

HELPING CHILDREN
"UNPLUG" AND
Connect
with Nature

ALEXANDRIA'S NATURE CAMP



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



OUR Quest

The Spirit of Alexandria (SOA) Foundation was created to carry on the legacy of Alexandria Bennett, a little girl whose passion for nature and sharing all its beauty was inspirational to everyone around her.

It is through the inquisitive way Alexandria lived her young life – so full of curiosity, compassion and love for nature’s wonderment – that the SOA Foundation developed a lasting partnership with the Howell Nature Center (HNC). Our quest together is to help children build a deep connection to nature. Since 2006, more than 240,000 children have experienced a direct connection to nature through this amazing collaboration. This includes Alexandria’s NatureScape, Alexandria’s Nature Bus, Alexandria’s Nature Camps and the tranquil Memorial Butterfly Garden that thousands of children and families enjoy each year.



It is our quest to lead a youth movement of appreciation and conservation of nature. Our goal is to transition from a regional center to building a destination program with global impact. To do this, we are asking for your support to help us build a TreeTops Village at the Howell Nature Center. This will be a dedicated nature camp, whimsically positioned within the forest canopy and rolling hills of the Howell Nature Center. It will include the following:

- ▶ Six ADA accessible, themed TreeTops cabins
- ▶ Bathhouse and multi-purpose pavilion with kitchen and indoor recreation center
- ▶ Eagles Nest community deck connected by suspension bridges/ADA accessible decking
- ▶ Integrated activity centers and social gathering areas (Gaga Pit, Dinosaur Bone Dig, Hammockville, etc.)



ADDRESSING "Nature-Deficit Disorder"

Author Richard Louv introduced the term "nature-deficit disorder" with the publication of his best-selling book, "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder." He coined the phrase to serve as a description of the human costs of alienation from nature.

The SOA Foundation and the HNC have partnered to address the excessive proliferation of electronic communications in today's society. Combine this with disappearing open space, diminished importance of the natural world, and parental fear magnified by news and entertainment media, Alexandria's Nature Camp immerses children's days and nights in nature as opposed to technology.



An expanding body of evidence suggests that nature-deficit disorder contributes to the following:

- ▶ A diminished use of the senses
- ▶ Attention difficulties
- ▶ Conditions of obesity
- ▶ Higher rates of emotional and physical illnesses
- ▶ Weakened ecological literacy and stewardship of the natural world

These problems are linked more broadly to what health care experts call the "epidemic of inactivity," and to the devaluing of independent play. Nonetheless, we believe that our two organizations have taken a leading role in reversing society's nature-deficit disorder.



HONORING *Alexandria's Legacy*

Join us in connecting thousands of children to nature and wildlife by supporting the campaign to construct Alexandria's TreeTops Village at the Howell Nature Center. Your commitment will play an integral role in taking on nature-deficit disorder and igniting a conservation movement that begins with our youth, teaching them to be faithful caretakers of each other and the natural world. Honor the legacy of Alexandria so that her inspiration will continue, and so that our natural world can truly begin to heal, grow and be wild!



MAKE THIS *Dream a Reality*

The following levels were inspired by Alexandria's passion for everything nature and will serve as the theme for the TreeTops Village campaign. Please consider joining with us to make this dream a reality. Together, we can create a lasting impact on our youth and on our natural world! To learn more about available sponsorship opportunities, please contact Leah Bennett at (810) 599-0106.

BUTTERFLY LEVEL \$100,000

This level will offer the naming of the Multi-Purpose Pavilion/Kitchen/Activity Center.

CARDINAL LEVEL \$75,000

This level will offer six opportunities for the naming of an individual TreeTops Cabin.

WOLF LEVEL \$50,000

This level will offer the naming of the Eagle's Nest (central "Hang Out" area in middle of village).

FROG LEVEL \$25,000

This level will support the construction of suspended bridges and ADA accessible decking, while also offering recognition on our Village Donor Board and Bell area.

FLORA LEVEL \$10,000

This level will support infrastructure and village enhancements including the specially designed Fire Pit area, benches and trail system, as well as recognition on our Village Donor Board and Bell area.

DINOSAUR LEVEL \$5,000

This level will support program areas and special features including the Dinosaur Dig, Hammockville and GaGa Pit, as well as recognition on our Village Donor Board and Bell area.

DRAGONFLY LEVEL \$1,000

This level will provide for program equipment and help us reach our dream and offer recognition on our Village Donor Board and Bell area.

CATERPILLAR LEVEL \$500

This level will help us reach our dream of a TreeTops Village and offer recognition on our Village Donor Board and Bell area.





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