The Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center, located in Darden Towe Park, teaches the skills of exploration, including nature observation, hiking, art, journaling, boat building, and environmental science. Hands-on activities bring visitors of all ages opportunities to discover and to create. Workshops offer modern ways of exploring while participants learn about the local roots of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

To register, please email lewisandclark@lewisandclarkvirginia.org or call 434-996-7282.

Saturday, May 11  UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY
Join the Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center for a workshop on underwater photography with our cameras. Children and adults can participate. Children must be accompanied by a parent. Your hands will get wet, but your legs don’t have to! Special discounted rate as part of the Rivanna River Festival happening that day. Workshop lasts approximately an hour. Available times: 10 AM and 11:30 AM. $5 per person.

Saturday, May 18  INTRODUCTION TO CARPENTRY AND BOAT BUILDING
INTRODUCTION TO CARPENTRY: There are two sessions, one for children and their parents, and the other adults only. Every year the Lewis & Clark Exploratory builds wooden boats from 6 ft. to 13 ft. long for a fall regatta. In this workshop, you will receive instruction within a small group from an experienced carpenter, getting hands-on experience. The workshop is an hour long and also covers what to expect from the full boatbuilding course offered in August. $20 per person. Reservation required.
9:00 AM  ADULT INTRODUCTION TO BOATBUILDING
10:30 AM  CHILDREN’S INTRODUCTION TO BOATBUILDING
1:30 PM  INTRODUCTION TO CARPENTRY: BASIC HAND TOOLS: Children will learn how to use hammer, chisel, saw, and drill. $7 per person entry includes Center admission fee. 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM

Saturday, May 25  INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALING
For elementary school children. Take part in an hour and a half workshop that covers four elements of nature journaling: watercolors, pen and ink, photography, and video. $15 includes child and one parent. Experience a hike and our instruction and learn about our summer nature, art, and adventure summer camps taking place in June and July. Workshops at 10, 12, and 2.

MINDFUL PHOTOGRAPHY (adults)
Take a nature at the Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center and learn how to make your photography a practice in mindfulness. Led by Executive Director Alexandria Searls, author of “Fifteen Exercises in Perception,” you will enjoy a new sense of relaxation as you photograph and observe nature. Each workshop features a new exercise in perception. Sign up for them individually for $25, or take all three for $60. Reservations required.
Wednesday, June 5, 2-3:30
Wednesday, June 12, 2-3:30
Wednesday, June 19, 2-3:30
To register, please email lewisandclark@lewisandclarkvirginia.org

The Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center’s CAMP EXPLORE! HALF-DAY CAMPS, $225 per camper
Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 12:30 (Drop off 8:10-8:30am & Pick up 12:30-12:50pm)
CAMP EXPLORE! takes place at the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center in Darden Towe Park. Parents are welcome to drop by during our open hours to meet our staff and to see our facility. The Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center has been running summer camp activities, including half-day and full-day camps, for over ten years for a variety of ages, preschool through high school.

NATURE AND ART (ages 6-8)
JUNE 17-21, Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 12:30
Our campers will take a nature walk each day, learning more about the animals and plants around them. They will then turn what they’ve seen into art. Each day we’ll focus on a new art form: paint, clay, sculpture, collage, leaf pressings, mask making, and more. After lunch we’ll have a story hour and read about animals from award-winning picture and chapter books. This camp is relaxed and slow-paced, and there are ten spots available. There will be two experienced camp leaders for an instructor to camper ratio of 1/5. In addition to the two staff members, we will have University of Virginia student volunteers from UVA’s Madison House program. Please contact us for more info, including staff bios and an application form.

ADVENTURE JOURNALING! Watercolor, Drawing, Photography, and Video (ages 8-10)
Session 1: June 24-28, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 to 12:30
Session 2: July 22-26, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 to 12:30
Campers will have daily adventures related to nature and history, including nature hikes, scientific fieldwork, a tent building challenge, and decision-making games and puzzles. After lunch, they will then turn that day’s adventure into a journal page, photograph, or video. Our Executive Director, an award-winning photographer and filmmaker, will lead the camp, teaching photography and video techniques, including taking underwater photographs from shore.

BOAT BUILDING WORKSHOPS (ages 10-adult) Available
August 5-11
The Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center will be leading boat building workshops! Learn how to make your own full-size pirogue, a wooden boat that runs from 8 to 12 ft. long. Please call or email for more information. Tuition varies according to number of participants signed up and whether or not you want to take a boat home with you... There will be separate workshops for adults and children though families can also make a boat together. Exact time depends on schedules of participants.

A VOTE FOR DEMOCRACY (high school age and adults)
Take part in a two-part interactive historical workshop that reenacts decisions made concerning the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The experience includes group readings, questions, votes, and decisions, as well as photographs and video. Part of the statewide program American Evolution 2019, “A Vote for Democracy” examines the evolution of democracy within Virginia and the United States. $30 includes both sessions. Reservations required.
Part I: Wednesday, May 22, 3-4:30 PM or Saturday, May 25, June 1, 3-4:30 PM
Part II: Wednesday, May 29, 3-4:30 or Saturday, June 8, 3-4:30 PM