

Junior

NATURALIST

COUNCIL PATCH PROGRAM



**THIS BOOKLET
BELONGS TO:**



Wilbur D. May
ARBORETUM



BECOME A WILBUR D. MAY ARBORETUM JUNIOR NATURALIST

At the Arboretum, we want to get young naturalists involved in their community while encouraging a sense of wonder and stewardship for the natural world. Come and “branch out” at the Arboretum with our fun environmental education activities, and learn why the Arboretum is a great resource for our community!

By following the steps on the next page, you can earn a unique badge to signify your hard work to become a Junior Naturalist!

These activities are intended for children in grades k-5, though older kids may participate too. Young kids may need help reading or writing from an adult.

Arboretum Bingo

Your Goal: As you explore the Arboretum, circle all of the things you see. Try to find 3 in a row to get a BINGO and complete the activity.



Robin



Garden Sign



Ginkgo



Ground Squirrel



Douglas fir



Bridge



Museum Sign



Labyrinth



Gazebo

BONUS: find all nine items if you are seeking challenge!

Sensory Sensation

Your Goal: Engage your senses in the Native and Rock Gardens.

Describe what you see: What animals do you hear:

Gently touch a plant,
and share what you feel:

Find a plant with a unique
scent, how does it smell:

STEP 1:

Determine which activities you want to complete.

Grades K-1, complete **4** activities

Grades 2-3, complete **6** activities

Grades 4-5, complete **all** activities

STEP 2:

Complete and check off activities.

- The Greatest Garden
- Nature Photography
- Squirrel Spotting
- Ecosystem Observation
- Tree Rubbings
- The Long Labyrinth
- Sensory Sensation
- Arboretum Bingo

STEP 3:

Confirm completion with Arboretum Staff or email hhill@washoecounty.gov to claim your patch!

The Greatest Garden

Your Goal: Draw or write about your favorite spot at the Arboretum below.

My favorite garden is:_____

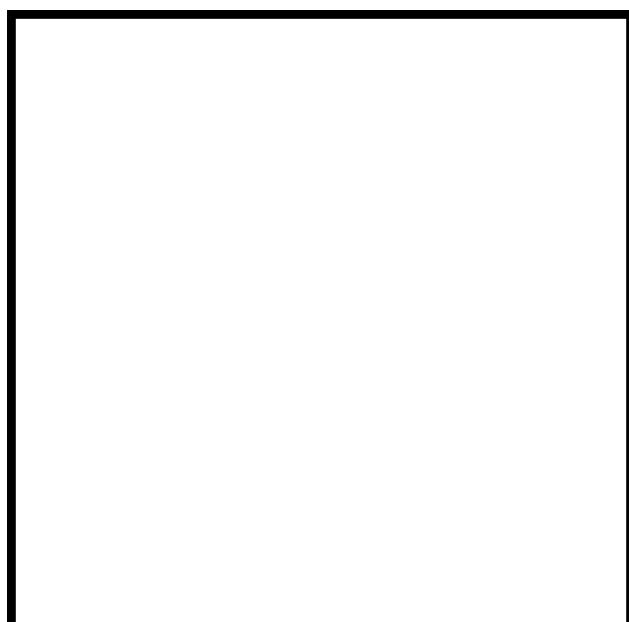
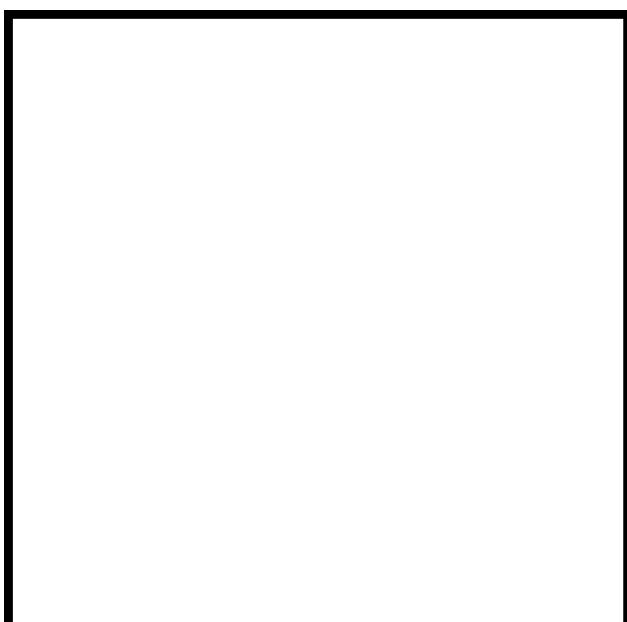
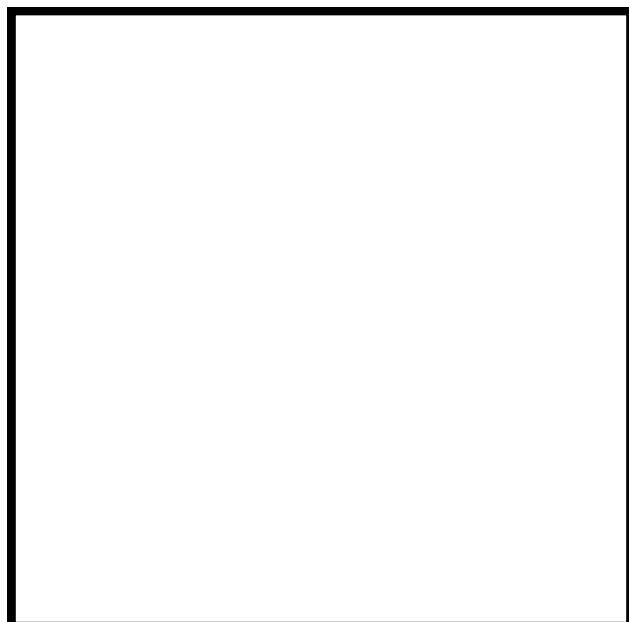
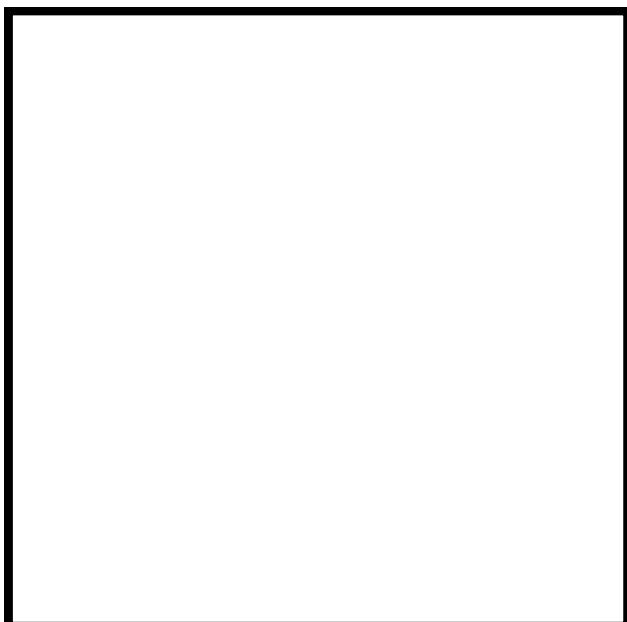
The Long Labyrinth

Your Goal: Explore the calming presence of nature in the garden by completing the labyrinth near the south entrance. Walk slowly, and breathe deeply. Use this time to reflect.

After completing the labyrinth, take some time to reflect on the role that nature plays in your life. How does it make you feel? What are your favorite parts? What can you do to protect it?

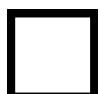
Tree Rubbings

Your Goal: Observe the variation in trees by performing a tree rubbing. Use a crayon or another writing utensil to lightly rub over the texture of a tree's bark to show it in the squares below.

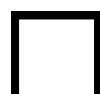


Nature Photography

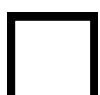
Your Goal: Document plants and animals of the Arboretum through pictures, checking the boxes of examples of 8 things listed below.



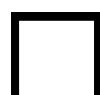
A bird in a tree



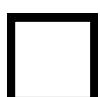
A view from a bench



Water flowing



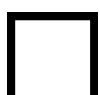
A cool shadow



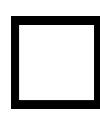
A flower with five petals



A young tree



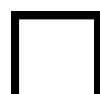
The weather



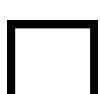
A duck on the pond



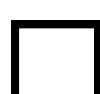
A squirrel



An evergreen tree



A pollinator in action



A distant horizon

BONUS: With your adult's permission, email these photos to hhill@washoecounty.gov for a chance to be featured on our social media!

Squirrel Spotting

Your Goal: Determine the common behavior of two squirrel species at the arboretum. There are Western Grey Squirrels and California Ground Squirrels. Spend 10 minutes observing each species, and tally each time they do one of the following.



- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Climb a tree | |
| Go in a hole | |
| Make a chirping call | |
| Tail Flicking | |
| Run and hide | |
- Climb a tree
- Go in a hole
- Make a chirping call
- Tail Flicking
- Run and hide

Ecosystem Observation

Your Goal: Observe, ask questions and hypothesize about the Evan's Creek ecosystem. Go to the Lear Garden Gazebo that overlooks the wetland and fill out the following.

Ecosystem- a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

Describe what you see,
make an observation.

What parts of the system
are interacting?

Ask a question: what do
you want to know more
about?

Propose an explanation
for the question. Make a
hypothesis.

Bonus: Research the question using books and
reliable internet websites!