

Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center

2010-2011 Preschool Programs Guide

About our Program

The Woodbury County Conservation Board has been offering quality educational programs since 1988. In 1995 a nature center was built as a multi-use educational facility. The Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center is located in the northwest corner of Sioux City in Stone State Park. Surrounded by over 1,000 acres of woodlands and loess hill prairies, it is the perfect setting for outdoor learning. Several miles of trails are available for hiking to enhance the experience.

Our professional staff is committed to providing positive outdoor activities to engage your students in new and exciting discoveries. Our programs are designed to compliment local schools' curriculum and provide quality experiences to encourage life-long interest and appreciation of our environment. We invite you to visit Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center or invite us to your school for a fun-filled adventure.

Programs Offered (30 - 45 minute sessions)

All programs can be done in your classroom, except *Take a Hike & Exhibit Gallery*

Time to Sleep (Fall, Winter)

How do animals know winter is coming? We'll learn the answer as we read a story and act it out. We'll learn about survival tactics too.



The Mitten (Late Fall & Winter)

Meet the animals from the story and discover how they survive in winter. Your students will act out the storyline with the help of puppets too.

Owl Babies (Fall, Winter, Spring)

In this story the owl babies are scared without their mom. We'll listen to and learn about real owls and why they are awake at night.



The Salamander Room (Fall, Winter, Spring)

What would make a salamander room perfect? We'll discover the answer through a story and discussion.

Students will even meet a live salamander.

Note: Live salamanders can not be brought to your school if the temperature is below 30 degrees.

Turtle Time (Fall, Winter, Spring)

How does a turtle stay safe? His shell of course. Your students will get up close and personal with a live turtle. Note: Live turtles can not be brought to your school if the temperature is below 30 degrees.



'S' is for Snake (Fall, Winter, Spring)

Can a snake really make an 's'? Find out when your students take a closer look at a live snake.

Note: Live snakes can not be brought to your school if the temperature is below 30 degrees.

I'm a Turkey (Fall, Winter, Spring)

We'll use this book by Jim Arnosky to help introduce Wild Turkeys and all that makes them unique. Kids can feel feathers and listen to real sounds too!

Feathers for Lunch (Fall, Winter, Spring)

We'll read a story and play a feather matching game. Students will observe 12 common birds and compare their size, shape, color and song.



The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Early Fall, Spring)

Students will act out this famous story and discover how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. Plus they will learn what caterpillars really need to survive.

Take a Hike (Fall, Winter, Spring)

For your guided hike, choose from the following themes: senses, animal homes, or seasons. We require a ratio of **one adult** to every **ten students**.

As with all outdoor adventures, the smaller the group size, the better the opportunity to see wildlife. This program can only be done at the nature center.



Junior League Legacy Exhibit Gallery

When visiting the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center make sure you schedule a few extra minutes to view our exhibits. An underground prairie, 400 gallon aquarium, and touchable artifacts are a few of the amazing things to see. We have an Animal Pictures scavenger hunts available for your students during your visit. A ratio of one adult to every ten students is recommended.

Woodbury County Conservation Board

712/258-0838 • 4500 Sioux River Rd, Sioux City, IA 51109 • www.woodburyparks.com

General Information

DRESS APPROPRIATELY with layers of clothes, long pants and old shoes that can get muddy. If it is wet and muddy, please have your students remove their shoes and leave them in the foyer.

COLLECTING NATURAL OBJECTS, living or non-living, is not allowed at the nature center or Stone State Park. **PLEASE HAVE NAMETAGS** for your students.

DISCIPLINE is the responsibility of teachers and chaperones.

CHAPERONE TO STUDENT RATIOS are one adult per 10 students. Please request extra parents or volunteers to assist with your visit. Adults and chaperones are admitted free.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR group on the marked trails. Trail maps are available at the front desk.

SNACKS OR LUNCHESES can be eaten outdoors on the picnic tables or, if bad weather, in the classrooms. Please have your students bring their own lunches and drinks. We do not allow red-colored drinks inside the facility.

WE RECYCLE at the nature center, please sort recycable items and place them in the proper containers.

NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED in the exhibit gallery. Please help us enforce this.

THE NATURE CENTER IS FULLY ACCESSIBLE. Please let us know if any member of your group has special needs.

A GIFT SHOP is available on site which features a variety of nature-related items for sale. If you plan to visit the store, please notify your students in advance so they may bring money, if so desired. Teachers receive 10% off all purchases (non-consignment items only).

SMOKING is not allowed in the Nature Center.

Registration

Programs are offered throughout the year and are available **Tuesday** through **Friday**. Programs are limited to one per season for each class. To arrange your field trip or classroom visit contact:

Theresa Kruid: tkruid@sioux-city.org or
Jim Henning: jhenning@sioux-city.org
Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center
4500 Sioux River Rd, Sioux City, IA 51109
712-258-0838

Please be prepared with :

- the date, time and programs you desire
- the teacher's name, age level & number of students
- the school's name, address, phone number, & email
- any special needs for students.

Note: Sign-up early as the season fills up quickly!

Program Fees



Program at Nature Center or School

\$1.00 per student; \$10 minimum charge

Self-Guided Visits

Free of charge, reservation required. Outdoor scavenger hunts and Exhibit Gallery scavenger hunts are available upon request. Your classes can visit the Nature Center self-guided as often as you like.

Self-Guided Visits (Room or Materials requested)

\$15.00 per class

Payment

Payment is requested on or before your program date. Checks should be made payable to **Woodbury County Conservation Board**. Please give us advance notice if billing is necessary for your school.

Scholarships

If you need payment assistance, ask us for a scholarship application. We will review your request and inform you how we can help with the program fee. These scholarship monies are made available by various private donations.

Cancellations

If you must cancel your program, we request 48-hour advance notice.

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