



Smartphone, Tablets, and Technology: Innovative Ways to Connect Children with Nature

Summary of APS and Highlight Links/Resources from Webinar

Highlighted APs (Lindsey Legendre, Manager, Be Out There Campaign, National Wildlife Federation, legendrel@nwf.org)

WildObs – Free, All Ages. Record wildlife encounters, learn what other animals are around you, and lookup 1000s of species by names

Click-the-Birdie - \$.99, Ages 7 and up. Get your fast fingers and sharp eyes ready to join Ranger Rick in scoring points while traveling to wild places and discovering awesome birds.

^^This app is guaranteed to keep your kids engaged and active. It is fun for them while also teaching them great new facts and information. Before you know it, they'll be experts!

NatureFind – Free, All Ages. Use this search engine to find a variety of exciting nature sites with interactive maps and engaging and affordable events for all age groups.

North Face Trailhead - Free, All Ages. Forbes top-rated app that detects your location and points you to the nearest trails in the area.

Project Noah- Free, All Ages. Highly acclaimed app to explore wildlife as a community and contribute by sharing your own great nature finds!

^^Great app to use with your kids to record what you've seen. Try having a competition with other kids in the neighborhood to see who can find the most unique creatures nearby!

Geocaching- \$9.99, All Ages. The ultimate real-world treasure hunt to locate Geocache containers at different sites where ever you may be. There are even locations that are recommended for Kids!

Kid Weather- \$1.99, Ages 4 and up. Designed by a 6 year old boy and his meteorologist dad, this app gives you real time weather, fun facts and is interactive!

^^The interactivity of this is great for kids. They can change the character and see what to wear depending on the weather. It keeps it simple and would be great to get kids interested in the weather. It also provides warnings and tips for the weather.

Star Walk- \$2.99, All Ages. Just launch the app and point it skyward to locate stars, planets, satellites and constellations and learn more about them.

[SkyView Free](#)- **Free, All Ages.** Point your phone towards the sky and get ready to learn about the universe above you with this interactive app! Look into the future or dial back to the past to see what you missed or what is coming up.

^^There are many apps for stargazing but this one is very interactive and slightly simplified. Younger kids could absolutely use this and navigate it on their own.

[MyNature Animal Tracks](#)- **\$6.99, All Ages.** Walking along a trail and find a set of animal tracks, no worries! Just open this app and use the loaded database to determine what's lurking just around the corner.

[Chirp! Bird Song USA](#) - **\$2.99, All Ages.** An entertaining way to learn bird characteristics and try to earn a high score by testing your memory.

^^Start training your child's memory with this fun game that matches sounds to birds! Even children who may be too young for this may find it fun to mimic the bird sounds or just listen quietly during some down time.

[Seek 'n Spell](#)- **Free, All Ages.** Combine the outdoors with spelling to get this creative app that uses your GPS to allow you to collect virtual letters and spell words. You can even challenge your friends. **(Recommended for older kids and adults, but could also be used for younger kids I think)**

^^If your kid is able to read and spell then they can absolutely do this one on their own. Get a group of their friends together, bring them to the park and let them go at it. Have adults standing by to provide helpful hints and tips. Try making them give you a fun fact about nature in order for you to help with spelling!

[Audubon Insects and Spiders](#)- **\$4.99, All Ages.** This parent tested and approved app is the perfect introduction to the most common insects and spiders that you may run into (or over!)

[WeatherBug Mobile](#)- **Free, All Ages.** Get real-time weather reports for your very own neighborhood or around the world.

^^Your standard weather app, but user friendly. Have relatives around the world? Show your child what the weather is like where they are!

[Foursquare](#)- **Free, All Ages.** Find where friends like to go, great way to find a nearby park to take a hike then use it again to see the best place to grab lunch afterwards.

[Ringtone Designer](#)- **Free, All Ages.** Use this versatile app to record your favorite nature sounds to listen to over and over again anytime you want.

[iBird Pro Guide to Birds](#)- **\$19.99, All Ages.** Replace those bulky field guides with this connection free database that lets you identify birds quickly and provides detailed information. (Try it out with the free version that allows you to explore 32 types of birds!)

[Leafsnap](#)- **Free, All Ages.** One of a kind app that allows you to snap a picture of a leaf and quickly provides feedback of what type of plant you have found! **(Sounds like there are a few bugs to be worked out before this app is really user friendly- many poor reviews just saying it needs more work)**

^^Keep an eye out for future updates. This app has a lot of potential but could be frustrating during its earlier stages. Technology is advancing quickly and this could be the best new thing very soon!

[Florafolio](#) -**\$3.99, All Ages.** Allows quick and easy search of plants to learn about the plant shape, color, wildlife benefit, gardening use and where it is indigenous to! **(Not highly recommended)**

[The Hidden Park](#)- Free, All Ages. Available on iPhones 3G and higher, this app allows kids to navigate around parks to find magical creatures! The map directs kids around while making them solve puzzles and riddles.

^^This app is only available in some parks but you can also create version in a local park near you. This plays on kids imagination and emphasizes creativity while keeping kids active. Younger kids will love the trolls, fairies and tree genies. If your kid is stuck on the TV or Playstation, this is the app to get them out into the fresh air!

Highlighted APS and Online Tools (*Sarah Kozicki, Education Program Coordinator, National Environmental Education Foundation, skozicki@neefusa.org*)

Environmental Education Week - www.eeweek.org

Project Noah - www.projectnoah.org

QR Generator - www.qrstuff.com

I Tree - www.itreetools.org

Highlighted National Programs (*Mary Krupa Clark, Director, Get to Know Society, mclark@gettoknow.ca and Ken-ichi Ueda, Co-Founder and Co-Director, iNaturalist, kenichi.ueda@gmail.com*)

Get to Know Society – new app – Agent of Nature (pilot phase in US; full launch in Canada)
www.agentsofnature.com

iNaturalist – online citizen observations and science monitoring – www.inaturalist.org

Video Link – Time Lapse observation (Camera)

Sam Droege, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

<http://www.youtube.com/user/swdroege?feature=vmdshb>

Highlighted program from fellow Park and Recreation Professionals (*Zoe Irwin, Assistant Manager, Sterling Community Center, Loudoun County Park, Recreation and Community Service, Zoe.Irwin@loudoun.gov and Margaret Russell, Program Manager of Nature Program Sites, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Margaret.Russell@austintexas.gov*)

Loudoun County: Techie science trek Camp with partners Knowledge Bridge (company):
www.knowledgebridgeintl.com

City of Austin:

Texas nature challenge: <http://naturechallenge.tamu.edu/>

Zilker Treks: www.zilkertrek.org

- Video of Zilker in action: <http://zilkertrek.org/videos/BartonSpringsWildlife.m4v>
- PDF of Zilker Trek: http://zilkertrek.org/PDFs/helpsheets/BartonSprings_Wildlife.pdf

NASA SpaceFlight -

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/spaceflight_explorers/about/index.html