Enjoy over ice!

Ingredients:  
4-5 Prickly Pear Fruit  
Sparkling Water  
Lime  
Honey (or sweetener of your choice)



Did you know?

Prickly pear cactus fruit can prevent cancer and helps those with diabetes!

Source:

Nyerges, Christopher. (1999).

Guide to Wild Foods and Useful Plants. Chicago Review Press. Prickly Pear. Pgs 136-137.

# ISA JOKE

by Isa Dada

What do you call a bear caught in a spring shower?



Drizzly bear.



Why do plants hate math?



Because it gives them square roots!



Why don't seagulls fly over the bay?



Because then they'd be bagels.



Why did the snail paint an "S" on its car?



So everyone would say, "Look at that S-car-go!"

**SNAILED IT**

# HOUSE SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard reset for the School Year

UPDATED 6/5/2024- Scoreboard has been reset for 2024 - 2025 Schoolyear



## HOUSE CUP WINNERS

2023- 2024 FOX Fangs (Tournament) Emerald Owl (Year Community Game Changers)  
2022 - 2023 - FOX FANGS  
2021 - 2022 - FOX FANGS

## Did you know?

*You have to fill out the form to earn points for volunteer days, leading hikes, and other things. The points won't get added unless you fill out the form!*

*Only actions worth 5 or more get displayed on the house scoreboard even though the points will be added.*

Learn more about how the houses earned these points

Get House Points

CLICK HERE



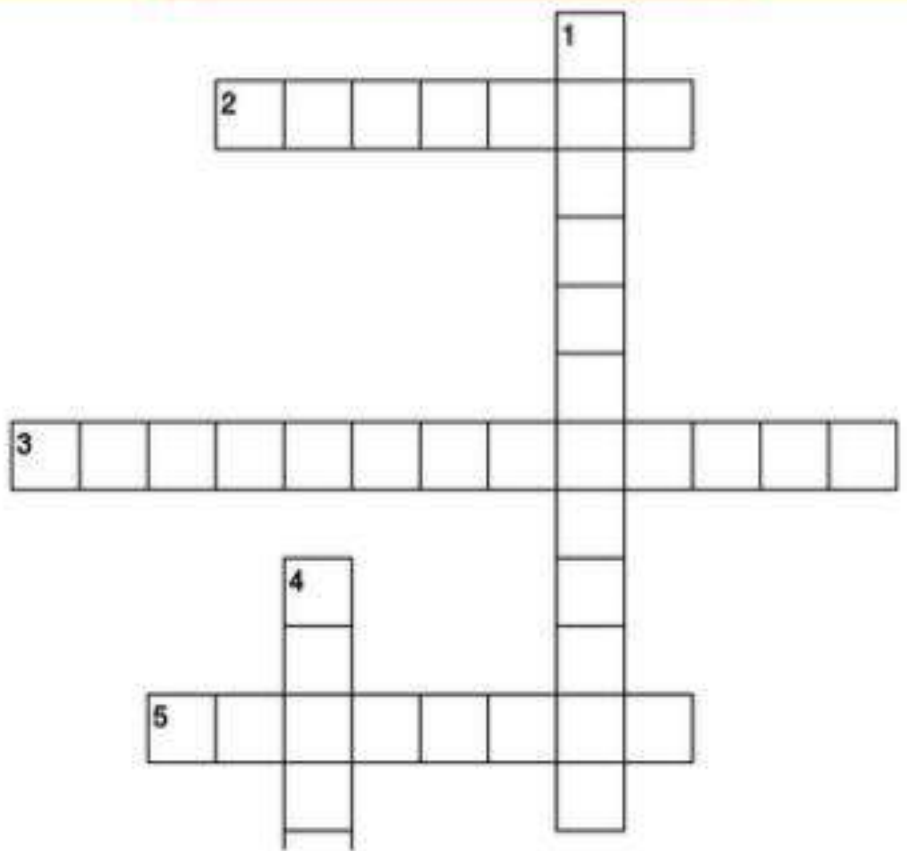


# CROSSWORD

# CORNER



*click to play!*



**Across**

- 2. a tiny falcon
- 3. the turkey terror
- 5. known for its white feathers and yellow eyes

**Down**

- 1. the largest hawk in California
- 4. the famous owl from the legend of redwood raven





# 2024-2025



- Holidays
- Semester Begins/Ends\*  
\*Mentorship Exception
- Summer Camp
- END OF YEAR STORE DAY/ CELEBRATION
- Make-up Week
- ★ Drop Date No fees
- ★ Drop Date 75%
- ★ Drop Date 50%
- ★ No refunds after this date
- OVERNIGHT
- Skate Night
- Community Dinner/Iftar

Theme: Resilience

**JULY 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Theme: Reflection

**AUGUST 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Theme: Purpose/Intention

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Theme: Self-discipline

**OCTOBER 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Theme: Good Manners

**NOVEMBER 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Theme: Friendship

**DECEMBER 2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Theme: High Ambition

*January*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Theme: Patience

*February*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Theme: Humility

*March*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Theme: Honesty

*April*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Theme: Compassion

*May*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Theme: Gratitude

*June*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



Calendar 2024 - 2025

# SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE



ART & WILDERNESS  
INSTITUTE  
COMMUNITY

5 YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY  
GALA

NOVEMBER 10  
2024

5th Annual  
*Trading Card  
Design Contest*

3 WINNERS WILL GET THEIR ARTWORK PRINTED ON  
THE NEW TRADING CARDS COMING OUT IN FEBRUARY  
2025

FOR ENTRY DETAILS:  
[WWW.ARTANDWILDERNESSINSTITUTE/CONTESTS](http://WWW.ARTANDWILDERNESSINSTITUTE/CONTESTS)


DEADLINE:  
NOVEMBER 30  
2024

SPONSORED  
by:  
ACORN  
NATURALISTS

Juried by:  
California  
AEOE  
Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education




Save the Date



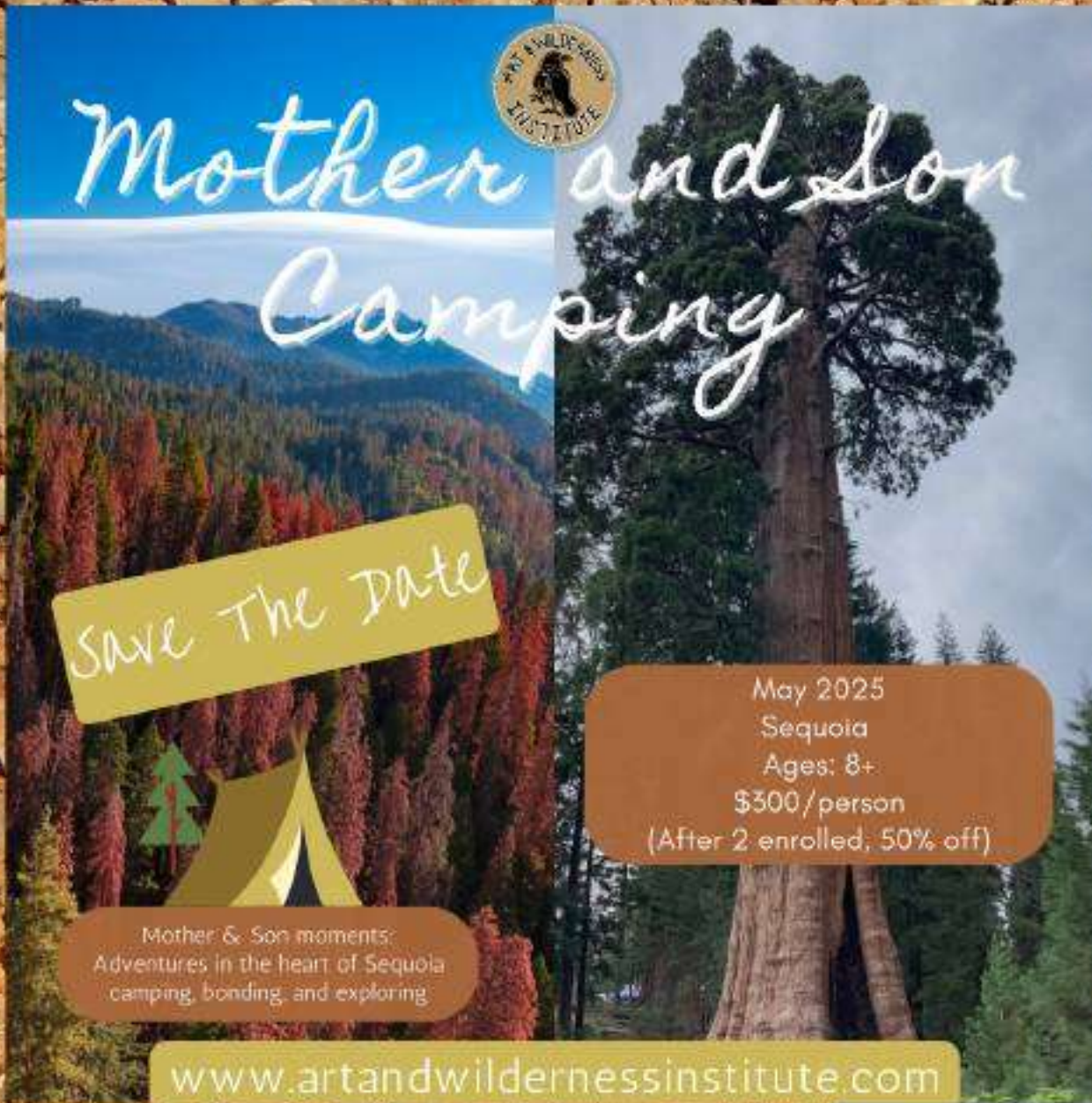
Skate  
Night

Scholarship  
Fundraiser

Tuesday, February 18, 2025  
4-6pm



# SAVE THE DATE



**Mother and Son  
Camping**

SAVE THE DATE

May 2025  
Sequoia  
Ages: 8+  
\$300/person  
(After 2 enrolled, 50% off)

Mother & Son moments:  
Adventures in the heart of Sequoia  
camping, bonding, and exploring

[www.artandwildernessinstitute.com](http://www.artandwildernessinstitute.com)



**SAVE THE DATE**

**FAMILY CAMPING TRIP**

**JUNE 13-15 2025**  
Big Bear, CA  
\$160/person  
3rd and additional members are 50% off  
Ages 3 and under are free



# MOUNTAIN

\$10,000



- Honorable mention in banquet multimedia presentation
- Complimentary booth
- Acknowledgement during program
- Social media mention and story
- Logo on banner
- Complimentary Day Hike with an AWI Naturalist
- 2 tables for 16 guests
- AWI sweatshirt
- Logo in Email Marketing for Gala



# FOREST

\$5,000

- Acknowledgement during program
- Social media mention and story
- Logo on banner
- 1 table for 8 guests
- AWI sweatshirt
- Logo in Email Marketing for Gala



# TREE

\$1,000

- Social media mention and story
- Logo on banner
- 4 complimentary banquet tickets
- AWI sweatshirt
- Logo in Email Marketing for Gala



# SEED

\$500

- Social media mention and story
- 2 complimentary banquet tickets
- AWI sweatshirt
- Logo in Email Marketing for Gala

[Click here to Sponsor](#)





ART & WILDERNESS INSTITUTE  
COMMUNITY

INVITES YOU TO OUR

5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

50th Anniversary



SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 10

12:00 PM

Childcare  
Tickets still  
available



UST  
HASSAN ELWAN



SHEIKHA  
DR. HAIFAA YOUNIS



DR AZEEM SYED

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FOREST



Bushra &  
Saghir Aslam



TREE



SEED



# SPONSORS

## FOREST



MAHABBA MOMENTS  
EVENT STYLING | RENTALS | PRODUCTS



### Bushra & Saghir Aslam

## TREE



## SEED

