



LEWIS & CLARK

EXPLORATORY CENTER

Spring and Summer Journal

Our Summer Appeal

We're proud of all that we've accomplished this spring and early summer 2022! We've run outdoor and indoor programs for school and camping groups throughout the state, including Grymes Memorial School, Veritas School, Warrenton Tiny Tots, KEYS Academy, Keswick School, and more. We've helped with Cub Scout badges, and we've brought the skills and joys of exploring nature to City of Charlottesville Adaptive Recreation campers. We've led trail activities, including programs we've learned thorough National Geographic educator courses, emphasizing photography, history, and watershed education. These activities have been shared with all of the children we've served, including children with autism and children with emotional challenges, who have been some of our most adventurous and generous campers.

This summer we hosted the CBI Forest School during three weeks, in which over sixty children participated in five or six outdoor classrooms spread throughout the Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center area, with the building as a central location. (CBI stands for Congregation Beth Israel, Charlottesville's Downtown synagogue.) As part of our exchange, we taught our signature programs of nature and underwater photography (walking stream-side and river-side), and children learned kayaking with our kayaks and paddles at our favorite "island" location. We hosted a workshop of making kayak figureheads out of cardboard and duct tape—animal figureheads that included a frog and an otter (this summer, otters have moved into our local stretch of the Rivanna River where they are happily munching shellfish).

Before you read further, and see some of the photographs of our spring and summer, we would like to ask for your financial support for current and future operating funds, the funds that make our accomplishments possible. We offer our programs at what other non-profits, schools, and government agencies can afford, sometimes for free, and usually much reduced from the true cost of running the programs and maintaining our building and site. We ask that you consider a gift to us—and every gift is welcome and appreciated, no matter the size, as a valued sign of support.

You can give on our website at lewisandclarkvirginia.org/donate, or through the mail at Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center, P.O. Box 281, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902. If you have any questions or would like a visit from our Executive Director or a Board member, you can call us at 434-996-7282 or email lewisandclark@lewisandclarkexploratorycenter.org. We need your support to keep going in these challenging times.

Here's more from our Spring and Summer journals to let you know what we've been doing...

Spring: With the help of University of Virginia student volunteers, we cleared our trails and building site, getting ready for reopening! In May we co-hosted with Chroma Projects two arts events for the community—FLOWRALIA, a sculpture, dance, and music festival, and "Paint Me a River," a plein air painting event connecting to the history of 19th Century landscape painters who were explorers of rivers and mountains. Over seven hundred people attended, free of charge. Later in the spring, PVCC began a sculpture project related to the Osage orange tree, and Building Goodness held a volunteer appreciation event.

Summer: Our Exploration and Photography camps were fun for all as we explored our nature trails and the Pollinator Trail (courtesy of the County of Albemarle)! We even had a field trip to Pen Park where we scouted the Rivanna River and then explored the burial places of the enslaved that were recently discovered on the outside of the wall of the 18th century cemetery there.

We were invited by the Freedom School to make an in-person presentation to elementary and middle school students at the school's summer home at the Darden School of Business. They asked us to present on freedom, global warming, the watershed, and literacy. We used an African recipe to tell a story of enslavement and freedom along the African East Coast, and to highlight the global warming issues going on there today. In a smell test involving spices, we discussed literacy and personal experience as two vital elements in learning, and how one needs the other. If you read about a spice, you don't know what it smells like or tastes like exactly; if you smell or taste a spice, you don't necessarily know its involvement in the history of global patterns of enslavement and exploration, or its role today in a global economy. For that you need oral and written histories.

Here are some of our favorite photos of the spring and summer:



Journaling after learning about Lewis, Sacajawea, York, and Clark



A day on the Rivanna with our Photography Exploration Camp



An underwater photo in Trevillian's Creek by a City of Charlottesville camper.



Albemarle County High School student Jaiden Beckett-Ansa doing his Capstone project at the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center, planting an oak tree with the Charlottesville Tree Stewards.



Using a compass is one of the skills of exploration taught by educator Brooke Asher.



Repurposing the stairs after summer fun!



CBI Forest School at LCEC!



Making a print of a horse in Exploration Camp!



The otter and frog figureheads, to be attached to kayaks as campers go out to study animals on the river.

We hope you've enjoyed a look at our spring and summer. Thank you for supporting us as we open up avenues of exploration!

Alexandria Searls, Executive Director

Becky Gildersleeve, Programs

Malou Stark Dichtel, President

Dan Mahon, Vice President