

Nature Journaling Challenge 9



Congratulations, naturalists!! You've made it to our last nature journaling challenge before you head out into the wide world of summer adventures!!! Throughout our time together, you've learned about the weather, lots of seasonal changes, and some of the birds, plants, and animals that make our world such a magical and complex place.

In our last challenge, we invite you to be **full of wonder** as you discover some of the many small things that survive in our large world! Using your hands, or a piece of paper, you'll find a spot outside to open a "window" into what's happening in the grass or in the garden or whatever "on the ground" location you choose! Being full of wonder means being really curious – challenge yourself to observe closely and watch patiently – what questions do you have about what you see? Check out the **Small Things Search** handout for instructions, and our partners at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center's guide to **Common Insect Orders** for some help identifying the insect life you might see! **Use the lid of your bug jar for a close-up look!** Though most grasses and plants are safe to touch, there are a few that can irritate your skin – the **Pesky Plants** guide has more information about plants to avoid.

Next, set up your nature journal to collect the weather data and get ready for your Small Things Search! You can set your journal up like Ranger Katie or make your own design. In your nature journals, we'll come back to our prompts of "I notice, I wonder, it reminds me of..." and leave some space to sketch or make notes about your discoveries! **Then**, head outside to collect the weather data! How different is it from last month?

Lastly, find a spot for your Small Things Search and **record your findings!!** Did you see anything that surprised you? Was there anything there you haven't seen before? Did you see more or less animal life than you thought you would?

We hope you'll continue to enjoy your naturalist backpacks and nature journals and that you enjoyed learning a little bit more about the natural world! Wishing you a safe and wonderful summer!

