



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ijams Nature Center Celebrates Hummingbirds Through Art, Science, and Conservation Aug. 13-15

(KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, 7/22/2026)—Ijams Nature Center will celebrate hummingbirds and all other things wings during a weekend of immersive art, hands-on science, and conservation Aug. 13-15.

The celebration begins with *Communion: A Projected Hummingbird Experience*, an immersive nighttime art installation by Knoxville artist Lauren Strohacker on Thursday, Aug. 13, and Friday, Aug. 14, from 8-10 p.m. Larger-than-life hummingbird projections will transform Serendipity and Discovery Trails into an outdoor gallery, offering a rare glimpse into the secret lives of Southern Appalachia's tiniest birds. Timed-entry tickets are \$5.

The fun continues with the Ijams Hummingbird Festival: A Celebration of Wings, presented by Wild Birds Unlimited Knoxville, Saturday, Aug. 15, from 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

The festival features educational speakers, guided hikes, live animal ambassador encounters, hands-on science and art activities for all ages, and a vibrant marketplace showcasing more than 50 local artists, vendors, and makers.

One of the festival's most popular experiences is the 25-minute bird-banding demonstration. For an additional \$6, guests can observe how scientists safely capture, weigh, measure, and band a hummingbird or another bird while they learn how banding helps researchers better understand migration, behavior, and population change.

Each banding demonstration ends with one participant releasing the bird back into the wild. Bird-banding sessions begin at 7 a.m. and run every 30 minutes through 11:30 a.m. The best chance to see ruby-throated hummingbirds is during the earliest morning sessions.

Festival admission is \$12 for adults (13+), \$9 for children (5-12), and free for children 4 and under. Bird-banding demonstrations and *Communion* require additional tickets. Current Ijams members receive a 10% discount on festival admission.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit ijams.org/ijams-hummingbird-festival.

The 2026 Ijams Hummingbird Festival is presented by Wild Birds Unlimited Knoxville, with additional support from Magnolia Landscape Construction, Stanley's Greenhouse, Tennessee Wildlife Federation, and Wild Birds Unlimited Maryville.

Ijams Nature Center is a 336-acre nonprofit educational center in the heart of Knoxville and serves visitors of all ages, stages, and abilities. Its mission is to encourage stewardship of the

natural world by providing an urban greenspace for people to learn about and enjoy the outdoors through engaging experiences. Ijams features 14 miles of hiking and mixed-use trails, a public access river dock, swimming, boating, biking, and more. Hundreds of world-class educational programs and events are coordinated and offered annually. Ijams' grounds and trails are open every day from 8:00 a.m. until dusk. For more information, visit Ijams.org or call 865-577-4717.

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