



WINTER 2024

NOV/
DEC
2024
ISSUE 10

EXPLORER



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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](#)



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By Nura Soliman
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AWI Newsletter Winter 2024

Nature Quote

“And it is He who spread the Earth and made in it firm mountains and rivers, and of all fruits, he has made in it two kinds; He makes the night cover the day; most surely there are signs in this for a people who reflect.”

- Surat Al-Raad [13:3]

December Traits

Friendship

I protect the hearts of my friends

I help my friends through a problem

I listen to the feelings of my friends

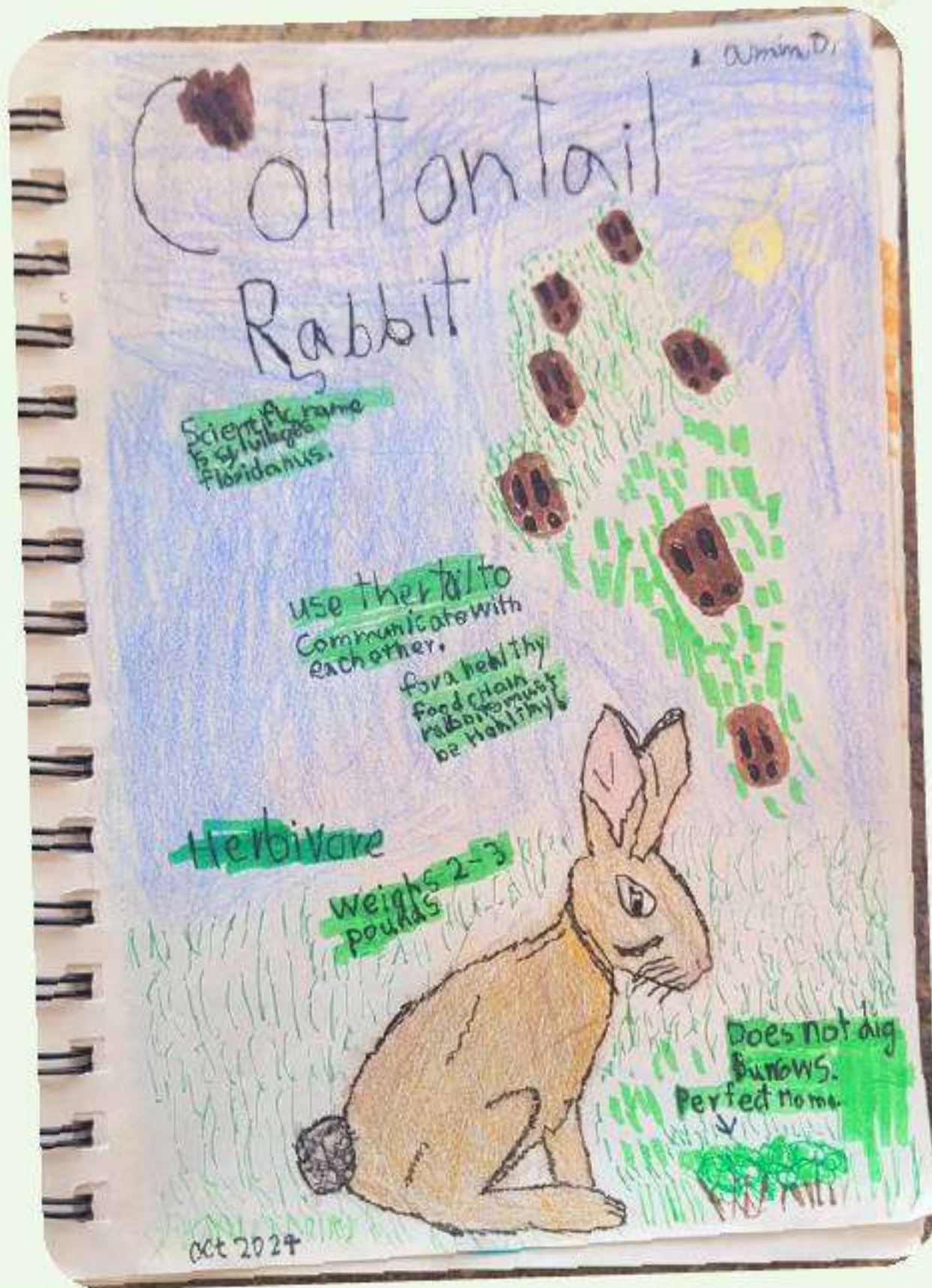
I only speak well of my friends

I help my friends follow good role models

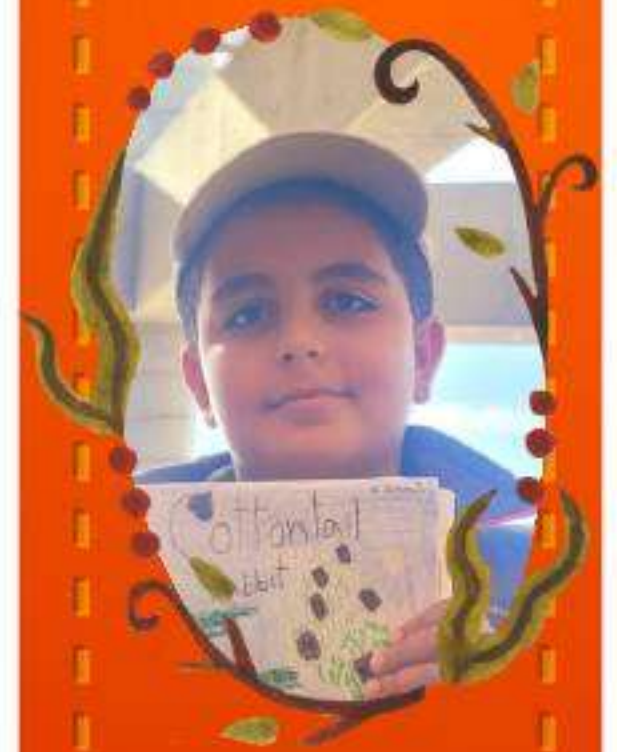
I don't allow others to speak ill of my friends

I include my friends

Nature Journaling Gallery



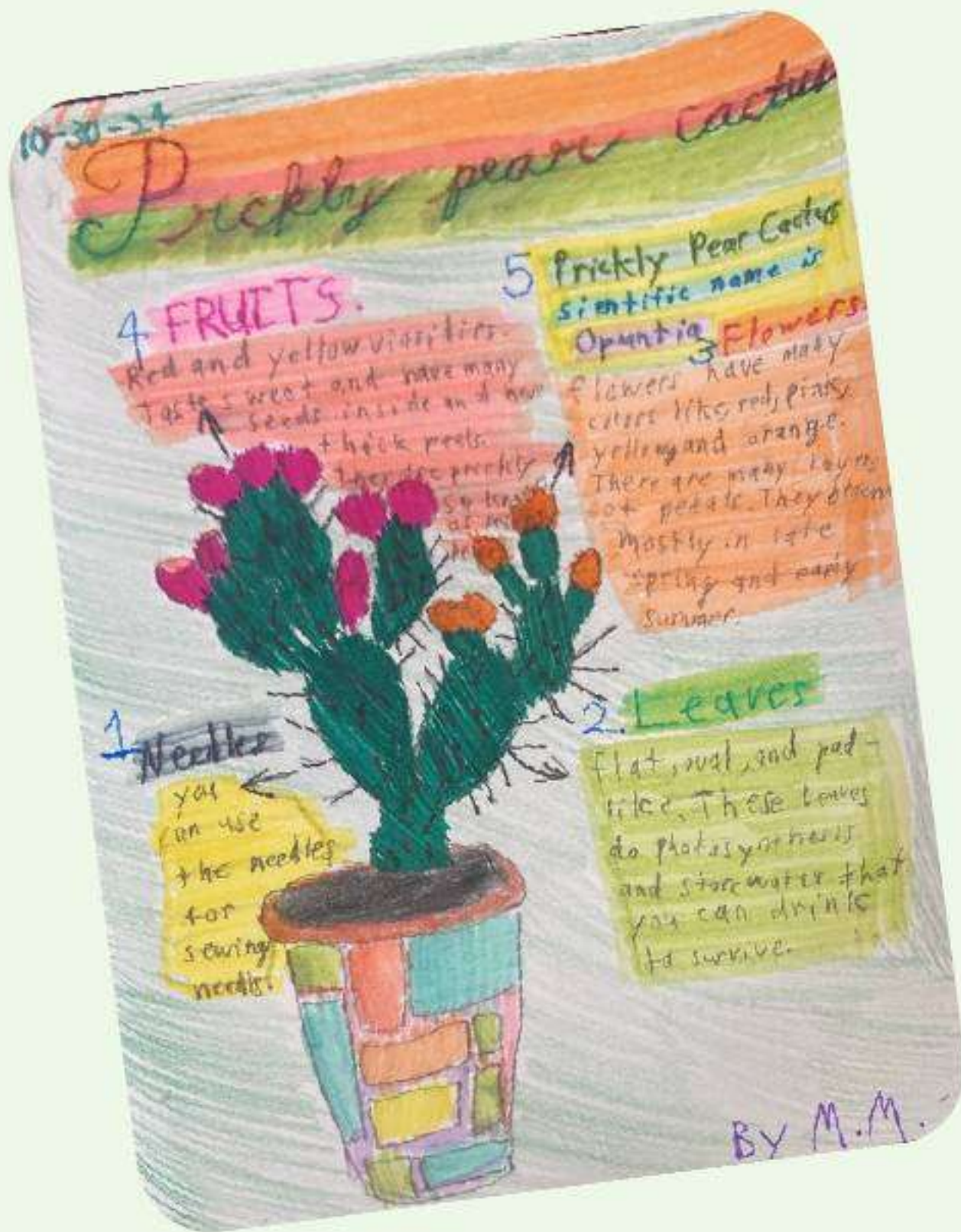
Featured Artist



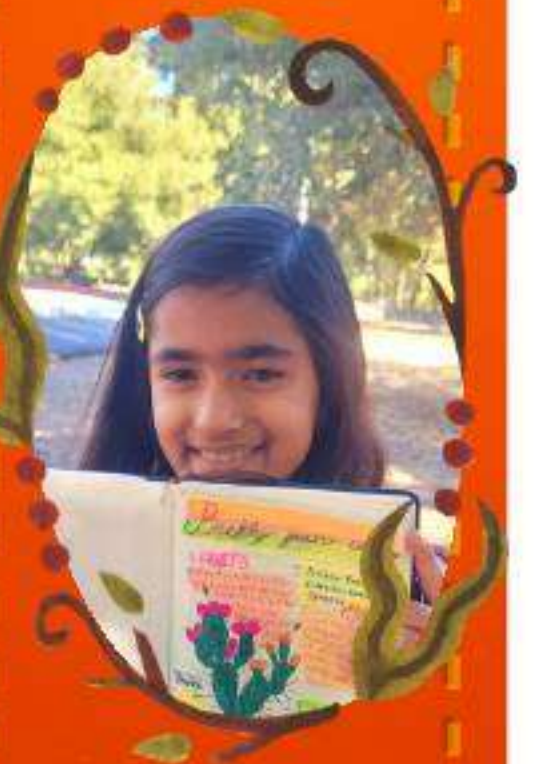
Amin Deabes
age 8



Nature Journaling Gallery



Featured Artist



Maryam Mahmoud
age 11



OLIVER HIKES

by Waleed Khalife



I started the day off waiting at the Santiago Oaks Regional Park. I greeted people as they started to arrive. At first, I was wondering how to start the hike. Then, I had an idea and most of the people almost came. I put on the microphone and introduced myself. I said, "Everybody introduce yourself and tell where you were born." While the people were doing that, more people were coming.



Poison Oak



**Leaves of three,
let it be.**

I saw Mugwort next to it and I told them that it was the cure for poison oak. Some people wanted to take pictures of the leaf, while others wanted to search it up so I gave them a couple of minutes. I had two places that I could go to, but if we are going to be at this pace, I chose to bring them to the closer one. When they finished observing the plants, I walked a bit and talked about other plants.

I saw some horses coming by so I told everybody to stay on the right.

When we finished, I started walking. It was kind of hard to go at the same pace as everyone, but then I got used to it. When we went to the hiking trail, I told them that there is poison oak. I said, "The first thing you should know is that there is poison oak here. If it has three leaves let it be, only if it is hairy then it is berry. It has colors from red to green, and when I see it I'll show you it." When we crossed the stream I showed them the leaf.

Mugworts is the remedy



When I was close to one of the rest points, I looked to my right and saw a feather. When I picked it up and brushed it... it looked like a cooper's hawk feather and I showed it to everyone.

Cooper's Hawk

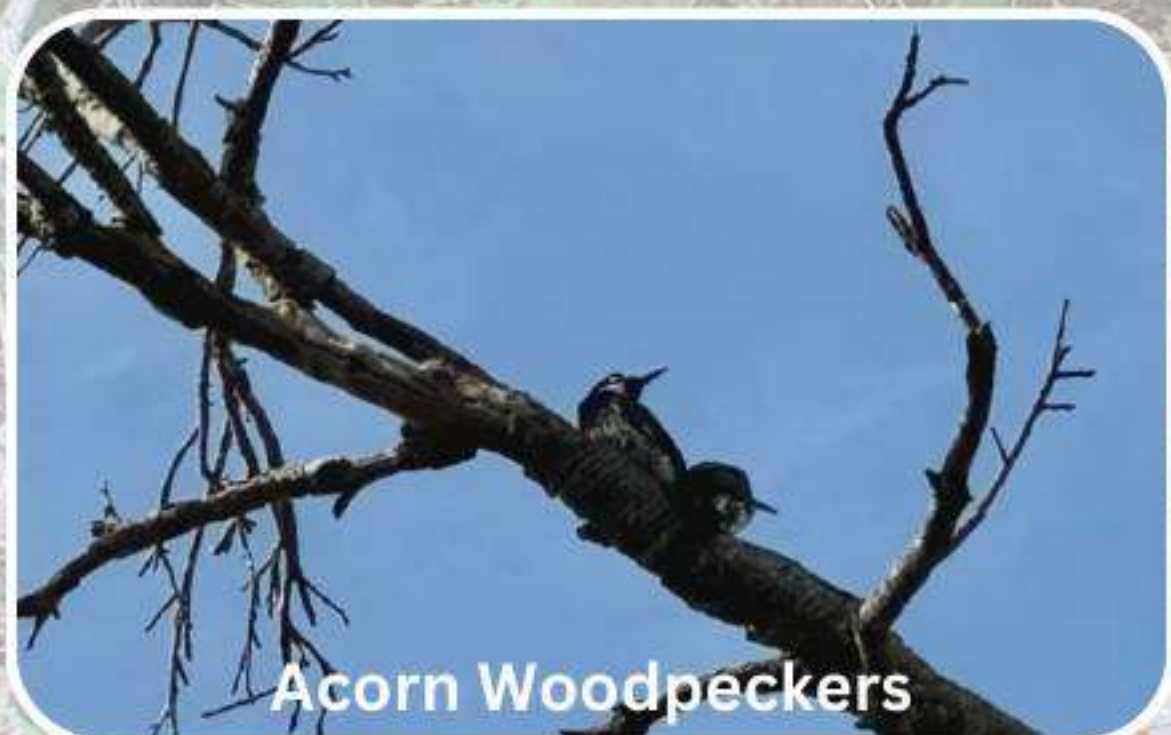


We arrived at the rest point where there was a waterfall that you could see. I waited like ten minutes and then continued our hike.

Waterfall at Santiago Oaks Regional Park



When I was about to continue our hike, I saw a hawk on a tree. That hawk was a cooper's hawk! I shared some facts about the cooper's hawk and continued our hike. Somebody said that there were some birds that had red up the tree. I looked and saw some acorn woodpeckers. While some people took pictures of them, I shared some facts about them.



Acorn Woodpeckers

When everyone was taking a break. I was looking for the peppermint tree that I was going to make tea out of when I saw some people were ready so I walked to it and said some facts and picked out some leaves. I had to say the facts like 5 times because some people were still at the olive tree, but when I finished I headed back.

Peppermint



Sagebrush



I also talked about sagebrush. When we were almost back to the parking lot, we saw wild grapes. So I talked about that which I think is one of their favorite plants that they saw.

When I was almost going to the parking lot for tea I saw a fungus called the chicken of the woods and I talked about that.



Chicken of the woods

We went to the place where there were benches, and while they were eating I asked what are five plants that we saw today. Their favorites were sycamore, wild grapes, and of course, the chicken of the woods.



Thank you to the Oliver's
(Oliver Community Services)
& to our AWI Community



WOULD YOU RATHER GATHER

**CLICK IT!
YOU KNOW YOU WANT
TO**



ELDERBERRY SYRUP

BY: NURA KHAN

INGREDIENTS:

3 ½ CUP WATER

2/3 CUP DRIED ELDERBERRY

2 TBSP GINGER [GRATED]

1 TSP CINNAMON

½ TSP GROUND CLOVES

1 CUP RAW HONEY



DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: POUR THE WATER INTO A MEDIUM SAUCEPAN AND ADD THE ELDERBERRIES, GINGER, CINNAMON, AND CLOVES.

STEP 2: BRING TO A BOIL AND THEN UNCOVER AND REDUCE THE HEAT TO A SIMMER FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES OR UNTIL THE LIQUID HAS REDUCED BY HALF.

STEP 3: REMOVE FROM HEAT AND LET COOL UNTIL IT'S LUKEWARM.

STEP 4: MASH THE BERRIES CAREFULLY USING A SPOON OR OTHER FLAT UTENSIL.

STEP 5: POUR THROUGH A STRAINER OR CHEESECLOTH INTO A GLASS JAR OR BOWL. DISCARD THE ELDERBERRIES.

STEP 6: WHEN THE LIQUID IS NO LONGER HOT, ADD THE HONEY AND STIR WELL.

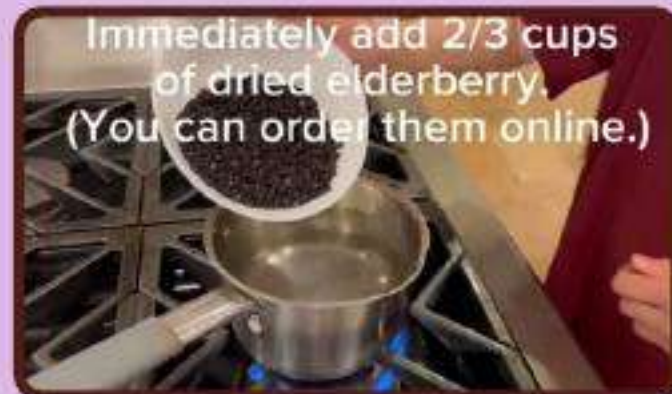
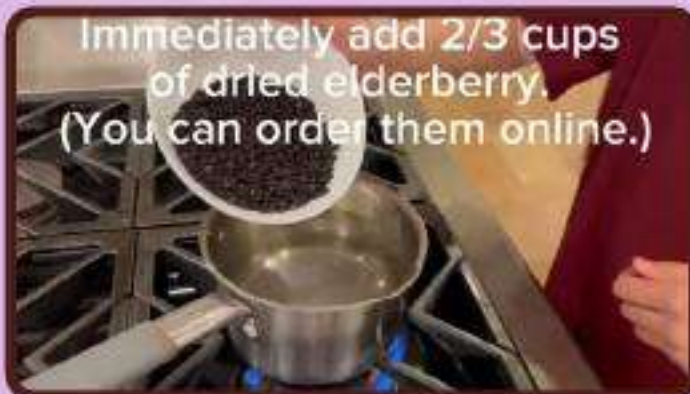
STEP 7: POUR THE SYRUP INTO A MASON JAR OR GLASS BOTTLE OF SOME KIND .

STEP 8: CONGRATULATIONS YOU JUST MADE HOMEMADE ELDERBERRY SYRUP!

STORE IN THE FRIDGE AND TAKE DAILY FOR ITS IMMUNE BOOSTING PROPERTIES.

Making Elderberry Syrup

By: Nura Khan



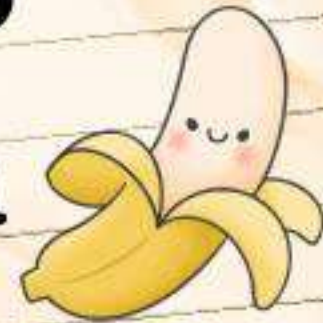
House Drinks

The Emerald Green Energy



1 Avocado

1 Banana



1 cup of Spinach leaves



1 cup of rolled oats



milk of your choice



blender needed



Barn Owls

By Nura Soliman

We live up to 4 years,

But we do not shed tears

Fly low above open land

Waiting for an animal to grab with my hand

Watching with my dark eyes

My food tries to run away

Which is clearly unwise

You do not see me a lot

I can also live in places that are hot

With my excellent vision and hearing

I track a small thing

I am not friendly,

Not at all





HOW TO CREATE A COMMUNITY BUTTERFLY GARDEN

CORNER

The Green Masjid Initiative aims to support our masajid 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



- 1. Educate yourself about:**
 - Butterflies and the threats to their survival
 - What they need to survive
- 2. Find a suitable place for your butterfly garden.**
 - Talk to different institutes, Religious centers, and regional or city parks
 - Identify someone in the institute or masjid that will support and partner with you
- 3. Set a date**
 - Confirm the date with the institute
 - Create a flier, start advertising
- 4. Prepare for the event**
 - Order the plants and give them 2-3 months heads up for large quantities (tree of life nursery: <https://californianativeplants.com/>)
 - Create a sign in Canva
 - Order the sign (wild exhibit: <https://www.wildexhibit.com/>)
 - Keep advertising
- 5. Order necessary supplies**
 - Shovels, buckets, gloves, decorative river rocks, cement, wooden posts for the sign, and garden trowels
 - You may need fertilizer if the ground isn't prepared
- 6. Day of or day before the event:**
 - Place all the plants that were delivered in the designated locations
 - Prepare a speech
 - Ensure that there is food and water for the volunteers
 - Demonstrate how to put a plant in the ground (how deep they should dig, how much water the plant needs, etc.)
 - Walk around, help volunteers that are having trouble
- 7. Keep your garden healthy**
 - Organize a watering schedule



Budget:
Plants: \$1200
Sign: \$700
Supplies: \$300



click here to learn more

Aaliyah's Experience leading Oliver hike

I LED A FUN HIKE FOR THE OLIVERS GROUP AT OAK CANYON NATURE CENTER. WE WALKED THROUGH BEAUTIFUL WOODS WITH BIG OAK TREES, CROSSED LITTLE STREAMS, AND SAW LOTS OF COOL PLANTS AND ANIMALS. I TOLD EVERYONE ABOUT THE ANIMALS THAT LIVE THERE, LIKE BIRDS AND LIZARDS, AND THE HISTORY OF THE CANYON. THE BEST PART WAS HOW EVERYONE HELPED EACH OTHER ON THE TRAIL AND HAD FUN TALKING AND LAUGHING TOGETHER. BY THE END OF THE HIKE, WE ALL FELT HAPPY AND PROUD OF WHAT WE HAD ACCOMPLISHED.

Hey fellow students! Here are some tips for you if you're going on a hike:

● Check the map

Check the map before you start! If you know the trail, you'll be ready for anything, like steps or tricky spots. That way, if someone has trouble, you can find a different path or an easier way to go.

● Wear comfy shoes

So your feet don't hurt after walking on different trails.



● Bring water

To stay hydrated, especially if it's a long hike.



● Wear sunscreen

Or a hat to protect your skin from the sun.



● Take breaks

Whenever you need to rest—don't push yourself too hard!



● Go with the flow!

Sometimes things don't go exactly as planned, and that's okay. Just enjoy the moment and keep moving forward!



● Help each other out!

If someone's having trouble, lend a hand, and make sure everyone's having fun.



5 year Anniversary Gala

(Danny's Point of View)



At the gala, it was a fun and spectacular time for children and adults. There were plays and talks and delicious foods and desserts for the adults. And for the children, there were fun activities and pizza. It was a sunny and busy morning at Yorba Linda Community Center. It was busy since the early morning, but all the effort was worth it in the end.



As I was walking in to help setting up I immediately was surprised with the setup. I went to say hi to every single one of my friends. After all the Salaams, I went to help. I gave Imani, and Zayneb the feather pens that I made. After I gave it to them, I set up the goblets, and got Ms. Sama her coffee, probably the most important part of the event, without the coffee Ms. Sama would've powered off. After the setup we had a group picture.

After I asked Ms. Sama what to do, she told me and Mohsin to go to the front gate and greet people. I completely abandoned that task and went to help with literally anything else, not because I didn't like the task. But because I am not good at staying in one place for long.



I helped some of the younger waiters with the drinks if they had too many. If anyone had any questions I would help them. Then I went out with the play crew and rehearsed outside a couple times. After rehearsal I saw Auntie Fiona coming with some delicious looking food, I helped her take it to the kitchen and i may or may not have been allowed to eat one. Afterward, I went to talk to the play crew to prepare them and by prepare them, I mean find out where is the area I was supposed to be.



I went to talk to the play crew to prepare them. And by prepare them, I mean find out where is the area I was supposed to be working in. As the play started we found out that Auntie Sarah hadn't sent the new slides to the guy who set up the machine and we just used what he had. Toward the end, the mic and speaker system broke and everything shut down. But my crew powered through.



After the play ended everybody went for lunch while I did my shift at the play area. I was the only one who showed up for my shift so after a while, Tuba and Zayneb helped me take care of the kids. Though, after a while they left. I was left alone, to continue being tackled, hit, chased, and dogpiled on.



The adults ate chicken and beef kebab with rice and other things. I'm not sure about the other stuff, because I only caught a glimpse of the food while I was walking to my shift at the kids daycare. But everyone who I asked said that the food was yummy. The children ate pizza, there were a lot of different kinds like mushroom, pepper, olives, and cheese. The line for the children to get the pizza was organized, and anybody could get a second slice.

All the children liked the pizza with lemonade.



After lunch I was still under attack by all the kids. Though the number had decreased, that just left more spots to attack me. Once childcare time was over I still had kids with me and was sore because I had gone on a hike the day before. But I told myself to power through, but I had come to a horrible realization, I had run out of games. But then I realized that I was Danny and that I can come up with new ones, we played until the sun went down then we play the last game follow Danny but if you get out of line you get tickled, everyone who I passed by asked me what was I doing with such a large number of kids. I told them that I was bringing them back to their parents because I wasn't done with my shift and I was the only person who showed up and wouldn't want to leave them alone. They were shocked that I was still working. They were cleaning up and almost everyone had left. So I found their parents, you would think that I would have left by then but no. I stayed and helped clean up, I was one of the last people there.



*"I felt so happy to see everyone coming together to build AWI ... that every person took part somehow. It was truly heartwarming to see."
- Ms Sama Wareh*



*"The day was exhilarating and full of excitement in the air as serious and detailed talks went on. People ate and ranked their lovely food. The children played in the distance in the horizon above them. The sun kissed my back as I did my suits to the people and the economic system."
- Hamza Salama*

"I felt like this was so fun for the volunteers and for the participants and how it fused creativity, fun, and professionalism. It was phenomenal." - Ali sidky



"Each item on the table was a lesson plan in itself! Loved noticing each carefully planned detail! Lots to learn for all ages!"
-anonymous

"Being a waitress at the AWI Gala was an amazing experience! I took beverage orders and served guests. I was nervous about talking to people at first, but then I gained confidence. I was also very amazed to see how many people support AWI."
-Ryeann Ali, age 10



"I thought it was fantastic. I enjoyed the play so much. The centerpieces really were a treat!"
- anonymous

"Yes, it was a well organized event, I have learned new thing's , enjoyed Sheikh Hasan Elwan's speech about the nature and how to preserve 🌊. Kids serving was excellent and well handled by Masoom (endearing) kids. Thanks for the invitation!"
- anonymous



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2024 Gala Sponsors

SPONSORS

FOREST

IBRAHIM FIRM
ATTORNEY AT LAW



MAHABBA MOMENTS
EVENT STYLING | RENTALS | PRODUCTS



Bushra & Saghir Aslam

TREE



SEED



ISA JOKE

by Isa Dada

What are the strongest days of the week?



Saturdays and Sundays.
The rest are Weekdays.

How do you fix a broken tomato?



You use tomato Paste.



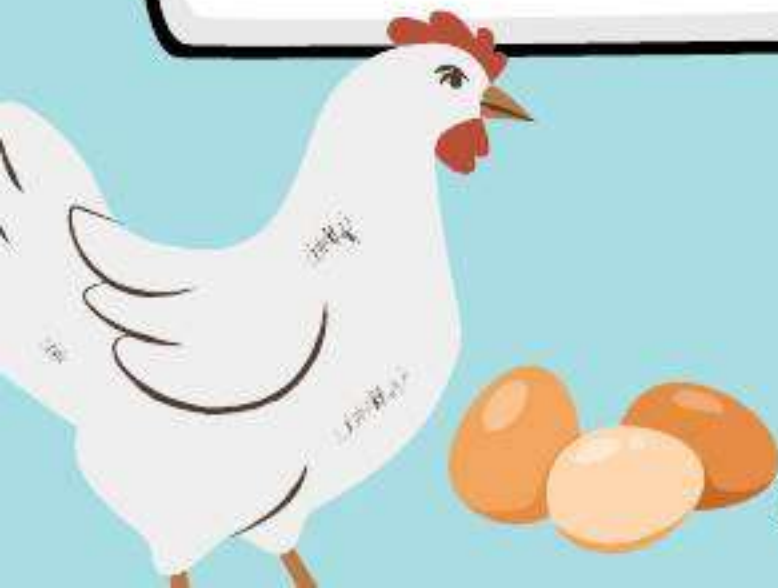
What do Bobcats wear to bed?



Paw-jamas!



What do you call a chicken who counts her eggs?



A mathema-chicken!



TRADING CARD WINNERS



Ladybug

Coccinellidae septempunctata



Ladybugs have two hard wings and two soft wings. They fly with their soft wings. Ladybugs eat aphids, scale, mealybugs, and spider mites. A baby ladybug is called larva. Ladybugs hatch from eggs in spring.



A female ladybug can eat up to 75 aphids in a day.



Baby ladybugs are long and black with orange markings on their back.

Adam Khalife, age 6

Steller's Jay

Cyanocitta stelleri

Lives in coniferous and other evergreen forests

Can mimic the sounds of birds, mammals, and even mechanical noises

Large brain (20-30% less than the average bird brain relative to their body size) allows for advanced cognitive abilities



Length: 11.5 - 13.4 (male & female)

Kleptoparasites: They are known to steal from other animals including woodpeckers

Diet: Omnivorous
Insects
Small animals
Eggs
Nestlings

2-6 eggs incubated for ~16 days

Yasin Mawjood

Yasin Mawjood, age 12

GRAY FOX

Urocyon cinereoargenteus

Known as the "tree fox" - rotating wrists and semi-retractable claws help them climb trees.

primarily nocturnal but may forage during the day.

Coarse salt and pepper gray fur with black markings and a black strip down the tail.

can be found from Southern Canada to northern Venezuela



Opportunistic Foragers: can eat meats, fruits, vegetables and insects. they especially like cotton-tail rabbits.

Adults weigh 6-15 lbs and can be up to 47in long.



Amin Deabes

Amin Deabes, 8

Ponderosa Pine

Pinus ponderosa

The most widely distributed pine in North America



the bark smells like buttered toast or vanilla (Yum!)



thick orange bark flares off like pencil shavings

Historically used by Native Americans for food (inner bark and seeds), medicine (bark and fiber), and as a fuel for cooking and heating.

seeds are tucked under flaps



Jibreel Husain Age 9

Jibreel Husain, Age 9

STUDENT CATEGORY

Click here to see Honorable Mentions



TRADING CARD WINNERS



Yessenia Chavez: Ponderosa Pine



Amina Mustafa, Carpenter Ant



ADULT CATEGORY

Click here to see Honorable Mentions



HOUSE SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard reset for the School Year



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

[CLICK HERE](#)



[Get House Points](#)

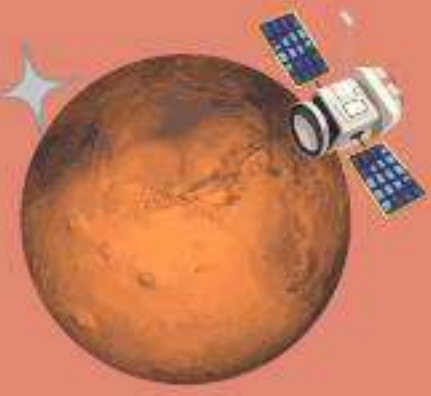
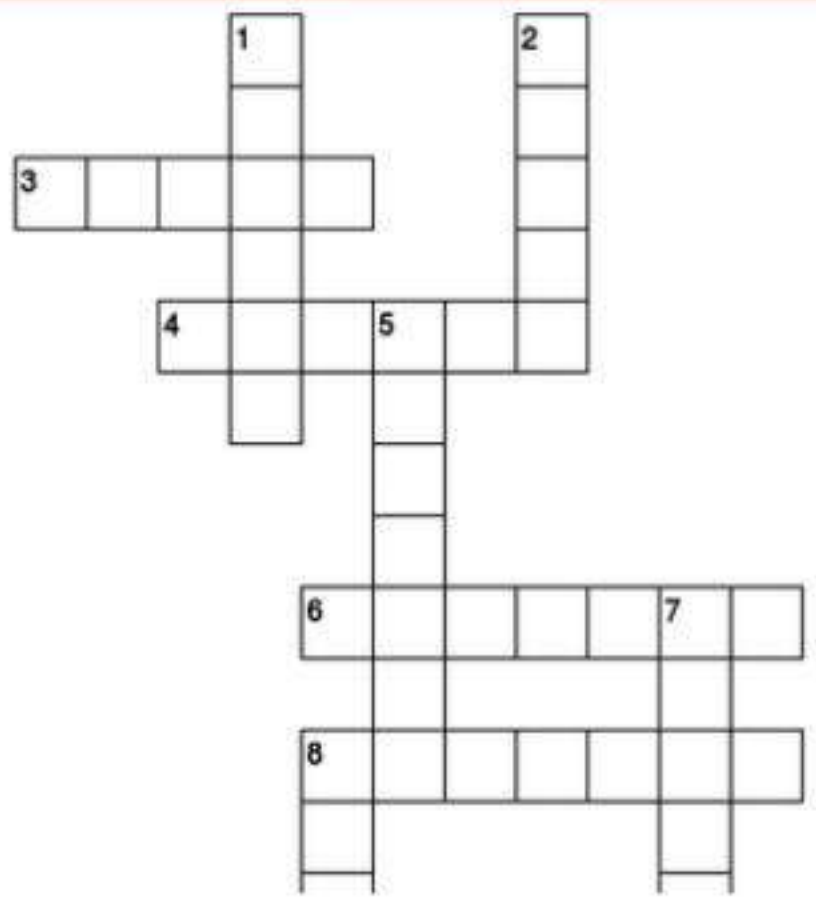




CROSSWORD

CORNER

[CLICK HERE](#)

Across	Down
3. No longer a officially considered a planet	1. Famous for its rings
4. Coldest planet in the solar system	2. Closest planet to Earth
6. The largest planet	5. The farthest planet from the sun
8. Closest planet to the sun	7. Takes approximately 365 days to rotate





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
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Theme: Purpose/Intention

SEPTEMBER 2024

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29	30					

Theme: Self-discipline

OCTOBER 2024

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27	28	29	30	31		

Theme: Good Manners

NOVEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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Theme: Friendship

DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Theme: High Ambition

January

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Theme: Patience

February

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Theme: Humility

March

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30	31					

Theme: Honesty

April

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Theme: Compassion

May

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31						

Theme: Gratitude

June

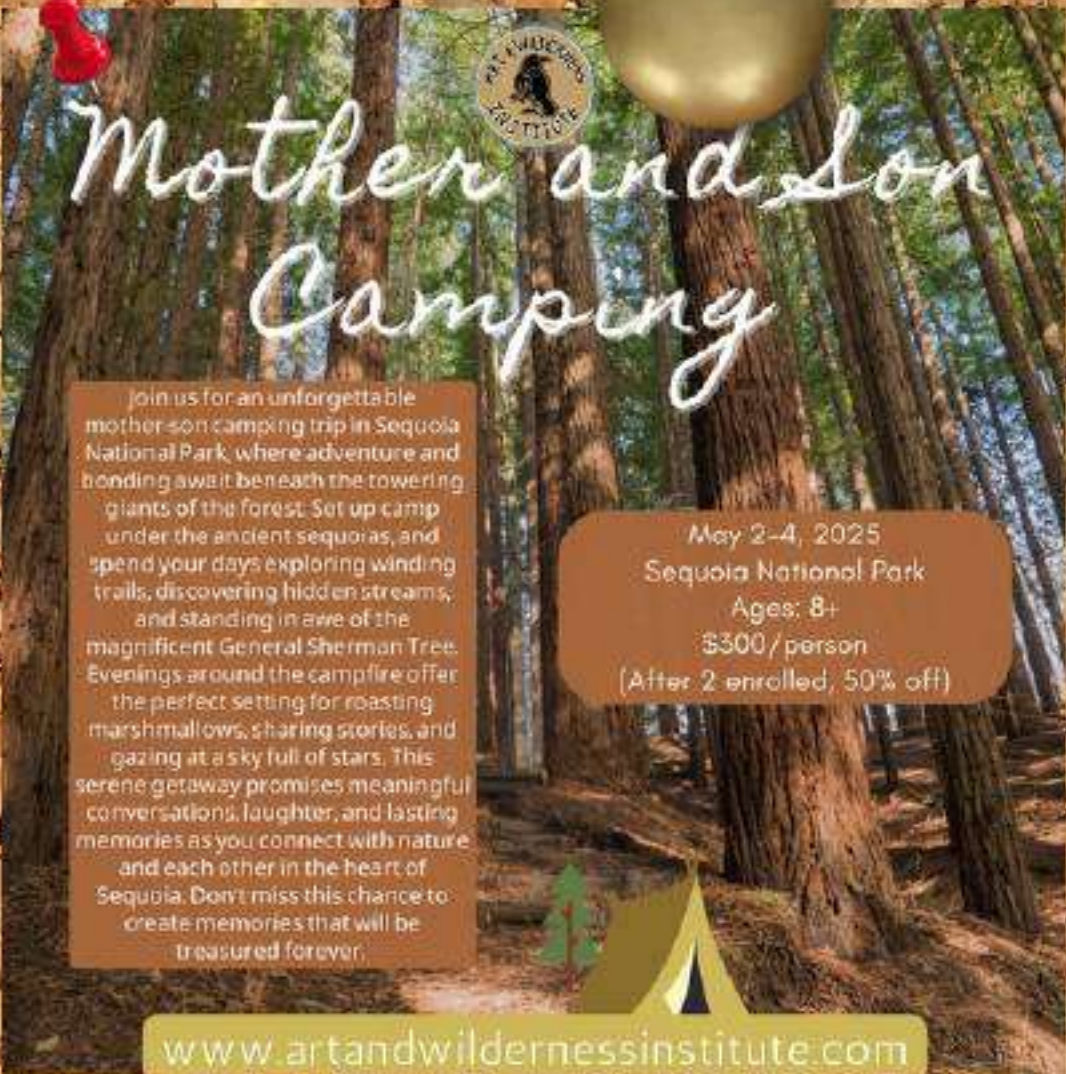
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29	30					



Calendar 2024 - 2025



SAVE THE DATE



Mother and Son Camping

Join us for an unforgettable mother-son camping trip in Sequoia National Park, where adventure and bonding await beneath the towering giants of the forest. Set up camp under the ancient sequoias, and spend your days exploring winding trails, discovering hidden streams, and standing in awe of the magnificent General Sherman Tree. Evenings around the campfire offer the perfect setting for roasting marshmallows, sharing stories, and gazing at a sky full of stars. This serene getaway promises meaningful conversations, laughter, and lasting memories as you connect with nature and each other in the heart of Sequoia. Don't miss this chance to create memories that will be treasured forever.

May 2-4, 2025
Sequoia National Park
Ages: 8+
\$300/person
(After 2 enrolled, 50% off)

www.artandwildernessinstitute.com

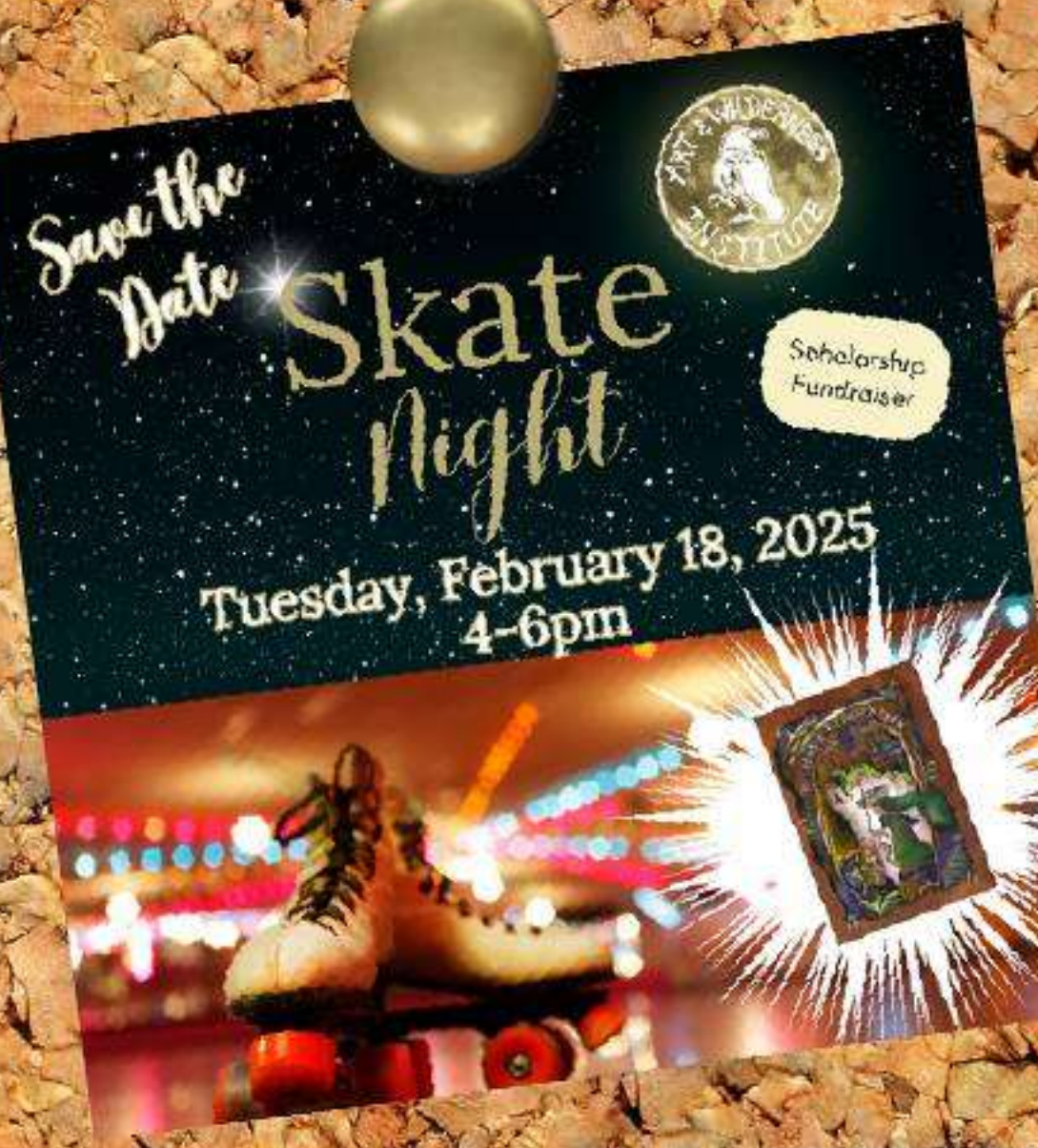


UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS ON THE TRAIL!
FATHER AND DAUGHTER CONQUERING
MT. BALDY TOGETHER, ONE STEP AT A TIME.

FATHER/DAUGHTER BACKPACKING

May 17 - 18, 2025
Mt Baldy
Ages: 8+
\$200/person
(After 2 enrolled, 50% off)

www.artandwildernessinstitute.com



Save the Date Skate Night

Scholarship Fundraiser

Tuesday, February 18, 2025
4-6pm



SAVE THE DATE FAMILY CAMPING TRIP

JUNE 14-16 2025
Big Bear, CA
\$160/person
3rd and additional members are 50% off
Ages 3 and under are free

www.artandwildernessinstitute.com

S.O.S

Help us reach
our
end of year goal
of \$15 K

DONATE

