

Preschool and K Topics

- **Animal Coverings:** We have a variety of furs that can help us concentrate on one animal covering, or we can use the salamander, turtle and snake with the furs to explore other coverings.
- **Animal Homes:** The home of an animal is much different from our own. We'll find out how!
- **Animal Sounds:** Animals communicate through a variety of sounds and signals. We will learn how to "read" some of these, as well as imitate them!
- **Animal Tracks:** How can we identify animal tracks? How are their feet different than yours? We will try walking like different animals in this program.
- **Bats or Bats vs. Birds:** Will include visit from "Batty" (a bat puppet).
- **Bees:** Explore the lives of bees, did you know only the girls have stingers? What does a baby bee look like? Wanna' do the waggle dance? Learn the many roles in a bee community.
- **Dozen Touches:** A hands-on game of collecting items outdoors and sorting in egg cartons. Fall/Spring
- **Grasshoppers:** We will bring in a live grasshopper and talk about movement and diet. Fall
- **Have You Heard A Nesting Bird?** Book based, learn about nests, baby birds and sounds.
- **Hibernation:** Which Iowa animals hibernate, and which ones do not? We will explore this and the term "cold blooded".
- **Iowa Owls:** See taxidermied owls! Learn owl characteristics and practice making their calls.
- **Live Animals:** Use live animals to discover the difference between living and non-living things. Snake, salamander, turtle and falcon available.
- **Maple Syrup:** We will discover where maple syrup comes from, tap a tree and eat real syrup! Spring
- **Metamorphosis:** Discover the magnificent science of metamorphosis, complete with song!
- **Migration:** What are some types of animals that migrate? What do they need to go so far? What obstacles do they face? Could also play migration game outdoors or in gym.
- **Name That Bear:** Learn all about a bear's body, types of bears and even feel a real bear rug.
- **Rocks:** Are your kids rock collectors? They will be when we are done! Texture, minerals, colors and excitement about rocks!
- **Seeds:** We will explore how seeds are spread by wind, attaching and being eaten. If in fall we can put socks on our hands and explore an outside area for seeds that stick to us.
- **Star Lab:** This large inflatable planetarium dome is available from the NW AEA. Students will be able to see the stars around them. We will view constellations and hear stories about them.
- **The Snow's My Home:** The snow is great insulation! Pretend to be mice under snow. Winter
- **Things That Go Bump in the Night:** Animals that are awake while we are fast asleep are different than us. Vocabulary used during program includes "nocturnal" and "adaptations".
- **Trees:** This topic can go in a few directions: habitat, parts of the tree, leaves, or cross section of tree.

- **Turkeys:** A little Thanksgiving program, perhaps? Complete with turkey call and feathers.
- **Wiggling Worms:** Meet our friend “Wormy” and learn about how he makes good soil. Help us discover how worms move, what they feel like and what they like and dislike .
- **Wildlife Treasure Hunt:** Students go outside to “treasure hunt” for wildlife, discovering that wildlife can be all around. Fall/Spring

Grade School-Middle School Topics (topics adjusted for your grade level)

- **Animal Coverings:** Please see previous description.
- **Animal Sounds:** Please see previous description.
- **Archery:** (4th grade and up) This course involves safe equipment handling and live shooting indoors or outdoors. A net to catch arrows is included.
- **Bats; or Bats vs. Birds:** Please see previous description.
- **Bees:** Please see previous description.
- **Bison Maneuvers:** Students will simulate bison and wolves in a predator/prey activity.
- **Canoeing/kayaking:** (Grades 2nd grade and up) We have boats that can sit 20 kids total. Fall/Spring
- **Career Critters:** Classroom activity involving groups of students solving community problems using native animals and plants.
- **Chlorophyll poundings and Human Tree:** Let’s find out the parts of a tree and make a human tree complete with sound effects! We can also do poundings to talk about chlorophyll. Fall/late spring
- **Conservation Careers:** Do your students know the difference between a Naturalist and a Park Ranger? How about a Fisheries Biologist and a Conservation Officer? We can focus on one job or learn about the wide range of conservation careers available to them.
- **Energy Pipeline:** Hands-on classroom activity to experience energy in sun, producers, consumers and decomposers.
- **Enviroscape:** This is a model that represents any small town in Sioux County and demonstrates pollution sources. Your students will decide what kinds of things the town can do to prevent the local pond from being polluted. Terraces, grassed waterways, etc.
- **Falcon Program:** Learn the three types of hawks and meet a live falcon.
- **Fishing:** Classroom instruction, practice in the outdoors, or both! Don’t forget ice fishing and fly fishing.
- **Fossils:** Slide show on fossil hunt we experienced in Iowa, then sorting fossils as a class.
- **Going Green:** What can your students do to be “green”? Recycling race included.
- **GPS:** (4th grade and up) Global Positioning Systems are becoming more popular as outdoor hobbies increase. We can check out 20 gps units from the Iowa State Extension Office. We will use the units in your schoolyard and even have a scavenger hunt! Outdoor activity. Fall/Spring

- **Group Behavior of Animals or Insects:** Bees, ants, bats and bison all live in communities. We will explore their roles and behaviors.
- **Habitat:** We will learn the components of habitat using hand signals, posters and a game, as well as introduce a live animal and learn about its habitat. Other vocabulary words such as "ecosystems" and "food chain" can be incorporated.
- **Hibernation:** Please see previous description.
- **Insects vs. Spiders:** Learn characteristics of insects & spiders, using costumes.
- **Iowa Owls and Owl Pellets:** Includes taxidermies, owl calls, adaptations and owl pellet dissection. Can incorporate food chain, predator/prey. Teachers order the owl pellets.
- **Lewis & Clark:** This PowerPoint program takes your students on the Expedition from St. Louis to the Pacific and back. Involves "volunteers" from your class to play as characters in the expedition.
- **Mammals/Plants Past and Present:** We will pass around furs of animals from Iowa's past and present and discuss reasons for population changes. Can also do plants with this.
- **Maple Tree Tapping:** Can be any time, but best in late February and March. We will sample the product. Can incorporate tree id, too.
- **Metamorphosis:** Please see previous description.
- **Migration:** Please see previous description.
- **Monarch Watch:** Your class can learn about the monarch butterfly adaptations and migration. We can also tag these butterflies in September as part of a study by the University of Kansas.
- **Name That Bear/Mammal Program:** Please see previous description.
- **Orienteering:** (appropriate for 4th grade and up) We have compasses available for a basic lesson. Outdoor or large indoor space needed.
- **Reptiles and Amphibians:** We have a live snake, tiger salamander and ornate box turtle.
- **Rocks and Minerals:** We will learn the different groups of rocks including: sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous. Hands-on demonstrations. Fossils can be incorporated.
- **Seeds:** Please see previous description.
- **Skulls and Furs:** Want to play detective? Lets see how well your class identifies furs and skulls.
- **Snowshoes:** Let's put snowshoe tracks in your schoolyard or local park! The program will include the history and uses of snowshoes, as well as practice using them. Winter weather dependent.
- **Star Lab:** Please see previous description.
- **The Move West:** This is a hands-on pioneer game involving the entire class. The students need to be able to add 2 digit numbers. They will pretend to be pioneer families as they "travel to Iowa" and learn the hardships, habitat and lifestyle of the 1800's. Incorporates team building and math. Reported to be a favorite program by area teachers!

- **Trapping:** Many classes read chapter books with trappers as characters. We will bring in real traps and discuss how and why animals are trapped still today.
- **Where Things Come From:** Your class will be divided into 2 groups. Members of one group will receive a resource, the other group members will receive a product. Matching and discussion, as well as children's book will be incorporated.
- **Wildlife Population Study:** (appropriate for 6th and up) Why do biologist monitor wildlife populations? How can they estimate accurate numbers? Your class will collect data, run equations and make conclusions.
- **Wildlife Treasure Hunt:** Please see previous description.

Popular High School Topics

- Archery
- BB guns/air rifles at Sandy Hollow's indoor range
- Canoeing/kayaking BSRA/SH or pond location
- Compasses
- Conservation Careers
- DNR Hunter Safety
- Envirothon
- Fishing/ice fishing
- GPS Units
- Maple Tree Tapping
- Monarch tagging in Sept
- Outdoor Survival
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Snowshoes
- Spears and atlatls
- Star Lab
- Trap Shooting at Rock Valley Gun Club, Sandy Hollow, Ireton Gun Club, or Oak Grove Park
- Trapping
- Water testing– local ponds or streams

Recreation Opportunities

- Archery- we have bows, arrow, targets and net we can set up with your volleyball standards! (Indoors)
- Atlatls and spears to experience life from Archaic times. (Outdoors)
- BB guns and air rifles available for use at indoor range at Sandy Hollow with Naturalist. (Indoors)
- Canoe/kayak outing- we will pick a location near you and bring our fleet of boats to you! (Outdoors)
- Fishing–Ice fishing or shore fishing, we provide the equipment, you just bring the worms! (Outdoor)
- Flu Flu Arrows- Shoot recurve bows with flu flu arrows at flying targets! (Outdoors)
- GPS units and compasses, and we can come to your school to teach the courses. (Outdoors)
- Hunter Safety-Want to incorporate this in Health Class or May term for ages 12 and up? Call us! (Indoors)
- Snowshoes- We have several snowshoes we can bring to school, or pair it with ice fishing! (Outdoors)
- Water testing equipment, look for invertebrates, test pH. Stream or Pond (Outdoors)



Nature Center Update

We officially broke ground on the Sioux County Nature Center project back on August 1! We cannot wait to see the transformation of the work site in the next year. We are even more excited for the opportunities this building is going to present to you and your classrooms! Here are a few FAQ about the project.

- When will it be done? - Goal is late 2019.
- Where is it being built? - Oak Grove Park at the entrance of Deer Run Campground.
- How many square feet will the building have? - 6,000 on upper and lower floor for total of 12,000.
- How much does this building cost? - 4.8 million dollars.
- Can I still give to the project? - Yes! Tax deductible donation can be made safely online on our website.
- How will schools use it? - We hope schools visit us for half or full day field trips where we will host lessons that correlate/enhance with what they are learning in the classroom.
- Will it be open to the public? - Yes! The building is designed to be a gateway to your next outdoor adventure. It will be a space for all ages to discover the secrets of the world around us.
- Will there be exhibits to view? - Yes! We have fabulous exhibits being built for visitors to view/interact with by Split Rock Studios.
- Where can I see updated information about the project? - Check out the Nature Center page our website.

Contact Us-There are several ways to contact us. Please use what is best for you!

Program Request Form— www.siuoxcountyparks.org/education-events/program-request-form/

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