GREENBURGH — WEEK 3

Week 3: Birds

Bird Feeders & Habitats

Station Setup

At each table station (shared by a small group of 4–5 kids), set up the following:

- Cups: Place one pre-cut paper cup at each child's seat (pre-cut acros,s the middle so it forms a shallow dish, with two small holes pre-poked opposite each other near the rim for the perch stick).
- Birdseed: One small bowl of birdseed placed in the center of the table with plastic spoons.
- Hanging Material: Pre-cut pieces of yarn, twine, or ribbon (about 12–15 inches long).
- Paint / Craft Supplies: Markers, washable paint, paintbrushes, and paper plates to put the paint on.
- Glue: Craft glue bottles for attaching nature items.
- Tape: Tape in case the cups rip.

Lesson Plan

1. Introduction & Hook (3 Minutes)

- Introduce Yourself: "Hi everyone! My name is Avika, and I am so excited for our activity today."
- The Question: "To start us off, who can tell me: what is a bird you've seen around camp or near your home, or a bird you think is super cool?" (Take 3–4 quick answers from the kids).
- Explain: "Awesome! A lot of people see birds every day, but they are actually super important creatures for our environment. There are two big reasons we need them:
- They spread seeds: Birds eat fruits and berries and spread seeds across forests so new trees and plants can grow.
- They are nature's pest control: Birds eat bugs, mosquitoes, and garden pests to keep our plants healthy! Today, we are going to build a bird feeder using a paper cup to give our feathered friends a cozy spot to grab a snack and build our knowledge of sustainability!"

2. Nature Scavenger Hunt (10 Minutes)

- Take the kids outside to a nearby grassy or wooded area of the camp.
- Say: "Everyone needs to find 1 sturdy stick (about the length and thickness of a pencil) to use as your bird perch, plus at least 2 or 3 small nature items like flat leaves, flower petals, or small bark pieces to decorate your feeder!"

- Tip: 1st and 2nd graders love collecting colorful leaves and soft grass; make sure their collected stick isn't too flimsy or wet! Encourage 3rd and 4th graders to look for stiff, straight twigs that will easily hold a bird's weight.

3. Building the Feeder Structure (10 Minutes)

Walk the kids through assembling the dry cup structure:

- Step 1 (The Perch Ledge): Show them how to gently push their collected stick straight through the two pre-poked holes near the rim of their cup until it sticks out on both sides.
- For 1st–2nd Graders: They might need you or a counselor to help align the stick through the second hole.
- For 3rd–4th Graders: Challenge them to center their stick so two birds could land at once!
- Step 2 (The Hanging Loop): Have kids take a piece of ribbon or twine. Instruct them to tie one end securely around the stick on the left side of the cup, and tie the other end around the stick on the right side to create a handle loop. Make sure the knots are tied inside the cup.

4. Decorating & Filling Phase (15 Minutes)

Walk the kids through decorating and filling their feeders:

- Explain the Choices: "Now it's time to decorate! You get to choose how your feeder looks. You can give it a coat of paint or draw on it with markers, glue on your nature items, or do a mix of both! Pro-tip: If you are painting, hold your feeder by the stick or the handle string so your hands stay clean."
- Decorating Options:
- Option A (Paint / Markers Only): Kids paint or draw designs, patterns, or solid colors on their cup.
- For 1st–2nd Graders: Encourage simple solid colors, polka dots, or thick stripes.
- For 3rd–4th Graders: Challenge them to paint / draw leaf patterns, flowers, or realistic bark textures!
- Option B (Nature Only): Kids use craft glue to attach their flat leaves, bark, or petals directly onto the dry paper cup.
- Option C (Both): Kids paint / draw on their cup first, then use craft glue to attach their nature details on top!
- Step 3 (Filling with Seeds): Instruct the kids to use the plastic spoons from the shared birdseed bowl to scoop 2–3 big spoonfuls of seed directly into the bottom of their cup underneath the perch stick.
- The Balance Test: Instruct them to gently hold their feeder up by the top loop to make sure it hangs level and the seeds stay inside!

5. Wrap Up & Reflection (5 Minutes)

Gather the kids for a quick discussion and ask:

- For 1st–2nd Graders: "Instead of throwing this paper cup in the trash, what did we turn it into today? How does reusing things help nature?"
- For 3rd–4th Graders: "How did your perspective on sustainability change after making something useful out of a paper cup?"
- For All Ages: "What roles do birds play in our ecosystem, and why is it important to help them survive?"
- Future Steps / Home Tip: "If you are taking your feeder home, hang it from a branch outside a window where you can watch it every day. Keep an eye on it to see what kinds of birds check in for a snack and document what they do!"