

PLUGGED IN

FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART

This Month's Theme: Families in the Wilderness

Exploring The Wild Places

Have you ever spent the evening observing the Big Dipper through a telescope away from city lights or roasting marshmallows over a campfire for s'mores? Have you had the opportunity to hold the hose of a real "hot shot fire engine" and go for nature walks to learn about local plants, animals, geology and Native American customs? These activities and more are part of *Fam Camp: Adventures in Nature from Garden to Forest*, an exciting family program sponsored by the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and Los Padres National Forest. Here you can see some photos of our recent adventures.

Many families have not had the chance to experience the wilderness on overnight campouts. With the Los Padres National Forest right over the mountains we all have easy access to the natural beauty of California's wild lands. Check our puzzle and make a list of the things you need for having a good time in the great outdoors.

Before you go on your campout, take your family on a picnic to the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and learn about some of the plants and signs of animals that you might see in the wilderness. Be sure to stop by the entrance kiosk and pick up a Family Discovery Sheet which will provide some fun learning activities during your visit.

These fun and educational outings are great ways to learn how to care for nature while enjoying it. Not littering, leaving campgrounds cleaner than you found them, putting out your campfire, staying on trails, and not disturbing wild-



life are all good actions. Can you think of any other ways that we can help take care of our wild lands and their plants and animals?

Wild Words

What types of animals and plants might you see in Los Padres National Forest and at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden? Unscramble these words for some ideas.

- reab
- etyooc
- dilw keryut
- nooisv koa
- lleyva koa
- gase
- romaecys
- kawh
- doowprckee
- foraaclirn ypppo

ANSWERS:

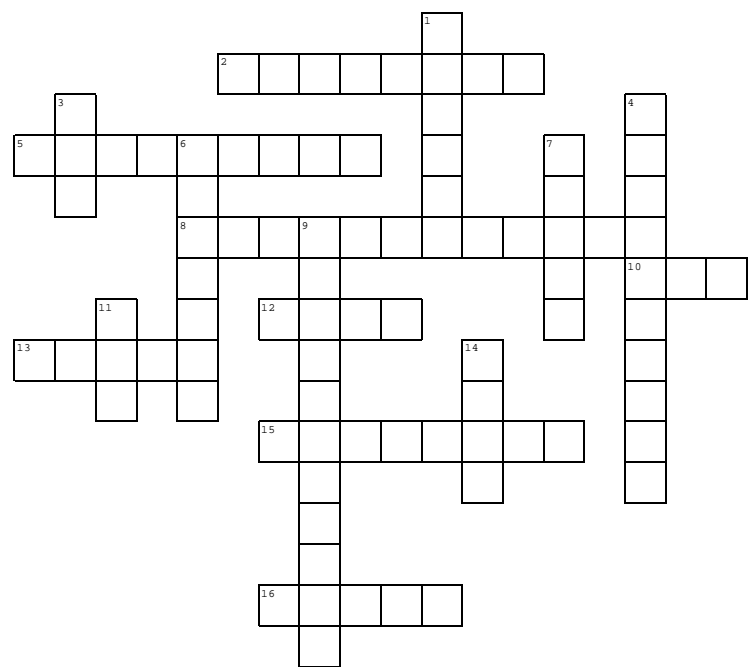
- bear
- coyote
- wild turkey
- poison oak
- valley oak
- sage
- sycamore
- hawk
- woodpecker
- California poppy



FUN TRAIL ACTIVITIES

- Look for animal tracks, feathers, scats and shed skins.
- Look for fossils in the rocks.
- Count the many colors of flowers that you see in spring time.
- Watch to see which flowers the butterflies and hummingbirds visit.
- Look overhead for hawks, vultures and woodpeckers.
- Close your eyes, stand still, and listen for the sounds of nature.
- Gently rub sage or bay leaves, then smell your fingers.
- Take photos, use binoculars and hand lenses.
- Take paper and pencil and draw what you see.
- Look in wet places for frogs and toads.
- If you see an animal, stop and stay very, very still and quiet, otherwise it will be gone in a flash.

Camping Comfort Crossword



USE THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE:

- BACKPACK
- BOOTS
- CAMERA
- COMPASS
- CUP
- FIREWOOD
- FLASHLIGHT
- FOOD
- HAT
- MARSHMALLOWS
- POT
- SLEEPINGBAG
- STOVE
- SUNSCREEN
- TENT
- WATER

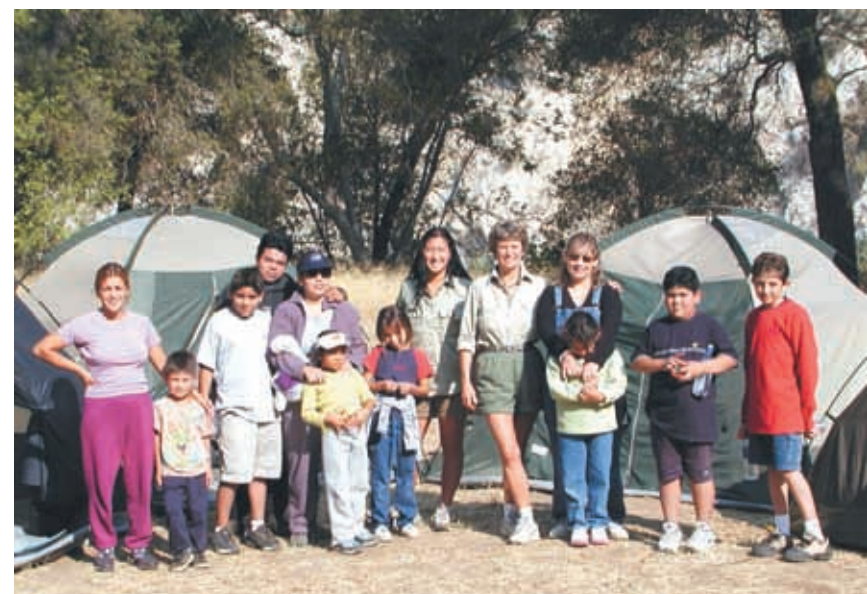
CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

- Carry your load
- Protect your skin
- Sweet and yummy
- For the top of your head
- Your home away from home
- Foot protection
- To warm yourself
- All living things need this

DOWN

- To capture the moment
- To hold your hot chocolate
- To light up the night
- Find north, south, east and west
- Something for cooking on
- What you get into after a long day
- Something for cooking in
- Gives you energy



Page by Sally Isaacson and Joan Evans, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and Nina Marcoux, Los Padres National Forest.

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