



## School Program Offerings

### Eastman Nature Center

Call 763.694.7700 for reservations

Eastman Nature Center is under construction until late summer 2012. *During construction, programs will be provided in nearby Three Rivers Park District parks.* Our professional naturalist staff has designed a variety of hands-on and in-the-field units for all seasons and all ages. Most programs are designed for a 2-hour time block. Preschool-only visits have a 20-minute puppet show with a self-guided trail portion.

Lessons will be adapted for each grade level. We can shift seasons, blend topics, modify topics for your graduation standard needs, or combine topics for a full-day field experience. We want your visit to provide a unique personal learning opportunity, enhance classroom lessons, develop environmental awareness, and promote stewardship.

	<b>Fall</b> (Sept/Oct/Nov)	<b>Winter</b> (Dec/Jan/Feb)	<b>Spring</b> (Mar/Apr/May)
<b>Pre-K</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Detectives</li> <li>• Discovering Senses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animals in Winter</li> <li>• Special Valentines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Babies</li> <li>• Discovery senses</li> </ul>
<b>K-6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Homes and Winter Adaptations</li> <li>• Birds: Big and Small</li> <li>• Autumn Adventures</li> <li>• Predator and Prey</li> <li>• Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</li> <li>• Apple Cider (9/19-10/17)</li> <li>• Insects (until first frost)</li> <li>• Aquatic Life Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Homes and Winter Adaptations</li> <li>• Birds: Big and Small</li> <li>• Predator and Prey</li> <li>• Animal Tracking and Signs</li> <li>• Snowshoeing and Winter Games (grade 2+)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Babies (K-2nd)</li> <li>• Birds: Big and Small</li> <li>• Predator and Prey</li> <li>• Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</li> <li>• Insects (May only)</li> <li>• Aquatic Life Study</li> </ul>

### Chaperones

Adults are expected at a 1:10 ratio. They will not be charged, but are expected to be involved with class activities, to facilitate student involvement, and to control behavior.

### Teaching Sites

We are primarily teaching out of Fish Lake Regional Park in Maple Grove. Other possible venues are Elm Creek Park Reserve's pro-shop building or picnic shelters. Snowshoe programs will be at Eagle Lake Regional Park in Maple Grove. Program topic, group size, and season will determine park site.

### Elm Creek Play Area

The reconstructed Creative Play Area is now open. There is no extra fee if booked in conjunction with a naturalist program. Users are limited in number per day, so prior reservations are required and can be made with your booking. It is a 20-25 minute drive from the Play Area to Fish Lake Regional Park.

## Preschool Puppet Shows

One-hour, preschool-only visits include a 20-minute puppet show followed by time for a self-guided trail hike (materials/kit provided) and for individual exploration at indoor artifact/puzzle tables.

### **Discovering Senses** *Fall, Spring*

Children have built-in "tools" to explore the outdoors. A puppet show introduction focuses on different animals' senses, then students use all their senses to explore the trails on a teacher-led hike.

### **Nature Detectives** *Fall*

A delightful tale of a squirrel that has lost his prized possession. A puppet show introduces students to the park's wild animals and to the squirrel's predicament. On a teacher-led outdoor hike, students use magnifying lenses to explore the woods and find a special surprise at trail's end.

### **Animals in Winter** *Winter*

Animal puppets describe the different ways that animals survive through the winter months. Concepts such as hibernation and migration are also presented. After the show, students go on a short teacher-led hike to look for winter animal signs including tracks, scat and other clues that animals are moving around.

### **Special Valentines** *February*

One of the animal puppets is leaving behind a special valentine. Follow along with the other puppets as they discover who is leaving behind heart-shaped tracks in the snow. After the show, teachers lead students on a short hike to look for animal tracks in the snow.

### **Animal Babies** *Spring*

How do wild animals take care of their babies? A baby turtle puppet takes the students on an adventure looking for its parents; students will learn that not all animals care for their young. After the show, teachers lead a hike and play a game that matches babies to their adults.

## Kindergarten through Grade 6

### **Animal Homes and Winter Adaptations** *Fall, Winter (Puppet show available for K-2)*

Discover animal habitats. Students will define habitat and know the four essentials that all living things need. To survive the cold Minnesota winters, animals must migrate, hibernate, remain dormant, or stay active and find food. Students identify what specific animals do to survive while playing the "M.A.D.D." game. Hike to look for animal homes and signs of animal activities.

### **Birds: Big and Small** *Fall, Winter, Spring (Thursdays & Fridays only)*

Learn to identify local birds by sight and sound. Observe birds around the park and use a student-friendly graph to record species and behavior. Go hiking to look and listen for birds. (Students 3rd grade and up will use binoculars along the hike.) Depending on the season, play the migration game or try the nest match-up challenge. (Option: Meet a Great Horned Owl)

### **Autumn Adventures** *Fall*

Celebrate the season's changes. Sort and name the most common kinds of color-changing tree leaves and learn why they change. Discover diversity: what else is falling in fall? Seeds! Hike and hunt for the helicopters, boats, and hitchhikers of the seed world. Why are they important? Act out the cycle of the seasons as a seed and plant. Study our fattest, furry, seed-eater: the squirrel. Can students hide and then find acorns?

### **Predator and Prey** *Fall, Winter, Spring*

Explore the predator/prey relationship and discover the body adaptations and survival strategies that keep animals alive. Examine skulls and teeth to understand the concepts of carnivore, herbivore and omnivore. Mammal furs will be used to show the concept of camouflage and survival features. Take a trail hike to look for animals hidden along the way, and play "Oh Deer" or "Quick Frozen Critters" games. (Optional activity: Dissect owl pellets to uncover rodent bones. Group must provide pellets.)

**Reptiles and Amphibians** *Fall, Spring*

What is slimy, smooth, scaly, bumpy? Observe, compare, and contrast as you classify these two types of animals. Meet some live animals, understand their life cycles, and identify the body features that help them live. Go on a hike in search of wildlife and habitat and play some "cold blooded" games.

**Apple Cider** *Sept. 19-Oct. 17* (Fish Lake Pavilion only)

Crisp ripe apples and fresh fall air blended together in a wooden press equals apple cider. Learn the history and methods of this American tradition by making and tasting your own fresh apple cider. Listen to a story, play an apple products game, and act out pollination. (Group supplies 1-2 apples per student.)

**Insects** *September to early October, or May*

Insects are the most abundant land creatures in the world. Students will learn insect characteristics, life cycles, and how to classify them into groups. Find out about insect imposters. Use nets and jars in the field to catch bugs. Participate in an insect relay or play "bug bingo."

**Aquatic Life Study** *Early fall or spring*

Examine the diversity of life in a lake. Observe and compare water critters as students catch aquatic creatures with a net. Identify the different body characteristics of many aquatic animals and their life cycle stages. Discover the importance of wetlands and water quality, play an aquatic life game, and meet live aquatic animals.

**Animal Tracking Signs** *Winter*

Become an animal sleuth and learn to identify the signs that wild animals leave behind. Learn to distinguish different animal tracks and the patterns they make. Act out the movements of various animals and create an ink-print tracking story. Learn the meaning of the word "scat" and how to identify it using a fun matching game! Hike through the woods and put your skills to the test. (Optional activity: Create plaster tracks to take home. Group must provide the plaster and a Cool Whip-type container for each child.)

**Snowshoeing and Winter Games** *Winter* (Grades 2-6; 2.5 hours; maximum 2 classes/session)

Enjoy winter through a hike on top of the snow! Distinguish various styles of snowshoes and learn their history and uses. Students will also test their skills with active games played by Native Americans. All equipment will be provided.

**Animal Babies** *Spring* (Grades K-2)

How do wild animals take care of their babies? A baby turtle puppet takes the students on an adventure looking for its parents; students learn that not all animals care for their young. Students go on a short hike to search for colorful wooden "bunnies" which demonstrate how animal babies use camouflage to hide from danger. Play a game to match-up baby animals with the parent and talk about whether or not that adult provides care for the young.

**Additional Programs**

Special program topics, such as astronomy or weather, are available with enough notice. Call for a brochure on "outreach" topics, i.e. visits to your school site.

## Nature Center School Fees

Group Minimum	Group Maximum	Regular Program Fee
6	15	\$63
16	20	\$84
21	25	\$105
26	30	\$126
31	35	\$147
36	40	\$168
41	45	\$189
46	50	\$210
51	55	\$231
56	60	\$252
61	65	\$273
66	70	\$294
71	75	\$315
76	80	\$336
81	85	\$357
86	90	\$378
91	95	\$399
96	100	\$420
101	105	\$441
106	110	\$462
111	115	\$483
116	120	\$504

### Puppet Shows Only

Up to 35 people: \$35; up to 40 people: \$40; up to 45 people: \$45, etc. For an extra fee, naturalists will lead the outside hike portion of this activity.

### “Wonder Fund” Scholarships

Discounts are available and equal your percentage of free and reduced lunch students (minimum 30% to maximum 60%). Please inquire for an application.

### Payments

Payments are required in advance to confirm your program reservation. If you can't pay in advance, ask the secretary to note this in your booking. Full payment will be due on the day of your visit.

### Cancellation

If your group cancels prior to 60 days before the date of your scheduled visit, 50% of the payment is refundable. The payment is non-refundable if your group cancels within 60 days of the program date. You may make group size changes up to 30 days in advance of the program date.

### Weather

Dress for the weather; you will be going outside except in the case of heavy rain or severe weather approaching. Moderate rain, snow, or normal winter temperatures do not constitute extreme conditions. If wind chills are below school indoor-recess standards, we can try to re-schedule your trip.

### For reservations or questions, call 763.694.7700

Calls are answered 7 days a week: Monday-Saturday 9AM-5:00PM, Sunday 12-5:00PM