

Learning about Spiders at Sundarvan



Welcoming the children for the Winter Night at the zoo

Winter is the perfect season to be outdoors and explore. Sundarvan organized overnight stay at the zoo for 8-12 year old to instill a passion for nature. Seven sessions conducted with average participation of 25 kids in each from November 2017 to February 2018.

The objective of the programme was to learn about nature, wildlife with special emphasis on the lesser charismatic fauna such as spider.

The children were welcomed on Saturday evening with an icebreaking activity. To evaluate students attitude towards spiders a chart was



Participants with their creative art

made depicting five emotions which was represented by icons. The children were asked to put down their names under the relatable emotions they

share about spiders. The same activity was repeated at the end of session to evaluate the impact of the programme. The quantitative measure of



Children took a keen interest in the night trail observing nocturnal movement

the activity has enabled us to conclude that 61% of the kids' emotions have shifted to positive after the session.

The programme was loaded with art activity, interactive presentation exploring the world of spiders, night trail to view spiders, camp fire, animal yoga and morning trail to explore other life forms and diurnal spiders. There were small interactive activities in between to keep the children attentive. Stories about Greek mythology and classics were exchanged around the camp

fire along with other games. The group called it a night with endless excitement for the next day.

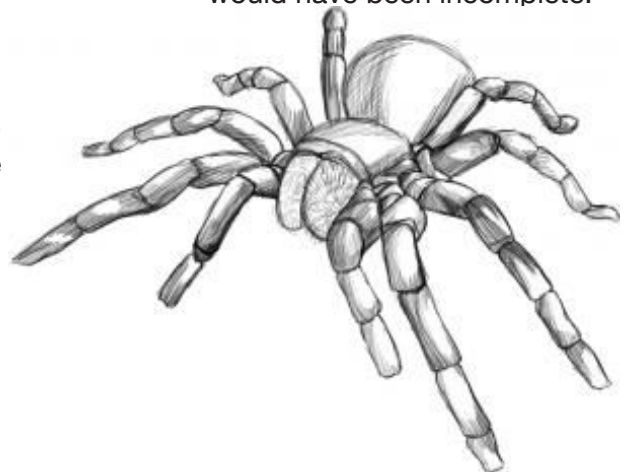
The next morning started with a yoga session influenced by various animals' posture. The activity was lead by a resource person who has immense knowledge of yoga and could relate it to animals and plants world for the children to

inculcate their interest. The morning trail concentrated more learning about birds, bats and reptiles.

The children were handed with a pictorial checklist of common spiders to try their hand to identify the spiders when we sight during the trail. Almost six varieties of commonly found spiders (eight) of Sundarvan were sighted during each trial.

The intricacy of the tent spider's web, web-less spiders and holding slough of large spiders like huntsman ignited the spark in the children's eye. The children let out wondering surprised gasps, trying to record photos of their newly achieved experience.

We owe much gratitude to our team of volunteers Isha Parekh, Neel Kamal Panchal, Kaushavi Patel without whose energy and charisma this event would have been incomplete.



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