

A high-angle photograph of four children in a swimming pool. They are all wearing blue swim goggles and are holding onto a thick red lane line that runs diagonally across the frame. The children are smiling and appear to be enjoying the water. The pool water is a clear, bright blue with some ripples. The background shows the edge of the pool and the surrounding area.

Summer 2016 Camps

Education & Activities

The
Arlington
Connection

If You Like Worms

Arlington County offers summer camp for kids

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Arlington County offers nine sessions of weekly summer camp beginning June 27 and running through the week of Aug. 29-Sept. 2. Times for the sessions vary. Some of the camp content is repeated at each location and different park locations so the camp brochure indicates campers should attend only one session.

Gulf Branch Nature Center features three different sessions, each two times during the summer, for campers of different ages. It features Invertebrate Investigations for ages 7-9 years for the first two sessions. Campers will search under rocks for crawfish, build dams in the stream, and search for red-back salamanders or the rare yellow-spotted salamander under the logs scattered throughout the park.

According to Jennifer Soles, a park employee, the kids invent creative games such as building a store to sell the rocks they find. Fifteen-twenty campers will sweep their nets to investigate the pond hoping to catch dragonfly larvae, wood frog tadpoles or discover other animals without backbones. The camp assures it will "bring out the bug-lover in every camper."

Younger children ages 6-7 can enroll for Wildlife Neighbors with the enticing description that "skunks and coyotes have moved to Arlington! What's next: Bears and Bobcats?" The children will walk along the trails in the Gulf Branch woods, wade in the stream flowing through the park and learn about the large and small animals that live around us in Arlington. The staff to participant ratio is 1:8.

A third session, Habitat Hikers, is offered for campers 10-12 years old. This hiking camp goes to five or six different parks in



A Gulf Branch Nature Center camper scoops her net in the stream hoping to find some invertebrates (amazing animals without backbones).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A tiny leopard frog has been temporarily captured for inspection by Gulf Branch campers.

the area, from mountains to the forest to a bay off the Potomac River. Sturdy shoes and clothes that can get muddy and wet are recommended for this camp.

Soles remembers the highlight of last year was a water snake being eaten by a great blue heron and the five leaf clover found by Amanda. This session is offered the weeks of July 11 and July 18. Among other sessions offered are VA Fishing Adventures Fish N'Fun at Gunston Community Center for ages 6-8, Fish and Explore

Young Anglers at Lubber Run Community Center for ages 7-10, and Nature Detectives at Long Branch Nature Center for ages 7-9.

Individuals with disabilities are welcome to register for any summer camp in the catalog. "Designated Sites" are for children who need lower ratios and more structure. For more information about Arlington County camps the Parent Handbook is available at www.arlingtonva.us/ Search Parent Handbook.



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School Notes

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Megan Linquiti, of Arlington, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. Linquiti is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences.

Jennifer Perez and **McKenzie Nelson** were named to dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Ithaca College (Ithaca, N.Y.).

Eugene Umlor, of Arlington, has been named to the dean's list at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, N.Y.) for the fall 2015 semester. Umlor studies computer science.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will award 54 Washington, D.C. metropolitan area teachers Certificates of Study for their participation in the Kennedy Center's Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) program at a ceremony and reception on Friday, April 29 at the Kennedy Center. Recipients of the 2016 Certificate of Study Award from Arlington Public Schools:

* Arlington Traditional School — **Ashley Lowman Berger**
* Drew Model Elementary School — **Elvira Arnal, Payal Arora, Sarah A. Chambers, Mary Erickson, Evyn Garson, Kelsey McCaw, Caitlin Rose McGuire, Margaret Pierce, Megan Sorrell, Suzanne Stork, and Jesse G. Williams Jr.**

Kannan Cangro and **Izzie Taveras** were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Cangro was initiated at Longwood University (Farmville, Va.). Taveras was initiated at Radford University (Radford, Va.).

The **Arlington** Connection

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www.PotomacAcademy.org (Summer Programs)

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www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Arlington Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery," 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314
Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable. ~Reminder: Father's Day is June 19~

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