



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE TWIN CITIES

MAY 2025

VOYAGEUR

Environmental Center and Club

7000 Country Road 15, Mound, MN 55364

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome

This newsletter marks our last update before we're in the swing of summer camp. We're beyond excited to welcome new staff, volunteers, and above all else, campers!

This month has been filled with preparations, as well as a number of awesome rental groups that have test-run some of our upcoming summer programming.



CALLING ALL CAMPERS!



There is still time to sign up for one of Voyageur's summer camps! All registered Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities youth ages 8-14 are welcome at any of our free week-long residential camps, as well as our single day camps throughout the summer.

Come enjoy the true summer camp experience: canoeing, swimming, archery, outdoor survival, games with friends, and so much more.

If your youth is interested in attending one of Voyageur's camps, please reach out to our Camp Director, Nick Flowers, by emailing him at nflowers@bgc-tc.org.



Thank you, volunteers!

We would not be nearly ready for camp if it weren't for the incredible volunteer groups that have come out to help us this month. Cargill came to help us spread mulch, clear brush piles, and clean cabins. U.S. Bank and Medica each helped organize summer gear, clear out our laundry room, and prepare our campus.

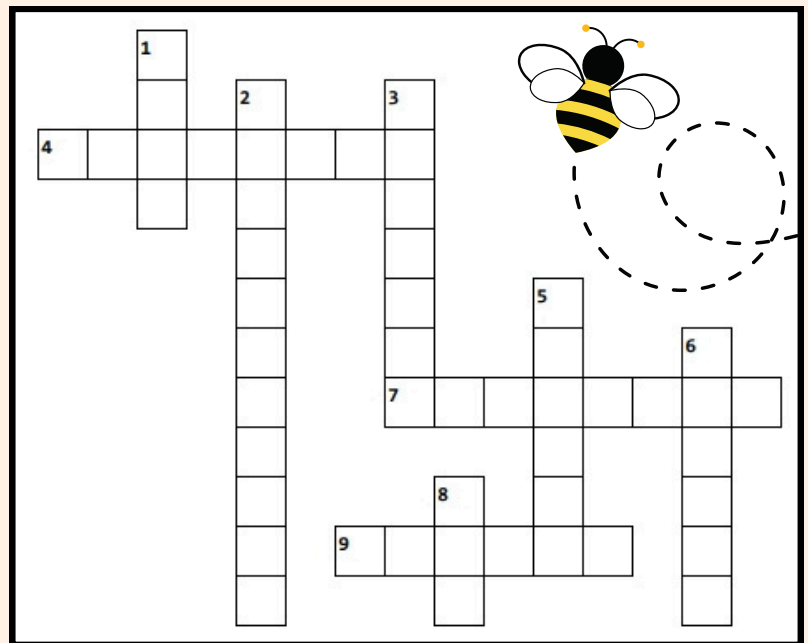
Thank you so much!



Pollinators of MN Crossword

Across

4. Believe it or not, this blood-sucking insect is an important pollinator, visiting flowers when it's not trying to get to your skin!
7. This insect visits flowers to make an abundance of something sweet and delicious for themselves, animals, and people alike.
9. This powdery substance holds plants' genetic material and hitchhikes a ride on pollinators to other plants, allowing them to reproduce.



Down

1. This pollinating insect is not well liked, as it has a stinging defense mechanism.
2. This small bird uses its long beak to feed on flowers' nectar.
3. This butterfly is especially striking in appearance, and travels thousands of miles each year to enjoy Minnesota's summers.
5. This insect will often eat its way through petals and other flower parts.
6. This is the sweet liquid that plants produce. It attracts pollinators who consume it.
8. This common nuisance insect is also a pollinator. Some plants produce particularly stinky flowers to attract them.

Answer key
1. Wasp,
2. Hummingbird,
3. Monarch, 4. Mosquito,
5. Beetle, 6. Nectar,
7. Honeybee, 8. Fly,
9. Pollen

DIY SCIENCE

Make your own rain gauge!



Materials Needed:

- 2 liter plastic bottle
- tape
- ruler
- permanent marker

Ever wondered how we measure the rain? Rain gauges let you see how much rain has come down over a period of time in a certain area – important information for the health of plants, waterways, and ecosystems.

To make your own rain gauge, use any container that is straight and even on the sides, whose opening is the same shape as the sides. You can use a plastic 2-liter bottle with the curved top cut off.

Next, lay your ruler against the container, and align the zero with the bottom of the straight sides – for a water bottle, this will be above the curved bottom. Mark the inch and half-inch marks onto your bottle with a sharpie.

If your rain gauge isn't smooth on the bottom, fill it with water up to the zero line. Then, set it outside before it rains, and measure the water line after it's over. Record your findings and dump out the water before using it again!

This month, Voyageur collaborated with the Lake Minnetonka chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to plant a new pollinator garden. As described by the chapter regent, DAR, "founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to historic preservation, education, and patriotism."

Members of the chapter's conservation committee came out to design and plant a new garden, while adding native perennials and pollinator-friendly plants along other areas of Voyageur's campus. They donated and planted over 100 plants total, covering 23 different species and varieties.

Collaboration Highlight:

DAR POLLINATOR GARDEN



Pollinator gardens provide essential food sources and habitat for the insects, birds, and animals on which our food system and ecosystems depend. They are an important tool in combating biodiversity loss, as many pollinator populations have dwindled in recent years. We are immensely grateful to the members of DAR for carrying out this important project, and for helping us enact our commitment to conservation and land stewardship!



Other updates:

Photo gallery

SPRING CLEANING AND RENTAL GROUPS

The past month has been full of summer camp preparations, from organizing to planning to cleaning. Our garden beds are filling up, and we'll have plenty of produce for our summer programming!



Reorganized boat house with all our newly donated life jackets - Thanks, Cargill!



Learning outdoor survival skills through shelter-building.



Celebrating after an egg drop challenge.



Make your own snail and design its habitat!



Arts and crafts in the STEAM lab.



Learning outdoor survival skills through shelter-building.



Fresh spinach, radishes, carrots, and broccoli in the garden.

In addition to preparations, we've also gotten to host a handful of rental groups, including St Croix Montessori, Friends School, and YLI (Youth Leadership Initiative). It was a fun preview of summer camp with arts and crafts, outdoor recreation, and cool outdoor experiments. We hope to see them back soon!



Check us out on Instagram! @voyageurenvironmentalcenter

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