



September 5, 2018

Dear Kelsey,

We are grateful for your support of our inaugural, FREE, summer camp, Our Big Backyard - Adventures in Nature with Foothills Conservancy (OBB). Your funding made this camp possible and we are excited to share this summary of the successful camp week!

We served 43 children, ages 8-12 during the week of July 16-20. Our participants came from diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds, and for many, the camp activities resulted in brand new experiences.

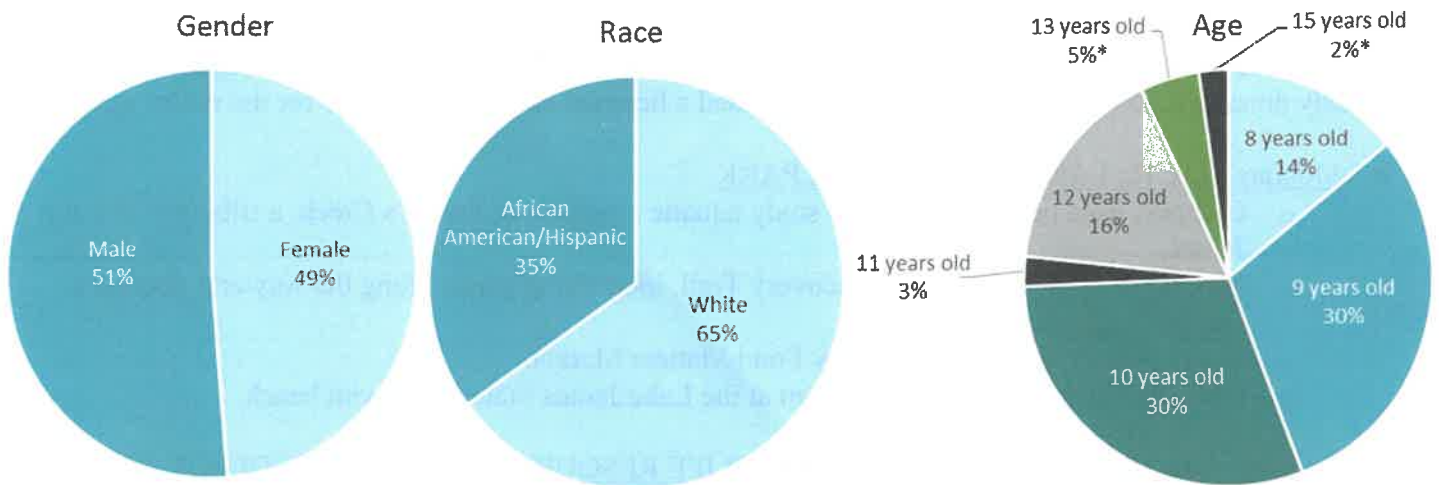
By providing facilities, staff and transportation, Burke County Cooperative Extension was a vital partner and crucial to the success of OBB. Along with Cooperative Extension's 14 passenger van, Zion Baptist Church generously donated a 35 passenger mini bus and provided a licensed and insured driver for the entire week.

- Monday, July 16: LAKE JAMES STATE PARK
 - Campers used nets to collect and study aquatic creatures in Paddy's Creek, a tributary of Lake James.
 - Participants hiked the Holly Discovery Trail, identifying plants along the way and playing a game of "Nature Bingo".
 - Lunch was generously donated by Food Matters Market.
 - Campers enjoyed an afternoon swim at the Lake James State Park swim beach.
- Tuesday, July 17: NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCE COMMISSION DEPOT
 - Technicians instructed campers about fishing: how to cast, techniques to catch fish at various depths, and baiting their hook at this public fishing area.
 - Game wardens provided archery equipment, targets and instruction (safety and accuracy) before each child was given a chance to shoot an arrow.
 - Burke 4-H staff encouraged creativity by introducing children to Gyotaku, the art of Japanese fish printing, using silicone fish and paint to create their artwork.
 - Campers visited a local farm to learn about animal husbandry.
- Wednesday, July 18: TUTTLE EDUCATIONAL STATE FOREST:
 - State Forest Rangers offered an educational lesson about soil, how it is formed, and why it is important.
 - Campers hiked the forest's "talking tree trail" where they learned about trees native to North Carolina.
 - Children bought produce, plants, and homemade treats from the Morganton Mini Farmer's Market.
 - Participants dissected owl pellets and learned how owls digest their food.

- Thursday, July 19: TABLE ROCK FISH HATCHERY/PERRY'S BERRIES:
 - Children started their day with "animal yoga" (yoga poses inspired by nature).
 - Hatchery technicians taught campers about fish and how they are grown and cared for.
 - Wildlife biologists demonstrated "creek shocking," a method for collecting fish samples from creeks, streams, rivers and lakes. Children were able to explore the equipment, watch it in use, and investigate the samples collected using this method.
 - Lunch was generously provided by Subway of Morganton.
 - At Perry's Berry's farm, campers picked blueberries and explored animals of the farm including goats and horses.
- Friday, July 20: BURKE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:
 - 4-H staff taught campers how to make jam from the blueberries they picked the previous day, as well as homemade biscuits.
 - Beekeepers taught a lesson about honey bees, their ecological importance, and how honey is made and collected.
 - Lunch was generously provided by Chick-fil-A of Morganton.
 - Children took home jars of jam and a small container of honey.

As you can see, grants, donations and partnerships were the foundation of our ability to offer this free camp.

The following demographics describe the campers who participated:



*These individuals were signed up through Burke County Cooperative Extension, who preferred to have older campers in the group.

Read more about the camp in this article, printed on the front-page Morganton News Herald on July 30th:

https://www.morganton.com/news/camp-educates-students-on-local-environment-outdoor-resources/article_7670e188-940d-11e8-86dd-c750b3fb5089.html

Our staff, volunteers, and campers thank you!

Sincerely,

Beth Willard-Patton
Associate Director

many thanks for supporting first-ever our camp !! ☺