



# EcoQuest: Fantastic Feast

Info Session



# Meet Ashley!



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# Orientation Goals

1. Overview the goals & structure of EcoQuest
  - a. Q&A
2. Overview the badges and how to earn them
  - a. Q&A
3. Overview weekly Zoom meetings and Padlet website
  - a. Q&A
4. Note on safety & materials
  - a. Q&A

# EcoQuest...

- Began in summer of 2020 in response to the pandemic.
- Connects children to their local ecosystem through exploration.
- Teaches children simple techniques to discover bugs and other organisms that are eating things outside of their home.
  - Theme: “Fantastic Feast!”
- Guides children in how to think and explore like an ecologist.
- Prepares students for science back in the classroom.

# EcoQuest...

- Is **FREE!**
- Involves paper booklets that can be mailed to you OR you can print materials from home, work, or school.
  - Offered in both English and Spanish
- Includes optional (but encouraged) Zoom meetings in July to jumpstart your child into their EcoQuest adventure.
  - Offered in both English and Spanish

# EcoQuest: Fantastic Feast

## 5 Badges

- Naturalist
- Field Tech
- Field Ecologist
- Artist
- Teacher

*...plus an introductory booklet!*



# Components

- **Booklets**
- **Padlet** - online supplement with resources & photos
  - Anyone in EcoQuest can post, but posts will have to be “approved.”
  - Anyone in EcoQuest can access with a password.
- **Zoom meetings**
  - 3x per week for 2 weeks
  - July 6-9 & July 12-16

# Badges & How to Earn Them

Naturalist, Field Tech, Field Ecologist, Artist, Teacher



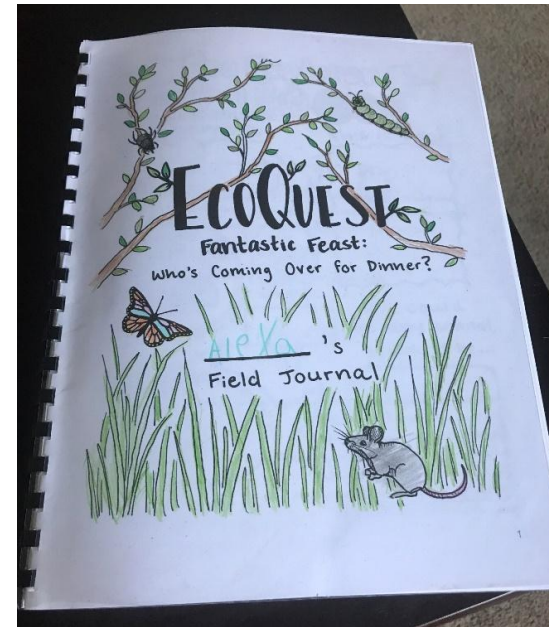
**Junior Explorer:** Younger or less experienced. These kids will earn 3 badges (Naturalist, Field Tech, and Artist) in order to earn a final EcoQuest badge.

**Senior Explorer:** Older or more independent. These kids will earn all 5 badges in order to earn a final EcoQuest badge.

It is up to your discretion which type of explorer your kid is, but if you are not sure, a good general rule is that grades 2-4 are junior explorers while 5-7 are senior explorers.

# Before the Program Begins

- Get acquainted with Google Folder for parents/guardians
  - Will be sent at the beginning of July
- Complete an introductory scavenger hunt
  - Find materials and get situated to your spot
- Learn how to use Padlet & Zoom
- Receive and acclimate to the booklet(s)

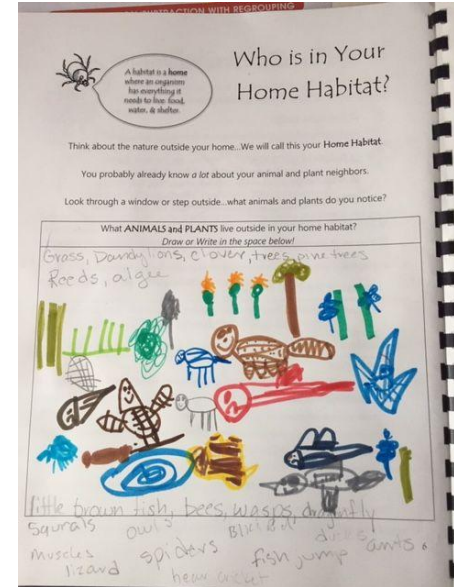


# Badges & How to Earn Them

## Naturalist (grades 2-5)

The Naturalist badge is designed to teach kids to notice and observe different organisms in their home habitats.

- Five senses focus
- Recommended one sense/day



# Badges & How to Earn Them

## Field Tech (grades 2-5)

The Field Tech badge is designed to teach kids different techniques used by ecologists.

- Will set up a “study square”
- Beat sampling, cover boards, pitfall traps, and more!
- Could learn one technique a day!



# Badges & How to Earn Them

## Field Ecologist (grades 4-5)



The Field Ecologist badge is about teaching kids to conduct their own experiments.

- A few options are laid out in the booklet
- Kids can also conduct their own investigation!
- Not recommended for “junior campers”
  - (Unless you want to do it together!)

This is my bait station



# Badges & How to Earn Them

## Artist (grades 4-5)

The artist badge is about using drawing, poetry, collaging, and writing to describe a home ecosystem.

- Drawing, collaging...
- Flexible to whatever materials you have!



# Badges & How to Earn Them

## Teacher (grades 4-5)

The teacher badge is all about communicating what we've learned!

- Create-your-own field guide of your home ecosystem
- Encouraged to post final products on the Padlet!



# Weekly Zoom Meetings

- “Eco-Crews” are chosen at registration.
- ~45-minute-long Zoom meetings
- In general, each meeting will have an icebreaker question, a game or challenge, and a chance to share about how EcoQuest is going!
  - Week 1: Naturalist Badge
  - Week 2: Field Tech Badge
- Eco-Leaders
  - High school students will help out with activities and posting videos/challenges on the padlet page...
  - All returning from last year!

# Padlet

Padlet is at <https://padlet.com/caryecoquest/FantasticFeast>

- Padlet is a platform for making posts and commenting on each other's posts.
  - Each badge has a “page” which will fill up as kids participate.
- Lots of teachers use it, so your kids might already have accounts.
  - *We will not approve posts that are not made from an account.*
- **\*\*Support\*\***
  - Grades 2-3 will likely need an adult/older sibling for support.
  - Grades 4-5 likely can navigate on own.

# Note on Safety and Materials

- Kids will be spending time outside!
  - We encourage kids to practice tick safety, wear sunscreen and bug spray, stay hydrated, and be cautious of poison ivy/oak when spending time outdoors.
    - Tick safety and poison ivy safety documents will be in the folder we send to you.
    - We are happy to provide advice as trained outdoor educators, but not medical professionals!

# Note on Safety and Materials

The only *necessary* material is a pencil and the EcoQuest booklets.

- Empty jars, cups, and boxes are **strongly** recommended
- Other recommended materials will be listed in a “DIY At-Home Investigations” document.
- The “introduction” scavenger hunt will also send kids to find as many materials as they can from a checklist of helpful items.

# Thank you for joining!

## *Register by June 25th*



**Art+Science:** For youth 12+ & Adults!  
-Daily drawing prompts + Zoom sessions  
with a professional artist, Hara Woltz  
-Same weeks as EcoQuest!

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