

# Program Guide

2023-2024



## CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

This is a guide of program topics presented by a knowledgeable and enthusiastic naturalist. Each classroom program is aligned to NGSS/Mystery Science and can be customized to meet your specific curriculum needs. Additional programs available by request. Program grade can be modified to fit school needs. Programs in **ORANGE** are in development and are not yet available.

### PRESCHOOL (Limit 3 programs per school year)

**Snakes Alive** (45 minutes) We often fear what we don't understand. Introduce your students to a live snake and learn what makes snakes special.

**Egg-citing Eggs** (45 minutes) What is an egg and what animal lays them? Students will find out that "chickens aren't the only ones!"

**Tree Huggers** (45 minutes) Learn about the biggest plant in Iowa and why we all should LOVE trees.

**Super Spiders** (45 minutes) Explore spiders and why they should not be feared. Go on a spider safari and discover what makes them super.

**Creatures of the Night** (45 minutes) Children will see how the night comes alive while learning all about some of Iowa's mysterious nocturnal animals.

**The Mitten** (45 minutes) How many animals can fit in the mitten and how do these animals really survive the winter?

**Keep Wild** (45 minutes) How are wild and domestic animals different? Focus on why wild should stay wild and pets should stay pets. Finally get the answer to "Can I keep it?!"

### ELEMENTARY

**K - Animals Prepare for Winter** (45 minutes) Students enjoy a puppet show that helps them see what animals do to survive the cold winter months. K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1

**K - Birds of a Feather** (45 minutes) Discover birds and some of their unique qualities that help them survive and thrive. K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1

**K - Furrries** (1 hour) Explore what makes a mammal special and what we can learn from these amazing "furrries". K-LS1-1

**K - Home Sweet Home** (45 minutes) What is the secret to a good habitat? Discover how all animals need the same things in order to survive and thrive in their wild homes. K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2

**1st - Super Critters** (45 minutes) See real life super powers in this fun, hands-on program exploring the many wonderful adaptations that help animals survive. 1-LS1-1

**1st - Happening Herps** (45 minutes) Discover the differences and similarities between amphibians and reptiles. Live animals are a part of this program. 1-LS3-1, 1-LS1-2

**1st - My Woods** (1 hour) Explore a special habitat through interactive storytelling. Learn why the outdoors is an important place for animals and people. [observations and evidence, patterns]

**1st - Ants Ants Ants** (1 hour) Investigate insects by studying ants. Uncover the secret world of ant colonies and see if you have what it takes to be an ant! 1-LS3-1, 1-LS1-2

**2nd - Rainforest Links** (1 hour) Explore the form and function of tropical rainforests. Help link rainforest creatures to each other and discover how we are linked as well. 2-LS4-1

**2nd - Teamwork Makes the Dream Work** (1 hour) Working together and helping others is important no matter what you are. Discover different ways plants and animals help each other. 2-LS2-2, 2-LS4-1

**2nd - Dr. Dirt** (1 hour) Dr. Dirt cooks up the recipe for Iowa's million-dollar soils, and students get their hands dirty investigating soil properties. Discuss erosion and why it matters. 2-PS1-1, 2-PS1-2, 2-ESS1-1, 2-ESS2-1

**2nd - Extreme Reptiles** (1 hour) Through an interactive game, learn what strategies reptiles use to help the survival of their offspring. Students will then get "homework" to develop a model of a new species of reptile able to survive in a unique habitat. 2-LS4-1

**2nd - Polar Plunge** (45 minutes) Dive into the Earth's polar regions and discover what makes them so unique. Explore the extreme differences from Iowa and why we should take note. 2-LS4-1, 2-ESS1-1, 2-ESS2-3

**3rd-6th CLASSROOM OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE!**



# Lime Creek Nature Center Environmental Education Program Guide



## CLASSROOM PROGRAMS CONT.

**3rd - Who Goes There?** (1 hour) Be an animal detective! Learn to read the hidden signs animals leave behind in your backyard. 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2

**3rd - Nocturnal Raptors!** (1 hour) Learn about raptors and what makes them unique. Focus on the owls and how hunting at night has equipped them with some extraordinary adaptations! 3-LS4-3

**3rd - Stormy Skies** (1 hour) Iowa weather is unpredictable and wonderful. Begin to understand the components of weather and discover why tornadoes happen here. 3-ESS2-1

**3rd/4th - Fabulous Fossils** (1 hour) What was Iowa like 400 Mya? Discover what ancient animals lived in Iowa how fossils can form and what scientists learn from them. 3-LS4-1, 4-ESS1-1

**3rd/4th - Shocking Developments** (1 hour Nov.-March) It's a shock where electricity can be found in nature! Learn all about electricity and do some hands-on experiments. 3PS2-3, 4-PS3-2, 4-PS3-4

**4th - Dem Bones** (1 hour) Through games and puzzles learn about the bones and skeletal systems of different vertebrates. Explore the similarities among them all. 4-LS1-1

**4th/6th - Rock It** (1 hour) Explore the three processes that form rocks; it's a real treat! 4-ESS1-1, MS-ESS2-1

**4th/6th - Circulation Spectacular** (1 hour) Dive into the circulatory system by comparing yours to other animals. A dissected heart will be brought into the classroom. 4-LS1-1, MS-LS1-3

**4th/6th - Digestion Discoveries** (1 hour) We will compare how monogastric, ruminant, avian, and hind-gut fermenters process their food. 4-LS1-1, MS-LS1-3

**5th - Team Building** (1 hour Aug. & early Sept.) Team building is a fun, interactive way to get to know your class as a whole and as individuals. This program will challenge your students to think as a group and communicate with one another as a team. Because this program is meant to prepare you and your class for the year to come, it is offered during the first few weeks of school. 21.3-5.ES.1-4

**5th - Decomposition Breakdown** (1 hour) Energy is constantly moving. Food chains are tangled in webs. Dive deep into this cycle of life and death. 5-PS3-1, 5-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1

**5th/8th - Enviroscope** (1 hour) Hands-on learning about watersheds and water pollution. Students connect what we do on land effects our water and how they can make it better. 5-ESS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-3

To schedule a program contact:  
Heather Hucka  
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641-423-5309

[www.cgcounty.org/departments/conservation/lime-creek](http://www.cgcounty.org/departments/conservation/lime-creek)



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE!

If you would like to borrow additional educational artifacts/supplies for unguided use in your classroom please contact me for arrangements.



## NEED MORE?

Not finding the program you need? Have a subject that you are struggling with? I want to offer programs that fit directly into your curriculum. Please contact me to discuss any new program requests or ideas you have. Your class could test a new pilot program and help create the learning environment you want.



# Lime Creek Nature Center Environmental Education Program Guide



## FIELD TRIPS

At Lime Creek we provide engaging and relevant learning experiences that assist students in connecting living organisms and environments to their own lives and their classroom curriculum. Each field trip is easily aligned to NGSS/Mystery Science and can be customized to meet your specific learning needs.

All field trips require teachers and/or adult chaperones to lead activities. Additional adult chaperones allow for better hands-on learning and facilitate a more engaging experience. We request **one adult for every six students**. Adults and teachers are expected to participate fully in all activities, sit with the children, and help keep them on task.

**All grades - Discovery Hike/Nature Center Scavenger Hunt (2 hours) - Only 2 classes per time block - Spontaneous interpretation!** Nature only knows what we will find! Explore, wonder, and discover the way nature intended.

**Pre-school - I Spy (All Four Seasons options) (1 hour)** Explore the season out in nature using colors, shapes, and riddles.

**Kdg. - Habitat Shuffle (Spring & Fall options) (2.5 hours)** Compare Iowa's habitats and the creatures that live there. Uncover what needs they have and why these wild homes are so important to them and us! K-LS1-1, K-PS3-1, K-ESS3-1

**1st & 3rd - Insectology (Fall or late May) (2.5 hours)** Learn the characteristics of insects and their survival strategies. Collect live insects to observe and identify. 1-LS1-1, 3-LS1-1

**1st - Big and Small Y'all (2.5 hours)** Explore the differences between parents and offspring of plants and animals outside. 1-LS3-1, 1-LS1-2

**1st - Sounds Fun (2.5 hours)** Discover different ways animals communicate with each other and make some noise too. 1-PS4-1, 1-PS4-4

**2nd - Pond Study (2.5 hours)** A lake is an amazing habitat full of critters. Students will learn about the aquatic food chain, use nets to explore the pond life, and focus on water in Iowa. 2-LS4-1, 2-ESS2-3

**2nd - Tree-rific (Fall) (2.5 hours)** Students learn about the inner workings of trees, their benefit to wildlife, and tree identification. You will never look at trees the same again. 2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2, 2-LS4-1

**3rd - Plant Parts and Pollination (Spring) (2 hours)** Learn about plant parts and life cycles, pollination, and how animals interact with a plant community. 3-LS1-1, 3, LS3-1, 3-LS3-2

**3rd - Birding Bonanza (2.5 hours)** Scour different habitats to learn about bird adaptations, practice using binoculars, and identify birds by sight and sound. 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3

**3rd - Iowa Changes (Fall) (2.5 hours)** Through hands-on discovery and games, students learn about how much Iowa has changed. From our once vast prairies with animals from long ago to grass of a different kind with animals from far away! Everything must change... and we are going to discover how! 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4

**4th - Naturally Sensational (2.5 hours)** Discover how local organisms use their senses to survive within their habitats. A series of discovery stations, hike, and journaling make this program "*Naturally Sensational*". 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2

**4th-6th - Fossil and Prairie Park - Floyd County Conservation (all day) \* As of 2021 Floyd County Conservation is now charging \$1 per student for an out of county field trip that is accompanied by a naturalist.** Travel back in time and discover what wildlife lived in Iowa millions of years ago. Explore the nature center, hunt for fossils, hike, and more. 4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS2-1, MS-ESS2-3

**4th & 5th - Iowa History Day (9:30-1:00 late April - May)** Students travel back to 1869. Meet Miss Hattie and help with some daily chores. Learn how life and tools have changed and just how much we have to be thankful for. SS.4.10, SS.4.23, SS.4.25, SS.5.21, SS.5.22, SS.5.24

**5th - Hatchet (2.5 hours)** After your students finish reading *Hatchet* (or another outdoor survival based book) bring them out to the park to experience survival shelter and fire building, test their knowledge in plant ID, and more, Will we survive? RL.5.1, RL.5.2, RL.5.3

**4th & up - Outdoor Recreation opportunities:**  
(2-2.5 hours per activity)  
Fishing—Canoeing—Kayaking—  
Archery—Snowshoeing

**5th & up - Service Learning (2 hours)**

Students will learn the importance of giving back to the community through volunteerism. The service project will depend on the season. 5-ESS3-1



# Lime Creek Nature Center Environmental Education Field Trip Information and Scheduled Programs



When preparing for a field trip please remember the following to have  
the best experience possible:

- Asking students to wear long pants and comfortable closed-toe shoes is best. This way everyone is comfortable no matter where we wonder!
- It is usually cooler at the park than in town. Have students dress in layers. A hat with a bill provides protection from the sun.
- If students need sunscreen or insect repellent, please have those applied before the start of the experience.
- If your trip includes lunch, **please bring garbage bags** to gather the trash. There is a dumpster available to dispose of your bags.
- **One adult for every six students** is ideal for the best learning possible.
- If lightning or other severe weather is present the field trip will be cancelled.
- Students should bring a full water bottle for any experience longer than 2 hours.



To schedule a program contact:

Heather Hucka  
hhucka@cgcounty.org  
641-423-5309

**2023-2024 School Year**

Program	Date	Time(s)	Location