

## Cub Creek Science Camp Encourages Love for Animals & Nature

Has your child expressed an interest in becoming a vet? It's never too early for them to start exploring their passions and ambitions. To give them a sneak peek into one of today's fastest-growing and stable professions, consider enrolling them in a comprehensive veterinary camp. Through hands-on activities and expert-led instructions, your child will get a better idea of whether a career in animal healthcare is right for them.

Treating campers to a scenic, nature-based setting, Cub Creek Science Camp is nestled on 240 acres of beautiful Missouri Ozark forest. More than just an educational endeavor, Cub Creek is designed as a summer haven where students can relax, have fun, and embrace nature. The true camp environment is conducive to a range of outdoor activities and adventures. In between veterinary activities and lessons, the students indulge in swimming, fishing, hiking, crafts, and archery.

Even so, campers do learn a great deal about handling and caring for animals. "We have a wider variety of animals for campers to handle than any other vet camp—over 100 species," points out Lori Martin, owner/director of Cub Creek Science Camp. In addition to handling and observing animals, campers also have the opportunity to watch an actual surgery and conduct a physical exam.

According to Lori, observation is one of the most important skills a veterinarian can have. "Animals can't tell you what, if anything, is wrong. Being a vet is all about solving problems, knowing what to look for, and knowing what questions to ask to ensure an animal's health."

What does Lori see as the main advantages of attending a vet camp? She points out the highly competitive nature of most veterinary schools, maintaining that a vet camp helps students stand out among other applicants. "It shows you've done your research and this is truly a field that you would like to pursue," Lori says.

Many parents have contacted Lori to share their enthusiasm about their children's' experiences:

*"I wanted to let you know we had one very happy camper come home from camp this year! She had a blast! She loved the staff, the activities, the friends, and the animals. I could see some real growth in her self-confidence after just two short weeks. Thank you for creating a program where our kids learn so much about the world and about themselves!"*

(mother of a 4<sup>th</sup>-grade camper)

*“Thank you so much for the amazing experience my son had at camp. The activities were fabulous and encouraged his love of animals. He made many friends and has been corresponding with them. I love the fact that he met students from all over the U.S. and tried foods he's never had before. Your campus is gorgeous and I will happily send him back next year.”*

(mother of a 9th grade camper)

What advice does Lori have for parents of children who have expressed a desire to enter the field of veterinary medicine? She encourages them to do whatever they can to help their kids gain experience with animals, whether it's by volunteering at a vet clinic, a kennel, an animal shelter, a farm, or a rehabilitation center. “Have them learn as much as they can before applying for vet school,” she recommends, also stressing the importance of good grades, particularly in math and science.

Children as young as seven years of age can attend the Junior Vet program at Cub Creek Science Camp. For more information on the program, visit <http://www.bearrivranch.com/> or call (573) 458-2125.