**NATURE PHOTOS**

Check out the winning photographs in *Your Best Shots*, pages 4–5. Ask your children to identify something in each picture that impresses them. Perhaps the photo captures an interesting behavior, tells a story, or makes them feel a certain way. Or maybe the photo’s lighting, colors, or overall composition is particularly strong.

If children have access to a camera, suggest they spend some time photographing nature outside their window, in the backyard or from a balcony. Look at the Photo Shoot children’s page and have them use it to document two of their favorite pics. Set aside time for your children to share their nature photographs and documentation. Then encourage them to enter their favorite shots in *Ranger Rick*’s ongoing photo contest at nwf.org/rrphotocontest. For tips on taking great nature photos, see rangerrick.org/6-tips-for-wild-pics.

**50th ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY**

Commemorate Earth Day’s 50th anniversary by reading “50 Ways to Love the Earth,” pages 6–15. Then encourage your children to do their part to protect and restore their planet by taking action on some of the 50 Earth-friendly suggestions listed in the article. Below are more Earth Day activities:

1. Create homemade anniversary cards containing Earth-friendly messages. Display them on a bulletin board titled “Happy 50th, Earth!”
2. Have your children write personal pledges of environmental commitment, using Ranger Rick’s Pledge on page 27 for inspiration. Then display their pledges on plaques or posters.
3. Together, outline a plan for attracting wildlife to your home. To get animals to drop by or move in, your habitat will need to provide:
   - **Food:** anything from a simple bird feeder to a garden full of native plants with nectar-filled flowers, berries, and/or seeds
   - **Water:** a birdbath or shallow dish of water for birds, or a small pond for frogs or other water creatures
   - **Shelter:** brush piles, stone walls, bushes, bat boxes, and/or trees
   - **Place to Raise Young:** bird houses and/or leafy plants (for insects)


**CLOSEUP ON FOXES**

After reading “Roxy’s Busy Day,” pages 20–23, have your children use what they learned about Roxy and her family of Washington red foxes to make up television shows about the fox family. Use the “Showtime for Foxes” family page for this activity.

**HAPPY TRAILS**

If reading “Let’s Hike!” on pages 28–32, inspires your children to hit the trail, plan a future family hike. Have your children help (1) choose the destination, (2) look at a map to plan the route, and (3) make a list of what to wear and pack. While on the trail, be sure to follow the Tips for Happy Hikers on page 32. Also on page 32 is a checklist of nature items to search for while hiking. Make sure a family member has a copy handy before starting out and invite your children to check off items as they spot them.
PHOTO SHOOT

Professional nature photographers often take notes to help them remember (1) what they saw when they shot a photo, (2) when and where they saw it, and (3) what was interesting about it. Use this sheet to record notes on two photographs you take.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAPE PHOTO #1 HERE</th>
<th>TAPE PHOTO #2 HERE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date: ___________________</td>
<td>Date: ___________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time: ___________________</td>
<td>Time: ___________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What it is: ___________________</td>
<td>What it is: ___________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where I took it: ___________________</td>
<td>Where I took it: ___________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why it is interesting: ___________________</td>
<td>Why it is interesting: ___________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SHOWTIME FOR FOXES

Read “Roxy’s Busy Day,” pages 20–23, to find out how Washington red foxes live. Then follow the steps below.

**STEP 1** Imagine you are making a television show about Roxy, the little Washington red fox, and her family. What facts about these foxes will you include?

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**STEP 2** Describe an adventure that the family will have.

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**STEP 3** Now write an advertisement for your show that will make people really want to tune in. Use the back of this page if you need more space.

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