

APRIL 2024

The Columbian *for* kids!

THE **OUTDOOR** ISSUE

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Let's Take A Hike!

**We live in a place
With much nature space
Nature is so near
Much to see and hear!
Outside your own door
so much to explore
the birds in the trees
the bugs and the bees
the outdoors is fun
for all everyone!**



**Go at your own pace.
It's not a fast race!
Stop, look and listen
you could be missin'
the scrub jay's loud squawk
the call of a hawk
Look down at the ground
where small bugs abound
Look up at the sky
where pretty birds fly**



**Want to find a frog?
Look under a log
It might be a toad
they like this abode
If you find water
watch for an otter
They float, swim, and play
for all the long day
or seek if you wish
to find some shy fish**

**Your own nature path
is more fun than math!
So much to enjoy
for a girl or boy
A park, trail or yard
It's not very hard
Get up from the couch.
Now don't be a slouch.**



Are you having a birthday or event this year?
Do you like playing with cool stuff like Lego, art or building stuff?
Celebrate your birthday party with us!

Mobile Children's Museum
Taking 2024 Reservations Now!



www.mcmuseum.org



**Ready! Set!
Let's Go!
Nature
has a show.**

~Kristin Dorsett,
for The Columbian



PLACES TO GO

When you gotta go, you gotta go! One challenge of nature hiking is finding a bathroom when you need it. These places offer a wonderful outdoor experience and also have bathrooms!

Salmon Creek Trail

A paved trail takes you through wetlands, around ponds, and across a natural habitat for plants and wildlife. You can access the Salmon Creek Trail from Salmon Creek Park.

Battle Ground Lake

A dirt trail takes you all the way around the lake with tall trees overhead and wildlife to see. It's a good place to hike and see nature, as well as a sandy beach for wading or swimming.

Lacamas Lake

This gravel trail is located on the west side of Lacamas Lake and Lacamas Creek provides opportunities to view birds, rock formations and waterfalls. It also has extensive waterfront access and playgrounds.

Burnt Bridge Trail Gnome Trail

This urban trail allows hikers of all experience levels to get outside without spending time and gas driving into the mountains. There is a small amount of parking and public bathrooms on the Fruit Valley Road trailhead. Watch for the signs to enter the forest trail of delightful gnomes waiting to greet you.

Frenchman's Bar

Frenchman's Bar Trail connects Vancouver Lake Park to Frenchman's Bar Regional Park. The wide, paved path is great for a nature walk. On clear days can see Mount Hood, Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens.

STUFF TO BRING

Snacks
Water
Comfortable shoes
Sunscreen
Binoculars
First aid kit

TAKE YOUR FUR FAMILY!

Most dogs love getting out into nature too. Make sure they are up to date on their vaccinations before you bring them because they might meet other dogs on a hiking trail. Remember to bring bags to pick up after them. Also dogs get thirsty too! They shouldn't drink out of ponds, lakes, streams, or rivers. Bring their own water and a dog water bowl.

HIKING DO'S AND DON'TS

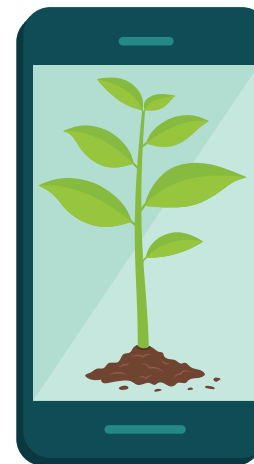
Stay with your person or group – Don't wander off alone

Pick up your trash – Don't leave a mess

Watch out for bicycles – Don't get in their way

Save your snacks for yourself – Don't feed wildlife (it could make them sick)

Keep your dog on a leash – Don't let them run loose



ARE YOU CURIOUS?

There are so many species of wildlife and plants around here. If you're curious to find out what they are—there's an app for that! Ask someone with a smart phone to get an app on their phone for identifying plant species and bird calls. It's a lot of fun! Also plant identification apps can help you avoid stinging nettles before you touch them.

Naydenov

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Let's go camping!



A KID'S GUIDE TO OUTDOOR ADVENTURES!

By Ryan Madani, Outdoor YouTuber



Hello adventurers! Are you excited to discover what camping is all about? Let's find out why camping and outdoor exploration is so much fun!

Camping is all about exploring nature and having fun. Just imagine waking up to the birds chirping and the rustling leaves outside your tent.

When you're out camping, you can discover all kinds of plants and animals around you. I've seen some pretty cool animals while I've been camping, like deer and elk, mountain goats, baby bald eagles, and even a bear! Don't forget to bring your binoculars because while camping there is plenty of time to become a nature detective.

What's your favorite part about camping?

“ My favorite part about camping is playing in the sun.

-Emmett, Age 5

After a long day of play, you can collect some sticks and branches to build a campfire. I love to roast marshmallows around the campfire and look at the night sky.

But the best part about camping is spending time with your friends and family. Whether you are sharing stories and roasting marshmallows around the campfire, playing games, or exploring nature, camping can bring families and friends together.

Grab your camping gear, get together with your loved ones, and enjoy a camping adventure you will never forget. See you out in the great outdoors!



Sun Protection

Sunglasses, sunscreen, and hat.



Navigation

Map, compass, and GPS system.



Repair Kit & Tools

Duct tape, knife, screwdriver, scissors, and gear repair kit.



Illumination

Flashlight, lanterns, headlamps, and extra batteries

Fire

Matches, lighter, fire starters, and stove.



THE TEN ESSENTIALS



Whenever you go camping, hiking, or just exploring the outdoors, it's important to always pack the ten essentials. While you will probably need more than just these items, they are essential to bring in case of an emergency.



First Aid Supplies

First aid kit and insect repellent.

Hydration

Extra water and water treatment supplies.



Insulation

Jacket, hat, gloves, rain shell, thermal underwear, and extra clothes.

Emergency Shelter

Tent, space blanket, tarp, and bivy.



Nutrition

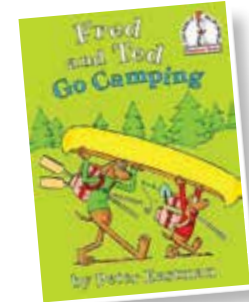
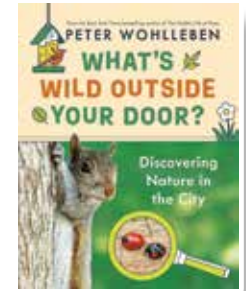
Extra food.



BRICKS & MINIFIGS VANCOUVER

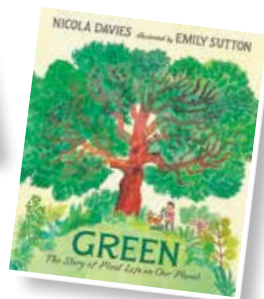
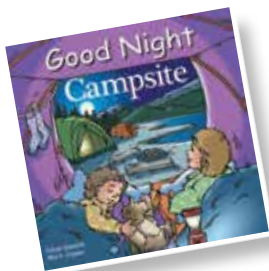
BIRTHDAY PARTIES

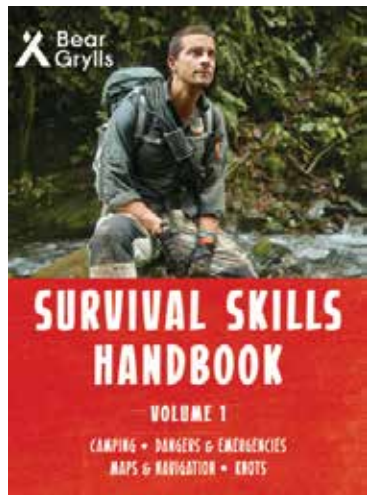
(360) 723-5032
BOOK YOURS TODAY!



Outdoor Books

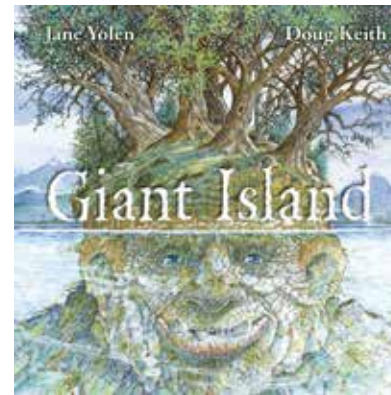
Check out page 8 where you can
ENTER TO WIN some of these books!





Survival Skills Handbook: Volume 1

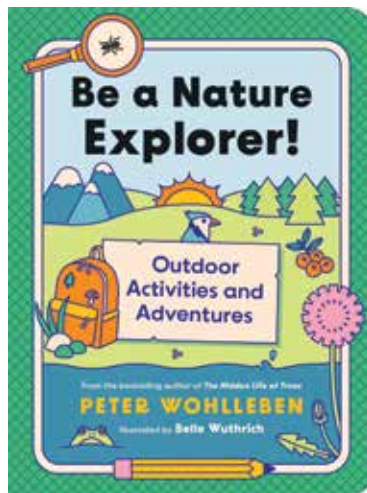
The Bear Grylls Survival Skills Handbook is perfect for explorers. It includes a lot of essential information about camping, maps and navigation, knots, and dangers and emergencies while outdoors. With step-by-step guides, illustrations, and tips from Bear himself, this is a must-have for outdoor enthusiasts.



Giant Island

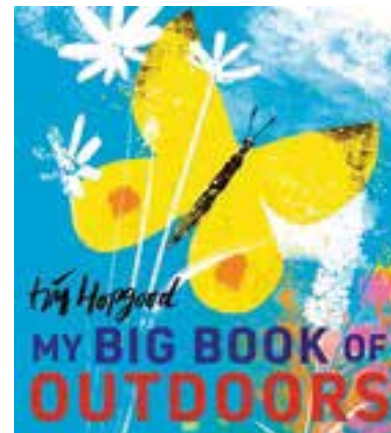
Ava and Mason are on an outdoor adventure to go fishing and explore Giant Island with their grandpa. They soon discover that the island gets its name because it's an actual giant. After reading this book with enjoyable dialogue and fun illustrations, young outdoor enthusiasts will want to go out and explore an island themselves.

Outdoor Book Spotlight



Be a Nature Explorer!

This nature activity guide has over 50 activities to explore the outdoors. Be a Nature Explorer! is the perfect size book for nature enthusiasts to take with them on the go. From learning about night animals and identifying trees to pressing leaves and whistling grass, every outdoor adventurer can learn something new with this book!



My Big Book of Outdoors

Go through the seasons and learn about different things to see and do outdoors with My Big Book of Outdoors. This book has beautiful illustrations, poems, activities, and lots of things to see outdoors. Outdoor lovers will love flipping through the pages and will reach for this book again and again every spring, summer, fall, and winter.

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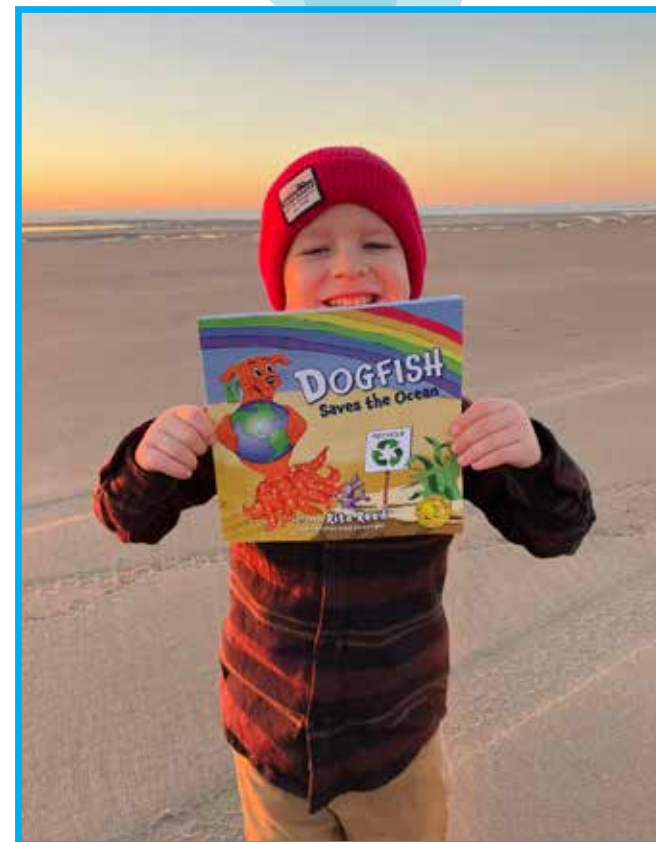


**BUZZ ON IN
TO DISCOVER
SPRING TOYS
THAT WOW!**

Kids – Win Some Free Books!

Have your parent or guardian enter our **PRIZE BOOK DRAWING** contest by emailing the following information to **kids@columbian.com**

- Parent/Guardian First & Last Name
- Parent/Guardian Phone #
- Kids First Name
- Kids Age
- City
- A picture or short story of your favorite outdoor activity



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Contest entry period is April 13 – May 15, 2024. Participants must be 18 years or older and a resident of Clark County, WA to participate. Parents or legal guardians must enter for those under the age of 18. Total value of the prize is between \$7-\$30 and has no cash value. No purchase necessary. See sweepstakes rules for details. For a complete set of rules, email info@columbianpromotions.com



Hiking



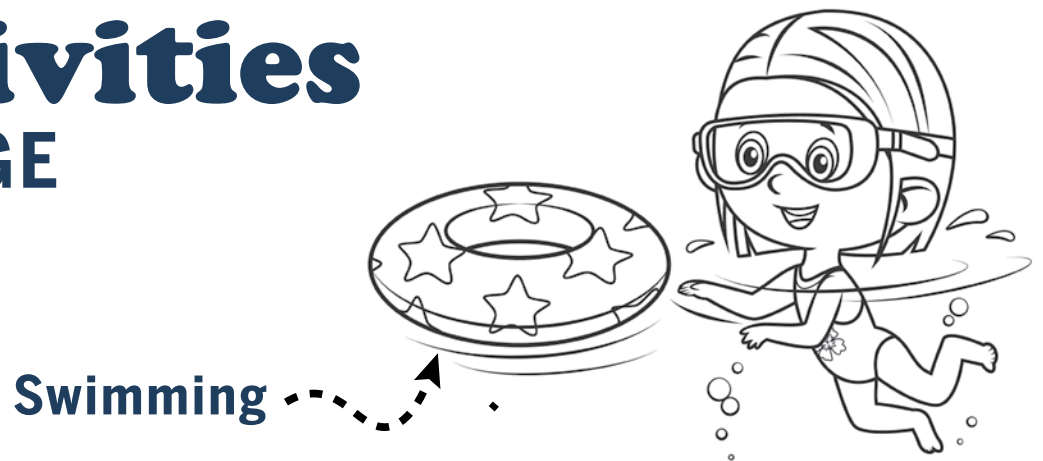
Bicycling

Outdoor Activities

COLORING PAGE



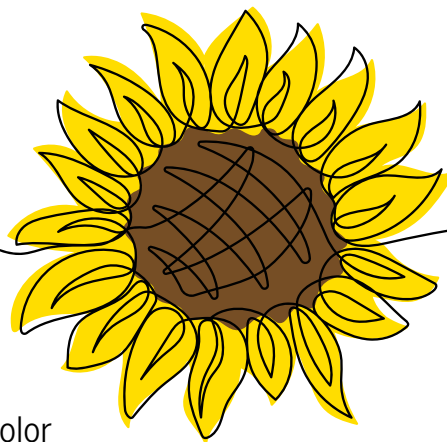
Kayaking



Swimming

An advertisement for Camp Invention. On the left, a green background features the Camp Invention logo (a stylized 'I' with a sunburst) and the text "Camp Invention® HIGH-ENERGY, HANDS-ON STEM". Below this, it says "Secure your spot and save today at [INVENT.ORG/LOCAL](https://www.invent.org/local)". On the right, a photograph shows a young girl smiling and holding a framed STEM project, with blue bokeh lights in the background.

Let's Grow SUNFLOWERS



Have you ever thought about growing your own plants outside? Sunflowers are a fun plant to grow. There are different kinds of sunflowers. Some are really tall and others are shorter. They are all a pretty yellow color and produce seeds to make more sunflowers. People can eat sunflower seeds, and birds and squirrels like the seeds too. Bees and butterflies love the flowers.

Where to plant your sunflowers

Sunflowers look great planted in the soil along a fence. A fence gives them something to lean on so they can stand up tall as they grow. Smaller sunflowers can be planted in pots filled with soil. All kinds of sunflowers need a lot of sun to grow. When you find the sunniest place for your sunflowers, you can see them turn their heads to follow the sun. If your family is growing other plants outside, don't plant your sunflowers near potatoes or green beans because these plants don't grow well if they are too close to each other.



When to plant your sunflowers

The best time to plant your sunflowers is when the ground gets warmer. The seeds don't like to be put in the ground when we still have cold mornings when the ground is covered in white frost. April rains feel cold to us but spring rain helps to warm and loosen the soil. This gives water and vitamins that seeds need to grow roots. The roots feed from the soil to grow baby plants.

How to plant your sunflowers

Your sunflower seed packet will tell you how to plant your seeds. Seeds can't be just scattered on ground. The squirrels would love to eat them all! The seeds need to be planted deeper in the soil but not too close together or they won't have enough space or nutrients to grow. The directions on the seed packet will tell you how deep and how far apart to plant your sunflower seeds.

What happens next?

Watch for your baby sunflower plants to spring up through the soil. Don't worry if some are growing but others are not. Sometimes the squirrels eat them before the seeds can sprout. If this happens, you can plant another seed in that same place and watch for a sprout to come out of the ground. You can save some seeds and plant more every week or every two weeks, so you will have sunflowers growing all summer.

Remember you need to be patient when you plant the seeds. It takes a couple of months before they grow into pretty yellow sunflowers. Ask an older person for help to grow your sunflowers. It's a fun thing for people of all ages to work on together.

If you grow some sunflowers, send us a picture of them. We'd love to see how they grow. You can send photos to kids@columbian.com



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**2024
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**



LET'S GET OUTSIDE at the Clark County Fair



There are so many things to do at the Fair. The weather is nice and you are outside enjoying the animals, carnival rides, fair food, or watching Mutton Bustin' in the Grandstand. Attending the Fair is an experience where you can go back in time or to faraway places without having to travel too far away from home. The Clark County Fair is "Summer's Best Party" and this year our theme is "We've Got It All". Okay, maybe not everything but at least we have a lot to do and to see when you visit.

Where else can you hear a juggler whiz by you on a unicycle while you are on your way to see the dogs jumping and splashing at DogTown? How about hanging out with the Dinosaurs at the Dino Encounter? They are here for this year's Fair! We've got our hypnotist, magician, and Curly the Camel. There is the Pirate's Parrot Ship and don't forget the Butterfly Adventures! Have you had your face painted, or do you and your friends show your

animals in the show rings? Who doesn't love watching Professor Smart's Science Show in the Kids Park. That's the one close by the horses.

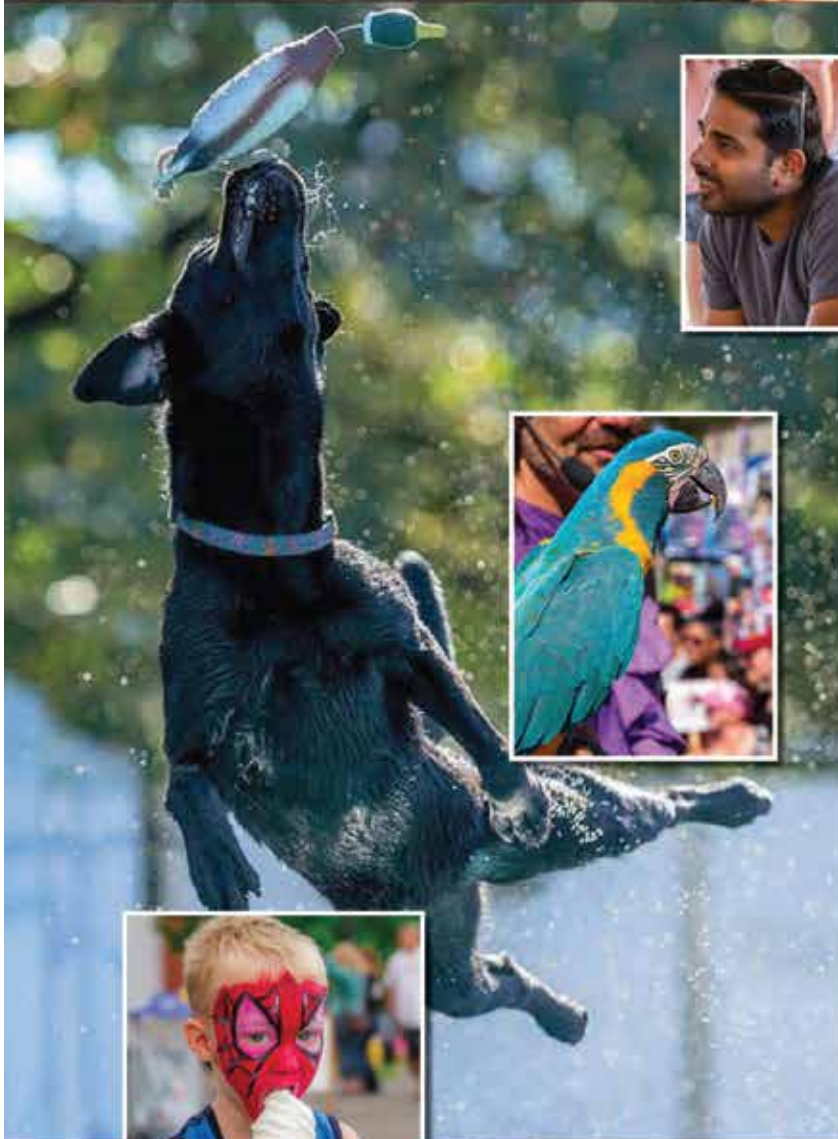
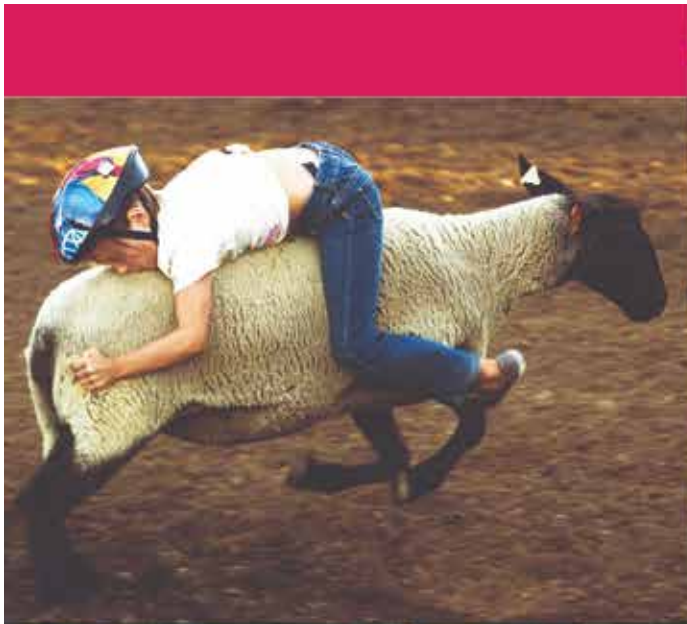
You must play "Passport to Fun" when you are at the Fair. It's where you can learn all about agriculture while you meet the animals, visit the Bee barn, and find out just how your food is grown and what happens to it before it arrives at the local grocery store. Kids can enter all kinds of projects so be sure to check it out at www.clarkcofair.com/exhibitors.

There is so much going on that we are going to have an app this year so you and your family can plan your Fair vacation and not miss a thing!



Just remember the Fair starts the first Friday in August and lasts for ten days. Kids Day is on Thursday, August 8th. Don't forget to grab an elephant ear and catch a concert, rodeo, or motorsport show when you go too. It's a family vacation!





CLARK COUNTY FAIR
2024
AUG
2-11

WE'VE GOT **IT ALL**

SUMMER'S BEST PARTY

The Columbia

A large graphic for the Clark County Fair 2024. The central text reads "CLARK COUNTY FAIR 2024 AUG 2-11" in a stylized font. Below this, it says "WE'VE GOT IT ALL" and "SUMMER'S BEST PARTY". To the right, a man in a red raincoat and a black hat is riding a bicycle. In the foreground, there are cartoon illustrations of a cow and a pig. The background features a sunburst pattern.