

Herpetology (Reptiles & Amphibians)

Get ready for an unforgettable adventure into the wild landscapes of Utah! This camp offers young nature enthusiasts the chance to dive into the fascinating world of native reptiles and amphibians. Through hands-on field experiences, interactive lessons, and creative projects, campers will learn how to observe, identify, and appreciate some of Utah's most remarkable species.

What Students Will Learn:

- **Ecology & Habitats:** Discover the unique ecosystems where reptiles and amphibians thrive, and learn why these creatures are essential to their environments.
- **Species Identification:** Develop skills to recognize native species by their physical characteristics, behaviors, and habitats.
- **Conservation Awareness:** Understand the challenges these species face and how we can help protect them.

What Students Will Do:

- **Field Expeditions:** Travel to various Utah landscapes to observe and document native reptiles and amphibians in their natural habitats.
- **Scientific Observation:** Learn how to safely and respectfully handle reptiles and amphibians for study, using proper field techniques.
- **Reptile Catching and Handling:** Gain hands-on experience in ethically and safely capturing and handling reptiles and amphibians under expert supervision. Campers will learn essential techniques for minimizing stress to the animals while allowing close observation and study.

Target Species for Observation:

1. **Sagebrush Lizard** (*Sceloporus graciosus*)
2. **Western Whiptail Lizard** (*Aspidoscelis tigris*)
3. **Tiger Salamander** (*Ambystoma mavortium*)
4. **Canyon Tree Frog** (*Dryophytes arenicolor*)
5. **Mountain Short-Horned Lizard** (*Phrynosoma hernandesii*)
6. **Collared Lizard** (*Crotaphytus collaris*)

What Students Will Create:

As the culmination of their learning journey, each camper will contribute to a collaborative **iNaturalist Observation Album**. Students will document their field observations with photographs, habitat notes, and scientific information, creating a digital record of the reptiles and amphibians they find. This project encourages real-world scientific engagement and fosters a deeper connection with Utah's natural wildlife.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPTILES CAMP SCHEDULE (9-10 y.o. +)					
	Monday (Close) Targets: Spotted Lizards/Western Skink	Tuesday (Far) Targets: Tiger Salamanders	Wednesday Targets: Short-horned Lizards	Thursday Targets: Canyon Tree Frogs	Friday Targets: Collared Lizards
9:00 - 9:30	Gearing Up and Loading Up	Gearing Up and Loading Up	Gearing Up and Loading Up	Gearing Up and Loading Up	Gearing Up and Loading Up (Moab Trip)
9:30 - 10:00	Travel	Travel	Travel	Travel	Travel
10:00 - 10:15					
10:15 - 10:30	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	
10:30 - 10:45					
10:45 - 11:00	Reptile Hunting	Reptile Hunting	Reptile Hunting	Reptile Hunting	Travel
11:00 - 11:30					
11:30 - 12:00					
12:00 - 12:30	Picnic	Picnic	Picnic	Picnic	Picnic
12:30 - 12:45	Reptile Hunting	Reptile Hunting	Reptile Hunting	Reptile Hunting	Reptile Hunting
12:45 - 1:30					
1:30 - 1:45					
1:45 - 2:00					
2:00 - 2:15	Load Up	Load Up	Load Up	Load Up	
2:15 - 2:30					
2:30 - 3:00	Travel	Travel	Travel	Travel	
3:00 - 3:15	Wrap Up Huddle and Pickup	Wrap Up Huddle and Pickup	Wrap Up Huddle and Pickup	Wrap Up Huddle and Pickup	
3:15 - 3:45					
3:45 - 4:00					
4:00 - 7:30					Return Home