



Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement Naturalist-led Programs

Enhance your visit to the BNWS with a Naturalist-led program! For day groups, programs are optional and the fee is \$4.25/participant. Overnight groups are required to schedule at least one staff-led program and the fee is \$3.25/participant.

Programs typically last about 1 to 1.5 hours (with length adaptable to meet your request). We recommend you review this list, decide which programs interest you, then call us at 763.694.7856 to agree on a program and time. Participation is optional for each guest but the minimum group fee is \$30.

Introduction to G.P.S (Max. #: 20) – Discover the fun and power of Global Positioning System (G.P.S.) technology! Through hands-on instruction learn to operate the buttons and perform basic G.P.S. functions. Use the G.P.S. to find hidden treasures throughout the park. Ages 10+.

Archery (Max. #: 20, April - November) – Learn the basics of archery and elements of safety. Spend time shooting compound bows on the archery range. Equipment is provided and fits all sizes. BNWS staff are NASP certified. Best for ages 8+

Canoeing (Max. #: 20, May – early Oct) – Begin with a basic paddling/safety lesson then get out on the water! Canoers must be at least 10 years old (only exception: if under 10 must be paired with an experienced adult). Program 1.5 hrs in length. Participants less than 50 pounds need to bring their own life jacket. Must select a back-up program if choosing canoeing.

Kayaking (Max. #: 10, May – early Oct) – Begin with a basic paddling / safety lesson, then get out on the water! Program 1.5 hours in length. Kayakers must be at least 12 years old and having some previous paddling experience is recommended. Must select a back-up program if choosing kayaking.

Snowshoeing (Max. #: 25, snow-dependent) – A great way to explore nature in winter! A brief intro to the history of snowshoes and how they work will prepare us for the hike. We'll gather a few times on the hike for some nature interpretation - and a breather! No experience needed. Must select a back-up program if choosing snowshoeing.

Finding your Way with a Compass (Max. #: 25) – After an intro to how and why a compass works, you're challenged (in teams) to find your way around our compass course.

Orienteering (Max. #: 25) – Learn how and why compasses work and how to read a topographical map. Put the compass and map skills together to navigate your way through our compass course. Ages 11+

Native American Life (Max. #: 20) – Try your hand at a few Native American traditions and technologies. May include bow-drill fire starting, atlatl throwing (hunting weapon), various games, sign language, buffalo hide pictures, twining/cord making, or snow snakes.

Team Challenge Games (Max. #: 15) – Have fun and challenge your group at the same time with a few problem solving activities (spider web, toxic waste, river crossing, trolley walkers, pipeline, etc.). Best for ages 12+

Survival Challenge (Max. #: 25) – Review basic survival needs and concepts, then the group is set in a hypothetical survival situation, given tasks (shelter-building, fire-building, signaling for help, etc. - but no more advice!) to if they can survive. Best for ages 10+

Climbing Wall (max. #: 20 per hour, April – Oct) – Attempt to scale the 25-foot wall and sound the buzzer at the top! All equipment and trained instructors provided. Waivers for each climber must be signed by parents ahead of time and brought with you when you arrive.

Feathered Friends (Max. #: 20) – We'll review binocular use, gaze at the birds at our feeders, and perhaps use a stuffed owl to introduce you to the wonder of birds and their amazing adaptations. Then we hike to see, and listen to, our feathered friends.

Bones, Furs, Feathers and Scales (Max. #: 20) – Explore the animal world through our touch and see items from mammals, birds, reptiles, etc. Get to touch furs and skulls, etc and then go for a hike to be "animal detectives". We often will introduce you to a live animal or two also!

Insects (Max. #: 20, May - Oct) – Discover how these tiny animals are incredibly successful in the huge world around them. We will use nets and jars to collect and examine close-up the insects all around us!

Poking in the Pond (Max. #: 15, April - September) – The wonderful world of water is always fun to explore! Use nets and bowls to explore the pond and catch some of the many critters that call it home. We wrap-up by viewing some of the smaller critters projected on the "big screen"!

Outdoor Evening Activities – One Hour Each

Campfire Songs and Stories (Max. #: unlimited) – Gather around the fire for some songs and stories that everyone can participate in. (If making s'mores, please do this after, not during, the program.) Fee: \$50.

Night Hike (max. #: 40, will be divided into two groups) – Explore nature at night without the use of artificial light. Listen for sounds, gaze at the stars and experience the wonders of the nocturnal world.

Indoor Evening Activities – One Hour Each

Live Raptor Presentation (Max. #: Unlimited) – Be treated to seeing a live bird of prey (either a hawk, an owl, or a falcon) presentation by one of our naturalists. Various adaptations will be discussed and there will also be some Q & A time. FEE: \$90. NOTE: Program is dependent on bird and staff availability – you must call to arrange this program.

Indoor Teambuilding (Max # 40) – Build communication, cooperation, trust and problem solving skills by working on group challenges, and playing games. Ages 10+

Owls (Max. #: 60) – View a stuffed owl; learn about nocturnal animals, predators, adaptations and food webs. Dissect a sterilized owl pellet!

NEW: Forests - (Max. #: 20) - Discover the unique natural history of the Baker Park forest during a hands-on hike. Participants will learn about the inner workings of a tree while “building” one from the roots up, master basic plant/tree identification skills and wrap things up by jointly solving and putting together a forest ecology jigsaw puzzle. Ages 6+

Outdoor Life Skills

NEW: Introduction to G.P.S (Max. #: 20) – Discover the fun and power of Global Positioning System (G.P.S.) technology! Through hands-on instruction learn to operate the buttons and perform basic G.P.S. functions. Use the G.P.S. to find hidden treasures throughout the park. Ages 10+.

Archery (Max. #: 20) - Learn the basics of shooting a bow and the elements of safety and styles of equipment. Students will have an opportunity to shoot compound bows at the archery range. All equipment provided. No experience necessary. Equipment fits all sizes and is in excellent condition. BNWS staff are NASP Certified Instructors. Ages 8+

NEW: Fishing (Max. #: 20, mid-April to mid-Oct) – Learn the basics of fishing. Spend most of the class time fishing off the pier at Lake Independence (a great place to catch Sunfish & Crappies!). We provide the gear, but you must provide the transportation. Participants under 16 do not need a license. Max. # 15. Ages 8+