

7th Annual

Arizona

Young Birders Camp

June 20-23, 2024

*Chiricahua Mountains
Cave Creek Canyon*



*Southwestern
Research Station*



Experience Arizona Young Birders Camp

It's midday, you are sweating, having finished a birding hike in the Chiricahuas. You review your life list, 12 new birds! You recall watching the Brown Creeper forage like a piece of bark moving up the pine. Then the House Wren carrying agave silk into its nest cavity. And even more new life experiences. Can you recall a better day?



*Arizona Young Birders Camp
is sponsored by the
Sulphur Springs Valley
Young Birders Club.*



*Would you like to be
on the mailing list for 2025?*

Contact us at:

admin@the-cranes.org

LEADER BIOGRAPHIES

Jennie MacFarland

Jennie is a nearly life-long Arizonan that loves exploring different habitats in Southeast Arizona. As the Bird Conservation Biologist for Tucson Audubon, Jennie coordinates the Arizona Important Bird Areas Program and other bird survey conservation projects. She also coordinates the Tucson Bird Count and several large-scale community science efforts in Southeast Arizona.



Jeff Babson

Jeff is a naturalist living in Vail, Arizona, with expertise in birds, butterflies, and dragonflies. He got his start in birding when his grandfather gave him a field guide when he was in kindergarten – it was the beginning of a lifelong passion for birds. Now, Jeff owns Sky Island Tours, a natural history education and eco-tour company. He has been teaching classes and leading field trips in southern Arizona for over 20 years and is the Wildlife Viewing Program Specialist for Pima County Dept. Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation.



Dorian Escalante

Dorian is a camp junior leader and attended the camp as a young birder from 2015 through 2019. As a young birder he drew wonderful sketches and was the t-shirt artist for the camp. He also received the Tucson Audubon Bill Thompson Young Birder award in 2019. Currently Dorian is a nutritional care specialist in the U.S. Army reserve and enjoys birding different places the training may take him. In his spare time, he enjoys sketching and photography.



Dan Weisz

Dan Weisz is a native Tucsonan who has always loved the desert and the outdoors. When he retired from a career in education, he became a more active birder and picked up photography as a hobby. His photos are used regularly by Tucson Audubon and he presents programs on birds to various local groups. Dan volunteers with the Desert Museum's Raptor Free Flight program as both a handler and a narrator.



Homer Hansen

Homer Hansen grew up in Willcox, Arizona and has a passion for sharing birdwatching with others. Homer is a regular field trip leader for several birding festivals and is the chairman of Wings Over Willcox. Homer is also co-founder of the Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club and Arizona Young Birders Camp. He regularly instructs a wide variety of birding workshops for American Birding Association, Tucson Audubon, and other organizations. Homer also served on the Western Field Ornithologist board as chairman of the Youth Programs Committee.



SSVYBC aims to provide expert guidance and resources for young birders to connect and learn about birds and their ecology as participants in the Arizona Young Birders Camp. The camp allows young birders to meet, learn, and bird together while developing skills in leadership, peer mentoring, community involvement, and conservation ethics. Visit us at

www.the-cranes.org

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, June 20th

- 11:45 am Meet at designated location in Willcox, Arizona
- 12:00 pm Depart for Cave Creek Canyon, Birding en route
- 4:00 pm Check in at the Southwestern Research Station
- 4:30 pm Orientation, Introductions & Ice Breakers
- 5:30 pm Feeder Watch at SWRS
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Presentations
- 7:00-7:15 ***Birding Etiquette***
Presented by: Dan Weisz
Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. This is the introduction to birding ethics as codified by the American Birding Association. This presentation will highlight important etiquette to be followed when birding.
- 7:15-8:00 ***Owls of the Madrean Oak Woodlands***
Presented by: Jeff Babson
The oak woodland habitat of the Chiricahua Mountains is home to four common species of owls: Western and Whiskered Screech-Owls, Elf Owls, and Northern Pygmy-Owls. Jeff will cover the identification and natural history of these species, following by a discussion on the ethics for finding and observing owls.
- 8:00 pm Night Owl Field Trip (*Optional – Kids Only*)
- 9:00 pm End of Day



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 21st

- 6:00 am Early Birder Field Trip (*Optional – 10 and over*)
7:30 am Breakfast & Pick-up sack lunches
8:30 am Field Trip – Uplands
11:30 am Lunch in the field (sack lunch)
1:00 pm Return from Field Trip and Break



2:00 pm Presentations

2:00-2:30 **Songs & Calls**

Presented by: Homer Hansen

This presentation will introduce bird songs and calls of common species that may be seen and heard during camp.

2:30-3:00 **Birding Helps Conservation**

Presented by: Jennie MacFarland

Learn how your birding efforts can gather data that is used for conservation projects. We'll talk about eBird and the amazing things produced with your data, as well as local conservation projects like the Arizona Elegant Trogon surveys.

3:00-3:30 Break

3:30-4:30 **Sketching Birds**

Presented by: Linda Feltner

Learning to draw is a fun way to focus on birds and learn about their habitat in the process. Linda will present some basic guidelines and examples that will improve your observational skills.

4:30-5:30 **Sketching Birds – Indoor Practice Session**

Presented by: Linda Feltner

With paper, pencil and touches of color media, you will explore avian anatomy basics and ways of representing birds in field sketches.



5:30 pm Break & Feeder Watch at SWRS

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Presentations

7:00-8:00 **Young Birder Presentations**

Presentations by Scholarship Recipients

8:00 pm Night Owl Field Trip (*Optional*)

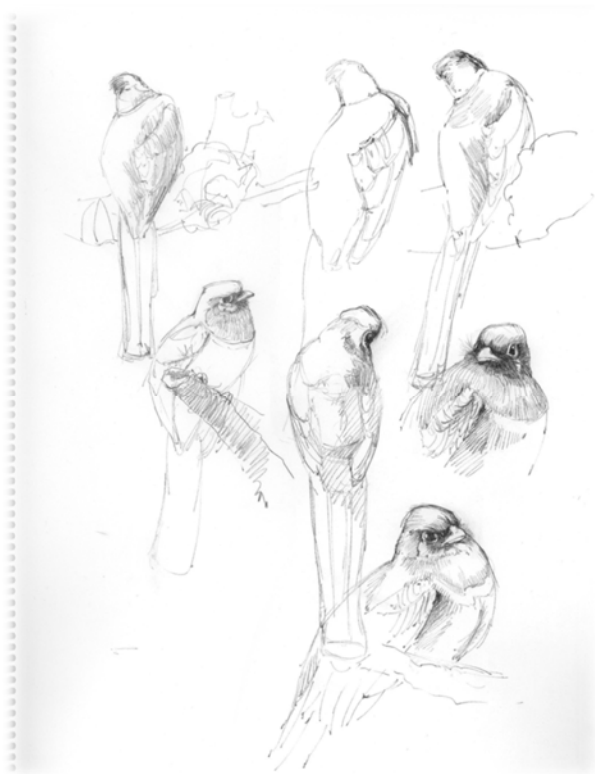
9:00 pm End of Day



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 22nd

- 6:00 am Early Birder Field Trip (*Optional – 10 and over*)
- 7:30 am Breakfast & Pick-up sack lunches
- 8:30 am Sketching Birds – Outdoor Practice Session
- 11:30 am Lunch in the field (sack lunch)
- 1:00 pm Return from Field Trip and Break



- 2:00 pm Presentations
- 2:00-2:30 **Journaling – Writing about Birds & Experiences**
Presented by: Linda Feltner
The written word can be as elegant as the trogon. Journaling provides a way to record your observations, express your curiosity, and focus your attention on the natural world. Methods, approaches, and suggestions for nature journaling will be discussed.
- 2:30-3:30 **Journaling – Indoor Practice Session**
Presented by: Linda Feltner
An indoor practice session will focus on writing about the sketches and observations from earlier in the day.
- 3:30-4:00 Break

- 4:00-4:15 **The Experiences of a Junior Leader**
Presented by: Dorian Escalante
During this presentation Dorian will share his experiences from past young birder camps and where it has taken him through today.
- 4:15-5:00 **Young Birder Presentations**
Presentations by Scholarship Recipients & Others
- 5:00 pm Break & Feeder Watch at SWRS
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Presentations
- 7:00-8:00 **Tally Rally & Photo Show– Review of Birds Seen**
Photos by young birders & leaders
This will be a review of birds seen during camp, along with photographs, stories, and species highlights shared by all.
- 8:00 pm Night Owl Field Trip (*Optional*)
- 9:00 pm End of Day

Sunday, June 23rd

- 6:00 am Early Birder Field Trip
- 7:30 am Breakfast & Pick-up sack lunches
- 8:00 am Pack and prepare for field trip/departure
- 8:30 am Field trip – Lowlands & Feeders
- 12:00 pm Lunch in the field (sack lunch)
- 1:00 pm Depart for Willcox from field trip location



BIRD SKETCHING & JOURNALING

With **LINDA FELTNER**

www.lindafeltner.com

This weekend provides a unique opportunity for participants to work with Linda Feltner, focusing on sketching birds and journaling. The outdoor session will visit local birdfeeders to take the opportunity to “put observations on paper.” Close observation and curiosity are key to science and sketching, and it has been said that one doesn’t really know something until one has tried to draw it. Field sketching is more than making art; it is another way to collect information. During this field trip, you will be drawing to learn as well as learning to draw.



During the practice sessions, Linda will point out the differences between the bird illustrations in field guides and field sketching the postures, behaviors, and different angles observed in real life. She will talk about the importance of practice and strengthening visual memory, making comparisons between individuals and between species, and how to suggest movement and aliveness in your sketches. You will learn about the challenges of sketching moving subjects, and some helpful shorthand sketching techniques. You will practice: looking for basic shapes, doing gesture sketches that can tell what a bird is doing and not so much what it looks like, using light and dark lines, keeping it simple, and leaving some drawings unfinished. You will learn how to add shading and texture when time permits. You will also learn the value in making written notes about bird details that can't be drawn and about the details in the environment. Linda will also give a demonstration on how color notes can be added to sketches with simple watercolor supplies.



The outdoor session will be about sketching birds and journaling, but more importantly, it is about sketching birds and journaling for your own personal use and enjoyment. Sketches help one to remember individual details; just the act of making a sketch forces one to examine each and every part of your subject. Learning to see and learning to draw go hand in hand!

BIOGRAPHY: Linda M. Feltner is an award-winning nature artist and educator. She combines the creativity of artistic design with strict standards of scientific accuracy into what has become her trademark. Her areas of expertise include painting and drawing, teaching, guiding birding tours, and maintaining her flourishing freelance business in fine art and interpretive illustration. Linda has served as President of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators from 2016 through 2018 and is a Signature Member of the Society of Animal Artists and

Artists for Conservation. Linda aims to provide a spark – to awaken curiosity and invite questions, promote an appreciation for the complexity of nature, and foster a desire to protect it.



As an interpretive specialist, Linda’s multi-disciplinary career includes scientific illustration and interpretive media design of educational graphics for the public through indoor and outdoor exhibits, murals, and interactive graphics. Her combined experience provided artwork for over 120 projects for the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. She brings extensive, first-hand knowledge and enthusiasm for the natural and cultural history subjects.

Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club



7th ANNAUL ARIZONA YOUNG BIRDERS CAMP

Thursday, June 20th through Sunday, June 23rd, 2024

General Registration Information & Forms

Please read the following instructions carefully:

1. This registration packet contains general information about the camp and is **required reading**.
2. The parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) **must initial** each page of this document as it is read and the entire completed packet must be returned as part of the registration process. Please pay special attention to:
 - a. "Participant Rules" on Page 5 (initials required)
 - b. "Publication of Photo(s) & Name(s)" section on Page 5 (initials required)
 - c. Complete and sign the "Agreement to Hold Harmless" on Page 6
 - d. Complete and sign the "Health History & Emergency Medical Authorization Form" on Page 7 & 8
3. Upon completion of the registration packet, please **send the packet with payment in full** for the number of children and adults that are attending to:

Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club
P.O. Box 1044
Willcox, AZ 85644

Personal checks, cashier checks, or U.S. Postal Service money orders should be made to the order of **Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club**. The registration fee is **\$325 per child** and **\$350 per adult**. The **registration deadline for the camp is April 30th**.

4. Immediately upon placing the registration packet in the mail, please **notify us through email** at admin@the-cranes.org so we know to expect your packet. Please provide the name of each child and adult that is attending in your email. If you do not hear a response from us within 72 hours, please resend the email or call us at (520) 400-6176.
5. The meeting time and location is **11:00 am on Thursday in Willcox, Arizona**. Directions to the designated meeting location will be provided in the planning documents that will be sent following registration.

Parent's Initials: _____

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DESCRIPTION:

The Arizona Young Birders Camp is an annual event designed to draw together young birders from around the state of Arizona and to provide them with the opportunity to learn about birds, ecology, and conservation in the company of their peers. The camp provides educational opportunities through field trips observing birds and other facets of our natural world, and through presentations given by regional birding experts and by youths attending the camp. The following information is provided to prepare young birders and their parents for what to expect during the camp. This document also has forms that must be completed and signed in order to participate in the Arizona Young Birders Camp. Please read through this document thoroughly and carefully.

LOCATION, HABITAT & BIRDS:

The camp takes place in Cave Creek Canyon of the Chiricahua Mountains, one of the most renowned places in North America to go birding. The open country below the canyon is host to birds found in the desert and grassland habitat, including: Scaled and Gambel's Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Chihuahuan Raven, Curve-billed Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Black-throated Sparrow, Scott's Oriole, and Eastern Meadowlark. Up in the canyon, the South Fork of Cave Creek is a beautiful riparian corridor that drains the canyon. Lush riparian vegetation, including sycamore, oak, pines, and cypress provide excellent habitat for many species of birds, including: Elegant Trogon, Arizona Woodpecker, Sulphur-bellied and Dusky-capped flycatchers, Hutton's and Plumbeous Vireos, Grace's Warbler, Painted Redstart, and Hepatic Tanager. The Southwestern Research Station itself will also afford excellent birding, and the hummingbird feeders alone will offer wonderful views of dozens of hummingbirds, including: Blue-throated, Magnificent, Broad-tailed, Black-chinned, and Anna's Hummingbirds.

PARTICIPATION:

The camp is open to youths between the ages of 8 and 18 years of age and welcomes birders of all skill levels, including novices. Parents of youths age 10 and under are also encouraged to attend with their children. The camp is limited to 25 participants, including any parents that may accompany their children. Parents are allowed to participate during the daily presentations and the Sunday field trip, but principally as passive observers and chaperones, and are requested to "stand back" and let the youths direct how the weekend proceeds (i.e. with asking questions, use of spotting scopes, etc.).

WHAT TO BRING:

Because the field trips may cover a variety of elevations, it is important to be prepared for a variety of conditions. The desert and grasslands may reach up to 90° and the evenings in the canyon may fall into the mid 40°'s. Although this camp will be held earlier than the typical monsoon season, it is advisable to check the weather conditions beforehand and pack clothing for rain or humidity. Most clothing should be associated with warm weather, but layers are advisable. Pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and a light jacket may be handy for the early morning or late evening optional field trips. Quick-drying clothing is always recommended. A hat is essential, as well as sun protection and a container for water. Good fitting footwear is also mandatory as some hiking on trails will take place during field trips. A belt pack or day pack is recommended for carrying books, journal/note pad, sunscreen, a one-quart water bottle, cameras, etc. ***Other recommended items include a camera, insect repellent, flashlight and/or headlamp, journal/note pad, and sketching pens and pencils.*** A pair of binoculars that are in good repair are recommended (loaners will be available as well). The field trip leaders will have spotting scopes, but if you have one and wish to bring it, feel free to do so.

ACCOMODATIONS:

All accommodations will be provided by the Southwestern Research Station (SWRS). The SWRS is a year round field station under the direction of the Science Department at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Since 1955, it has served biologists, geologists, and anthropologists interested in studying the diverse environments and biotas of the Chiricahua Mountains in southeastern Arizona. More information about the SWRS is available at <http://research.amnh.org/swrs>. The following information is provided on behalf of the research station:

- All meals are served promptly at 7:30 am, 12:00 noon, and 6:00 pm. Guests eat family style in the dining room or at outside picnic tables.
- Wireless is available in most outdoor research station locations. Internet at the station is free.
- The research station has NO cell phone service. A phone is located in the computer room and you may purchase a calling card in the Main Office or Gift Shop. Guests CANNOT be reached through the main research station number, 520-558-2396, except in real emergencies. Email is the best form of communication at the SWRS.
- All lodging is in dorms. The dorm accommodations are rooms with 2 or 3 single beds. The dorm rooms do NOT have bathrooms or showers – a common use bathroom with shower is provided.
- All linens are supplied. Dorm rooms do not have televisions or telephones. A common-use refrigerator is available.
- During breaks, participants will be free to relax, play games, catch up on notes and lists, or explore the immediate area in small groups.

FEE, PAYMENT & CANCELLATIONS:

The fee for the camp is \$325 per child and \$350 per adult and is due no later than April 30th. This includes all meals from dinner on Thursday through lunch on Sunday, all accommodations as detailed in this document, and leadership services provided by the volunteers. The fee does not include any transportation expenses (i.e. gas, use of vehicle, etc.) and carpooling is strongly encouraged.

To register for the camp, please contact an SSVYBC administrator. Payment in full may be provided in the form of a check or money order. The included registration forms MUST be completed, signed, and provided along with payment. **The registration deadline for the camp is April 30th. Registrations are on a first come, first served basis. If registration is full you will be notified by email and offered the option to be put on a waiting list.**

A full refund will be provided if cancellation is given in writing to an SSVYBC administrator 45 days or more before the first day of camp. If cancellation is given in writing fewer than 45 days before the first day of camp, a refund shall be provided ONLY if another participant registers to fill the vacancy, otherwise, no refund shall be provided.

A limited number of scholarships are available through the Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club (SSVYBC) and awarded to participants who otherwise could not attend. All scholarship recipients are expected to give a presentation or similar on Saturday evening. Please contact an SSVYBC administrator for further information (admin@the-cranes.org).

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Participant’s Name (Child #1): _____ Birthdate: _____

Participant’s Name (Child #2): _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

PARTICIPANT RULES:

This camp is intended to provide all participants with an equal opportunity to learn about birds and nature. The leadership services are all provided by volunteers. It is our goal that participants will engage in positive and rewarding experiences. The success of the camp depends on the leadership and organization of the volunteers; however, the level of enjoyment and learning that each individual participant achieves will depend on his/her willingness to engage in the experience, cooperate with others, and share in the learning. In order to provide this opportunity to all participants, the following rules MUST be adhered to:

- There will be no usage of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products permitted. This is a zero tolerance policy for both youths and their parents.
- If any disputes that arise between participants, these will be mediated by the leadership volunteers. Fighting will not be tolerated.
- Cooperation is essential. Every day brings a host of responsibilities to the volunteer and participants may be requested to assist with a task at hand. Non-cooperation is not an option.
- The damage or destruction of property of others is strictly prohibited and is considered grounds for dismissal.

For and in consideration of the participation of the registered participant in the Arizona Young Birders Camp, a program of the Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club, I/we, agree that I/we will be bound by the above participant rules. Parent’s Initials: _____ Child/Children’s Initials: _____

PUBLICATION OF PHOTO(S) & NAME(S):

During the camp, photographs will be taken of the participants and activities in which they may be involved. Permission is requested to publish photographs(s) of your child, and your child’s name in print and/or in online publications of the Arizona Young Birders Camp and/or Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club. By signing this registration form and initialing your preference below, you are giving/denying permission to publish photograph(s) of your child and/or his/her name.

- Yes, you have my permission to publish photograph(s) and/or the name of my child.
Parent’s Initials: _____
- No, you do not have my permission to publish photograph(s) and/or the name of my child.
Parent’s Initials: _____

Parent’s Initials: _____

AGREEMENT TO HOLD HARMLESS:

For and in consideration of the participation of the registered participant in the Arizona Young Birders Camp, a program of the Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club, I/we, the parents of the afore-named child hereby give permission for the participation of said child in any and all activities of the camp, which may include but are not limited to: hiking in tall grass (and possible poison ivy areas), hiking along rocky trails or near water, being outdoors during all types of weather, using equipment such as binoculars and spotting scopes, and catching live animals (bird banding).

Furthermore, we release, discharge and forever hold harmless Arizona Young Birders Camp, the Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club, and their employees, officers, directors, trustees, donors, volunteers and agents, including any person transporting said child to and from the camp or during any camp activities, and the organizers and sponsors of said activities, from and against any and all claims, damages, obligations, liabilities, loss, costs and/or expenses, arising out of any aspect of said child's participation in the camp activities.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date of Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

HEALTH HISTORY & EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION FORM:

Purpose: To enable parents and guardians to authorize the provision of emergency treatment for participating children who will become ill or injured while under authority of Arizona Young Birders Camp and Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club, when parents or guardians cannot be reached.

Participant #1 – Full Name (please print): _____ Gender: _____

Participant’s Birth Date: (mm/dd/yy) _____ Age During Camp: _____ Grade Level: _____

Participant #2 – Full Name (please print): _____ Gender: _____

Participant’s Birth Date: (mm/dd/yy) _____ Age During Camp: _____ Grade Level: _____

Participant’s Address: _____

Mother's Full Name: _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Father's Full Name: _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Guardian's Full Name: _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Alternate Emergency Contact: _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Relationship to Participant: _____

Part I - Participant’s Medical Information :

Please list all known allergies, describe reaction and management of reaction

List Any and all medication(s) being taken, or indicate:

This person currently takes no medication on a regular basis

Use this space to provide any additional information about the participant’s health about which we should be aware.

Part II - Insurance Information:

Is the participant covered by family medical/hospital insurance? Yes No

If so, indicate carrier or plan name: _____ Group #: _____

Carrier Address: _____

Name of Insured: _____ Relationship to participant: _____

Social Security number of policy holder or insurance ID number: _____

The parents, or legal guardians, of all participants are expected to have medical insurance that provides coverage for his/her son or daughter. The participants are also expected to be current on medical vaccinations, including tetanus.

Parent’s Initials: _____

Part III - To Grant Consent:

I hereby give consent for the following medical care providers and local hospital to be contacted:

Name of Physician: _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Name of Dentist: _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Name of Preferred Hospital: _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____

In the event that reasonable attempts to contact me have been unsuccessful, I hereby give Arizona Young Birders Camp and Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club representatives my consent for (1) the administration of any treatment deemed necessary by the above named doctor, or in the event the designated preferred practitioner is not available, by another licensed physician or dentist; and (2) the transfer of the child to any hospital reasonably accessible. This authorization does not cover major surgery unless the medical options of two other licensed physicians or dentists, concurring in the necessity for such surgery, are obtained prior to the performance of such surgery.

Please list facts concerning the child's medical history including allergies, medications being taken, and any physical impairments to which a physician should be alerted.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Part IV – Refusal to Consent

I do NOT give consent for emergency medical treatment of my child. In the event of illness or injury requiring medical treatment, I wish Arizona Young Birders Camp and Sulphur Springs Valley Young Birders Club authorities to take the following action:

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date _____