

# News from Evergreen Nature Center – December 2018

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Webmaster

December 2, 2018

Jennifer, Evergreen Audubon's first live animal ambassador, arrived at the Education Center a few weeks ago. Named "Jennifer" because it sort of rhymes with *Pituophis catenifer*, her more formal scientific name, she is a beautiful young Bull Snake with striking markings and a winning personality. She is settling into her new enclosure nicely and eating three mice every two weeks, thanks to a generous donor who donated the cost of her food during the live auction at the 2018 Nature Center Bash and Benefit.

Jennifer is currently between three and four feet long and may reach up to six feet in length. She is thought to be between two and three years old. Jennifer's role at Evergreen Audubon will be to help us educate kids and adults about Bull Snakes by providing the opportunity to meet one up close. She will also help us to debunk any myths about Bull Snakes and snakes in general, allowing visitors to gain more of an appreciation for these remarkable reptiles.

Bull Snakes (*Pituophis catenifer*) are found in the lower elevations of the Bear Creek Watershed, including the Evergreen area.

They play an essential role in keeping the ecosystem in balance as they are an important rodent control. In turn, they provide the occasional meal for sharp-eyed raptors.

But don't worry! Jennifer will be spending most of her time safe and sound at the Education Center until the Nature Center opens in the spring. From May-October, she will reside in the Nature Center at Evergreen Lake. She has already met our After-School kiddos and their parents and everyone thought she was awesome. Jennifer posed patiently for photos and seemed to enjoy gentle strokes from her new admirers. In turn, everyone was interested to find out first hand what a snake really feels like. Be sure to come visit Jennifer next spring!

 snake