



# Educational Programs Guide

GRADES K-5

Woodbury County Conservation Board

2012

## Introduction

The Woodbury County Conservation Board has been offering quality educational programs since 1988. 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 one of our outdoor areas or have us come to your classroom for a fun-filled adventure.

Our main offices are at the **Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center (DPNC)** which is a popular choice for field trips. DPNC has interactive exhibits indoors and incredible woodlands and Loess Hills prairies outdoors. Other well-liked locations for field trips include: **Brown's Lake/Bigelow Park, Snyder Bend Park, Southwood Conservation Area, Fowler Forest Preserve and Little Sioux Park.**

### Fees:

Programs with WCCB are free for Woodbury County schools. A \$1 per student (with a minimum of \$10) charge applies for schools outside Woodbury County, IA. A few programs require materials fees and are marked as such.

### Educational Standards:

We strive to correlate each program to National Science Standards and the Iowa CORE Curriculum.

### Registration:

Programs are available year-round Tuesday through Friday. Upon calling please be prepared with:

- ~ date, time & programs desired
- ~ school & teacher's name, address, phone & email
- ~ grade level & number of students
- ~ any special needs of students

**Note:** sign-up early as the season fills quickly!

## To Schedule a field trip or school program contact:

- Naturalist, **Theresa Kruid** at [tkruid@sioux-city.org](mailto:tkruid@sioux-city.org)
- Resource Naturalist, **Jim Henning** at [jhenning@sioux-city.org](mailto:jhenning@sioux-city.org)

Woodbury County Conservation, Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center,  
4500 Sioux River Road, Sioux City, IA 51109  
[www.woodburyparks.com](http://www.woodburyparks.com) ~ (712) 258-0838



## Kindergarten (30-45 minute sessions)

### FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS

#### **Who Needs a Tree?**

Students will hike the trails to find different trees, their parts from roots to branches and discover the animals that use them.

#### **Tails' Tales**

A skunk's tail is stinky but how does a squirrel use its tail? We will search outdoors to compare how critters use their tails, feet, eyes and more.

### IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS

#### **Who Needs a Tree?**

We'll use books, pictures and parts of trees to learn what a tree looks like on the inside and how animals need trees.

#### **Tails' Tales**

A skunk's tail is stinky but how does a squirrel use its tail? We'll use natural artifacts to compare how critters use their tails, feet, eyes and more.

## Grades 1st & 2nd (30-60 minute sessions)

### FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS

#### **Bee The Hive**

Students will work to keep the hive alive while being challenged to act like honeybees. Our hive will hike the trails during our challenges.

#### **Beginner Birdwatchers**

We'll learn how to tell the difference between birds as we search the trails for robins, bluejays, chickadees and more.

#### **Insect Predators**

Many people think of insects as pests... we'll go outdoors to learn what animal world might think of them. Students may meet a live raptor.

### IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS

#### **Bees, Butterflies & Bugs**

How do you tell the difference between types of insects? We'll bring some examples and learn what makes each group unique.

#### **Winging It**

Students will learn what makes a bird unique from other animals. We'll compare feet, beaks and behaviors.

#### **Insect Predators**

Many people think of insects as pests... we'll learn what the animal world might think of them. Students may meet a live raptor.

## Grades 3rd & 4th (30-60 minute sessions)

### FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS

#### **Signs of Life**

We'll become nature detectives to discover animal tracks, scat, nests, homes and more while we explore outdoors.

#### **Animal Champions**

What animal is the biggest, strongest or fastest and how do you measure up? We'll discover the answers as we explore the trails too.

#### **Rocks Scavenger Hunt**

Students will hike the trails as we search for examples of rocks and minerals. We may even find some we use everyday.

### IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS

#### **Who Goes There?**

How do you know an animal is near? By the clues they leave. We'll discover those clues by exploring natural artifacts like furs and tracks.

#### **Critter Champions**

What animal is the biggest, strongest or fastest and how do you measure up? We'll make some comparisons and discover the answers.

#### **Rocks & Minerals**

Rocks and minerals are everywhere even though we might not realize it. We'll bring examples of everyday items for students to discover how they use these frequently.

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## Grades 5th & Up (30-60 minute sessions)

### FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS

#### **Eco Encounter**

Students will observe ecosystems such as forests, prairies or ponds. We'll compare the plants and animals of these places and discover basic food webs.

#### **Owl Prowl**

We'll discover the amazing adaptations of owls and compare them to other raptors. Students may meet a live bird of prey.

### IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS

#### **Ecosystems**

Learn more about our local environments including the wetlands, prairie and woodlands. We'll bring examples of what is found in these habitats while we discover basic food webs.

#### **Owl Prowl**

We'll discover the amazing adaptations of owls and compare them to other raptors. Students may meet a live bird of prey. We can even dissect owl pellets. Pellets are \$1.50 each.

## General Programs for All Grades (30-60 minute sessions)

#### **Meet the Animals** (*Fall, Winter, Spring*)

Take a closer look at animals and learn their unique aspects for survival. Live animals may include turtles, frogs, salamanders, snakes or Kestrel. Availability of animals is subject to schedule and health.

#### **Take a Hike** (*Fall, Winter, Spring*)

Guided hikes for all ages are available. A ratio of **one adult** to every **ten students** is preferred.

#### **Tracking by Snowshoe** (*Winter*) - *2nd gr & up*

Discover a magical world in the winter by following animal tracks in the snow. The nature center has 16 pairs of snowshoes to use. Snowboots and winter dress required.

#### **Monarch Tagging** (*Late August & September*)

Help us catch and tag Monarch butterflies as they migrate to Mexico.

#### **Pond Study** (*Fall, Spring*)

We'll use nets to discover who lives in a pond. Dress to get wet & muddy.

#### **Nature Journaling** (*All Seasons*)

Students will sharpen their observation skills and take time to observe and record the natural world around them. Each student must bring a notebook or journal and pencil for this activity.

#### **Junior League Legacy Exhibit Gallery**

*(All Seasons) - Nature Center Only*

Crawl under the prairie like a badger, listen to prairie sounds or discover birds and animals up close while you tour these all new exhibits. Choose one of the following topics for your scavenger hunt activity: Animal Pictures, K-3rd grade level, 4th-7th grade level, 8th grade and up, Mammals or Birds. A ratio of one adult to every 12 students is preferred.



Students exploring the exhibits.



**Don't see what you're looking for? We can adapt any program to meet your grade and needs. We can also present on other program topics not listed in this guide.**

## Explore Woodbury County Naturally!

# Preparing for your Field Trip

**DRESS APPROPRIATELY** with layers of clothes, long pants and old shoes that can get muddy. In winter, remind children to wear warm coats, insulated pants, gloves or mittens, hat and scarf.

**COLLECTING NATURAL OBJECTS**, living or non-living, is not allowed at the nature center or our county parks, unless it is part of our staff-led program.

**PLEASE HAVE NAMETAGS** for your students so we are able to call them by their name.

**WE REQUEST ONE ADULT HELPER FOR EVERY TEN STUDENTS.** Adult helpers are expected to fully participate in all activities, dress appropriately, sit with the children, and help keep them on task. Please ask helpers to quiet their cell phones.

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

**IF LUNCH** is included in your field trip, encourage students to pack an environmentally friendly lunch that creates as little trash as possible. **Please bring garbage bags for your trash.** We have a carry-in, carry-out policy at our programs.

**SMOKING** is not allowed at the Nature Center or our county parks.

**A GIFT SHOP** is available at the Nature Center 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).



NATURE CENTER  
Dorothy Pecaut

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## Rotation Examples for Field Trips

### HALF DAY FIELD TRIP

**9:30-10:15 a.m.** One group participates in program with naturalist and other group participates in a teacher-led activity or visits exhibit gallery

**10:15-11:00 a.m.** Groups switch activities

**11:00 a.m.** Have a picnic lunch, meet live animal as an entire group or return to school.

There are countless ways to customize your visit. We'll help you develop the best experience for your students - at the Nature Center or one of our popular county parks!

### FULL DAY FIELD TRIP

**9:30-10:15 a.m.** One group participates in program with naturalist and other group participates in a teacher-led activity or visits exhibit gallery

**10:15-11:00 a.m.** Groups switch activities

**11:00- 11:30 a.m.** Break for lunch

**11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.** One group participates in program with naturalist and other group participates in a teacher-led activity

**12:30-1:15 p.m.** Groups switch activities