



As the Outdoor Education Center for Milwaukee Public Schools, Hawthorn Glen is visited by more than 12,000 students each year. We offer a wide variety of programs that tie directly to classroom curriculum (and matched with state standards). The naturalists guide students through hands-on learning experiences by conducting nature hikes and visits to the Little Nature Museum, which is home to many native Wisconsin animals.

At our nature center, hidden in an urban setting, join our naturalists in exploring the woods, a restored prairie, and our Little Nature Museum. Bring your own bag lunch or hot dogs or sausages for a cookout. A campfire outside (or inside during inclement weather) and roasting forks are provided. Please indicate when registering if you wish to have a cookout. No cookouts during Nov. 2 - March 5. Sessions may be scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Many session times include a lunch break & a short playground visit (if requested and weather permitting). Please inform us of any time variations. Additional playground time before/after your visit is NOT permitted. Programs are listed by seasonal availability.

Spring & Fall

Animal Grocery Store (Grades: K5-1)

Go grocery shopping...as an animal! Help further students' understanding of the environment by looking at food used by different animals. Students will discover what animals need to survive, especially food, and be introduced to the concepts of food chains and food webs.

Big on Bugs (Grades: K3-3)

Students will be introduced to a sample of the variety of insects that exist and just what makes an insect an insect. Go on a bug hunt to discover decomposers and why they are important to our environment. Students will also learn about other helpful insects, and which insects may be harmful. Terms introduced include "camouflage" and "metamorphosis."

Eat Me Nots (Grades: 1-3)

Why does the Viceroy butterfly mimic the coloring of a Monarch? Many plants and animals have developed defenses to protect them from becoming someone else's dinner. This program allows

students to examine plant and animal adaptations. A visit to the Little Nature Museum will help students explore the concept of food chains. Terms introduced: "predator" and "prey."

Fantastic Flying Machines (Grades 1-4)

Discover what makes birds different from other animals, and even different from one another. Explore the adaptations of birds that have become necessary for their survival.

Geology (Grades 4-6)

Listed in the "Winter Only" section, this program could also be presented during the additional months of November & March. MAXIMUM OF 35 PEOPLE (including teachers AND chaperones).

Hibernation or Migration? (Grades: 1-2)

Go on a hike to discover which animals hibernate and which migrate and why. The problems faced by migratory animals, mainly birds, will be discussed. Meet some Wisconsin animals in the

Little Nature Museum and discover what adaptations allow some to hibernate while others must migrate.

Leaf It To Us (Grades: K5-2)

Students learn the different parts of a tree. A guided hike through the wooded trails will help students realize how one tree is different from another. Terms introduced: "coniferous" and "deciduous." Seasonal effects on trees will be discovered and students will gain an appreciation for the value of trees, not just to humans, but also to wildlife.

Nature from A - Z (Grades: K5-1)

The main focus of this program is to improve the students' awareness of nature through use of the alphabet and phonetics. Our naturalist will guide children on an "alphabet hike" and introduce plants and animals.

Nature Recycles (Grades: 2-4)

Most students have heard the terms reduce, reuse and recycle but are they aware that these processes occur in the

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natural world around them? Recycling, conservation and renewal of natural resources can be found in a pond (water cycle), rotting log (decomposition) and even a bird's nest (litter). Go on a "litter hike" to discover the "products" that can be found in our forest and how people affect nature by disposing of trash (waste disposal).

Sensing Nature (Grades: K3-1)

The main focus is to help students become more aware of and more appreciative of the natural environment around them by using their senses: sight, sound, smell, and touch. This will also reinforce their skills of identifying colors & shapes.

Signs of Fall (Grades: K5-2)

This program is designed to help children understand the transitions between seasons & to understand what plants and animals are doing to prepare for a Wisconsin winter. Students are introduced to the terms "hibernate," "migrate," "deciduous" & "coniferous." Students will be guided on a hike to help them identify trees by their leaves (or needles) & explore seed dispersal.

Signs of Spring (Grades: K5-2)

This program promotes an awareness of the seasonal changes in lives of plants and animals. Spring is a time of rebirth in nature: animals awaken from hibernation and plants emerge from dormancy. Go on a hike to heighten their understandings of what happens during this time of year in different habitats, including the prairie and woods.

Urban Safari (Grades: 2-4)

Students will be introduced to the different habitats that can be found in an urban setting such as Hawthorn Glen. Go on a hike through a restored prairie, woodlands, and visit our small pond. Students will discover what makes each habitat unique and what animals may be found in the different environments. In

the Little Nature Museum, students will interact with Wisconsin animals to discover how they adapt to their habitats.

Web of Life (Grades: 1-2)

This program introduces students to food chains and food webs. More importantly, it emphasizes the interconnectedness of all life, including human impact on the natural environment. Students will "spin" a web of life, then hike through different natural communities to help understand how everything is connected in the web of life.



Winter Only - Dec. through February

Session #1 is scheduled from 9:00-11:15 a.m. and Session #2 is scheduled from 11:45-2:00 p.m. No lunchtime is available for either session. A maximum of 35 people, including teachers & chaperones, can be accommodated per trip.

Cross Country Skiing (Grades: 1-6)

Experience Wisconsin in winter! Orientation to equipment and introductory cross-country ski lessons are included in this outdoor recreation program, ending with a trip through the wooded trails. Skis and boots are provided. Sometimes Mother Nature does not cooperate by making snow. If weather does not permit skiing, an animal tracking program (Grades: 1-3) or a geology program (Grades: 4-6) will be substituted. These alternate programs are also excellent educational opportunities.

Animal Tracking (Grades: 1-3)

The purpose of this program is to encourage awareness of nature in winter by studying the animal signs visible in winter. The students will learn how to become nature "detectives" by viewing a slideshow. A naturalist will then lead a hike to apply the concepts introduced during the slide show.

Geology (Grades: 4-6)

The main objective of this program is to help students understand the three types of rocks: sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic. A naturalist will help students discover how these rocks are formed and classified, with a focus on the rocks that can be found in Wisconsin. A short slide show will introduce students to glacial landforms and fossils. Like all of our winter programs, this program cannot accommodate more than 35 people.

Tobogganing (Grades: K3-1)

Join our naturalists in encouraging an awareness of nature in a winter environment. Students will learn that the snow-covered ground can reveal different tracks and that each tells a tale. Students will not only enjoy tobogganing; they will also create tracking booklets that they can keep. A visit to the Little Nature Museum will allow students to meet the feet of animals that make winter tracks. If Mother Nature does not cooperate by making snow, the animal tracking program (listed above) will be substituted.

**Summer Programs are also avail.
June 21 - August 6, 2009.**

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