



June 2024

Dear Parents of Southside Campers –

When you think of Southside, you probably think about the homes and buildings that make up our neighborhood. But what about Southside’s natural environment? There are countless plants and animals that also call Southside home. **The SSP@100 iNaturalist Challenge is an opportunity for Southside campers to get outside this summer and explore Southside in a different way by looking for the wild animals, bugs, birds, plants and organisms that share our neighborhood!**

HOW TO JOIN IN THE FUN

1. **Download the iNaturalist app.** You will not have to specifically join the SSP@100 iNaturalist Challenge. The boundaries of Southside Place have been added to the app and any recorded observations within the boundaries should be automatically included in the Challenge results.
2. **Use your phone to take photos** of the wild animals, bugs, birds, plants or organisms that live in Southside Place. You can also take photos that show signs of organisms, like tracks, nests, or things that just died. Photos of pets, house plants and garden plants don’t count!
3. With each photo, have your camper **make an observation** about what they see. An observation is an assessment of the type of animal, bug, bird, plant or other organism you see at a particular time and place. When your camper makes an observation, have them identify the organism as best as they can, even if that is just “plant” or “bird.”

iNaturalist is a crowdsourced database. Observations with photos, locations, and dates are automatically placed in the "Needs ID" category so people on the app can help identify or confirm the observation. Over time, we will be able to see the different species of animals and plants that live in Southside.

4. **Observations are pinned and geolocated** on the app. If you do not want the precise location of your camper’s observation to be shown, you can obscure the location each time you add an observation.
5. The Challenge runs during Southside Camp from **June 10 – July 26, 2024** and is open to all campers and counselors. **There will be a presentation on June 13 at camp to explain how the app works. Prizes will be awarded** for the participants with the most species and the most observations submitted for (a) campers age 12 and under; and (b) campers and counselors age 13 and up.

NOTE: SSP@100’s role is to facilitate and publicize the Challenge, but all questions (technical or otherwise) should be directed to the iNaturalist website. (www.inaturalist.org)

TIPS

- **Separate your observations** – Make separate observations for each organism you encounter. For example, if you see a ladybug on a leaf, you will make one observation about the lady bug and a second observation about the leaf.
- **Don't submit multiple photos** – If you take multiple pictures of the same organism, please combine them into a single observation. Multiple photos of the same organism taken at the same time will not count towards earning a prize.
- **Make observations over time** – If you revisit an organism later, such as returning to a plant on a later date when it's in bloom, you should make a separate observation because it was observed on a different date.
- **Keep it wild** – iNaturalist is primarily about observing wild organisms, not animals in zoos, pets, garden plants, specimens in museums, etc.. Below are examples of things you should and should not submit to iNaturalist:

DO NOT submit photos of captive animals or plants in Southside Place such as:

- your pet dog or cat
- a flower in a garden
- a tree planted 1, 10, or 100 years ago by humans
- a butterfly mounted in a display case and not appropriately marked with date and location of original collection
- plants that grew from seeds that were planted in the ground or scattered

DO submit photos of wild organisms in Southside Place such as:

- a fly on your pet dog
- a weed or other unintended plant growing in a garden
- a butterfly that flew into a building
- a lizard that you just picked up
- a feral dog or cat
- a garden plant that is reproducing on its own and spreading outside of the intended gardening area
- a bird caught by a pet cat (presuming the bird isn't also a pet)
- a bird (not pet bird) that comes to an outdoor bird feeder
- living organisms dispersed by the wind, water, and other forces apart from humans or a species that had been introduced to a new region and has established a population outside of human care