

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Looking Up! Guardian Welcome Letter

An Outdoor Adventure is Waiting!

Greetings! Your child is getting ready to explore with us during our “Looking Up! Birds and their Adaptations” program! The Open Space Authority protects and cares for open spaces throughout the Santa Clara Valley – places where wildlife and plants can thrive and people can experience and connect with nature.

During their upcoming field trip, your child will step outside the classroom for a hands-on learning experience designed to encourage curiosity, observation, exploration and discovery!

What Will They Be Doing?

During our “Looking Up! Birds and their Adaptations” program, students will become a bird observer! Through hands-on activities, they’ll investigate bird beaks, shapes, movement, behavior and calls to discover how birds are uniquely suited to survive in their environments.

Students will practice looking and listening closely, identifying patterns, asking questions and using clues to make discoveries about the birds around them.

Our programs encourage students to ask questions, investigate their surroundings, share ideas and discover just how much there is to learn outside.

Help Your Explorer Come Prepared

We will be learning outside, so being prepared for the day will help your child be comfortable and ready to explore! Please make sure your child:

- **Wears comfortable, close-toed shoes** appropriate for walking on trails, uneven surfaces and getting dirty.
- **Dresses for the weather and wears layers** when appropriate. Long pants are recommended.
- **Brings a water bottle filled with water.**
- **Applies sunscreen before arriving, and brings sun protection**, such as a hat, when appropriate.
- **Brings rain gear, or other weather-appropriate clothing** when conditions call for it.
- **Leaves unnecessary items at home** so they can focus on their experience.

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Before They Come...

You can help the curiosity get started! Try asking:

- What are you most curious about?
- What do you think you might discover outside?
- What's one question you would like to investigate while you're there?

No research required – we want students to bring their own ideas and curiosities with them!

We Can't Wait to Explore Together!

We hope your child(ren)'s field trip sparks new questions, discovers and excitement about the natural world.

When they get home, ask them what they discovered! We'll send along a few ways your family can keep the exploration going together.

We hope this experience inspires you to explore nature further with your family, and we have plenty of opportunities beyond this program for you to do so.

We will see your child soon!

Most sincerely,

Your friends at Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority



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