

Lowry Nature Center

































































Group Program Menu



Programs offered in FALL, WINTER or SPRING   

FALL Insects and Pond Study dates = First Day of School - mid October

SPRING Insects and Pond Study dates = mid-April - End of School Year

Topic/Grade	Kindergarten	1st-2 nd Grade	3rd-5 th Grade	6 th and Up
Birds	  	  	  	  
Dakota Lifeways <small>*2nd grade and up*</small>		 	 	 
Historic Grimm Farm	 	 	 	 
Insects	 	 	 	 
Maple Syrup <small>*March only*</small>				
Plants	 	 	 	 
Pond Study	 	 	 	 
Wilderness Skills			  	  
Winter Ecology				
PRESCHOOL	Preschool groups can take our Nature Through the Seasons class, which highlights seasonal changes through experiential learning.			

Lowry Nature Center

Group Program Descriptions



Lowry Nature Center is an environmental education facility based in Carver Park Reserve, part of Three Rivers Park District. Located near Victoria, MN, our park is situated on 3,600 acres of restored habitat featuring a diverse array of flora and fauna from three primary ecosystems: maple/basswood forest, tallgrass prairie and cattail marsh wetlands. Our team of professional naturalists specializes in outdoor, experiential learning with the mission to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system.

Helpful Information about our onsite programs

- Programs are primarily outdoors, in all non-severe weather conditions
- Classes are 1.5 to 2 hours (Groups coming for 3.5 hours or more can choose two classes)
 - 2-hour programs cost \$6 per student per class/minimum is \$90 for 15 kids
 - 4-hour programs cost \$10 per student per class/ minimum is \$150 for 15 kids
 - Preschool rates are the same, but we do not recommend programs longer than 1.5 hours
- Group ratios are typically 15 participants per 1 naturalist
- Curriculum is science and inquiry-based
- Programs can be adapted to compliment classroom learning/your group's needs
- Participants who require accessibility adaptations have options. Inquire for more information
- Financial assistance is available upon request

For more information, or if you'd like to book a program at Lowry, please contact us at 763-694-7650 or LowryNC@ThreeRiversParks.org.

Preschool

NATURE THROUGH THE SEASONS

Fall | Winter | Spring   

Let's see what nature is up to! Explore Lowry habitats with hands-on activities, sensory learning and (*if time allows*) a puppet show. Classes aim to spark curiosity and build connections with outdoor spaces. Each class will be different because the content changes with the landscape. Some of the seasonal changes we highlight include:

- Seeds
- Winter Tracks and Trails
- Fall/Spring Migration
- Making Maple Syrup
- Preparing for Winter
- Waking up for Spring

Kindergarten

***Kindergarten classes typically begin with a large group INDOOR puppet show before splitting into small groups for outdoor exploration.*

BIRDS: BIRD BASICS

Fall | Winter | Spring   

What makes a bird a bird? See some of the wild birds who call Lowry home and observe what makes them similar or different. Learn what all birds have in common and the habitat they need to survive.

HISTORIC GRIMM FARM

Fall | Spring  

***Class takes place at the historic Grimm farmhouse in Carver Park Reserve (NOT Lowry Nature Center)*
Step into the past in a restored 1870s farmhouse. Learn the story of Wendelin Grimm's immigration from Germany to Minnesota and how Grimm alfalfa changed the American dairy industry. Compare 19th century life to today through hands-on activities both in- and outdoors.

INSECTS

Fall | Spring  

Let's learn about BUGS! In this class, we explore what all insects have in common and the habitats where insects can be found. We also use tools to collect insects and see them up close. Class includes hands-on field observation and exploration.

MAPLE SYRUP: A MINNESOTA TRADITION

Winter 

Experience the Minnesota tradition of making maple syrup! Activities can include learning to identify a sugar maple, exploring tools for tapping trees and the process of boiling sap, and tasting some of Lowry's award-winning maple syrup.

Kindergarten

***Kindergarten classes typically begin with a large group INDOOR puppet show before splitting into small groups for outdoor exploration.*

PLANTS

Fall | Spring  

Learn about plant parts and their function and explore the different habitats where they grow! Seek out different shapes, sizes and colors on plants. Collect and compare leaves, seeds, or flowers. This class focuses on hands-on exploration of the plant world.

POND: LIFE IN THE POND

Fall | Spring  

Life in the pond is never dull. Learn what makes a pond a pond, collect living creatures from the water and meet an animal from the pond. See what the living things in a pond need to survive. **This class can include meeting one of Lowry's live reptiles or amphibians.*

WINTER ECOLOGY: LIFE IN WINTER

Winter 

Winter is a unique and special time to be outside. Explore how weather, food and travel change for the creatures who live on the ice and snow. Be sure to dress for the outdoors! In this class we embrace the cold.

***Pending conditions, this class can include ONE recreation activity: downhill sledding OR kicksledding*

1st-2nd Grade

***First grade classes may begin with a large group INDOOR puppet show before splitting into small groups for outdoor exploration. There are instances where puppet shows will not occur in first grade classes. Please discuss with your planning naturalist if a puppet show is of interest for your first grade visit.*

BIRDS: A BIRD'S LIFE

Fall | Winter | Spring   

The egg came first... explore a bird's journey from egg to adulthood and identify what makes birds different from any other animal. Look for signs of birds in nature.

**This class can include meeting one of Lowry's live raptors.*

DAKOTA LIFEWAYS: MITAKUYE OWASIN

Fall | Spring  

***This class is a full day (4.5-hour) program for 2nd grade and up and does not include a puppet show*

Explore Minnesota's natural history through historic lifeways of the Dakota people.

Discover local plants and animals and the Dakota belief of Mitakuye Owasin—we are all related. Learn Dakota words connected to the natural world. Visit a tipi, play traditional games, learn to make twine and gather plants to make tea.

HISTORIC GRIMM FARM

Fall | Spring  

***Class takes place at the historic Grimm farmhouse in Carver Park Reserve (NOT Lowry Nature Center)*

Step into the past in a restored 1870s farmhouse. Learn the story of Wendelin Grimm's immigration from Germany to Minnesota and how Grimm alfalfa changed the American dairy industry. Compare 19th century life to today through hands-on activities both in- and outdoors.

INSECTS: NOT JUST BUGS

Fall | Spring  

Explore the life cycle of an insect and the features that make them unique. Class includes (gentle) hands-on learning opportunities for students to study Minnesota's largest group of animals up close.

1st-2nd Grade

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MAPLE SYRUP: A MINNESOTA TRADITION

Winter 

Experience the Minnesota tradition of making maple syrup! Activities can include learning to identify a sugar maple, exploring tools for tapping trees and the process of boiling sap and tasting some of Lowry's award-winning maple syrup.

PLANTS: SEEDS AND CYCLES

Fall | Spring  

What makes a plant a plant? What does a seed NEED to survive? Learn about plant parts and their function, discover what plants need to grow and observe which plants grow in different habitats. This class focuses on hands-on learning and interaction with plants.

POND: LIFE IN THE POND

Fall | Spring  

Life in the pond is never dull. Assess your knowledge about ponds, visit the water and collect living creatures from its depths, observe creatures big and small up close and discuss what the living things in a pond need to survive.

**This class can include meeting one of Lowry's live reptiles or amphibians.*

WINTER ECOLOGY: STAYING WARM

Winter 

Winter is a unique and special time to be outside. Explore how weather, food and travel change for the creatures who live on the ice and snow. Be sure to dress for the outdoors! In this class we embrace the cold.

3rd-5th Grade

BIRDS: BANDING AND MIGRATION

Fall | Spring  

As seasons change a wondrous event occurs! Learn how birds prepare for migration and what the long journey entails. Observe bird banding (Lowry's longest ongoing citizen science project) and find out how YOU can support migrating birds.

BIRDS: RAPTORS

Fall | Winter | Spring   

Few in the bird world can call themselves a raptor. Learn three key traits all raptors have in common and how different bodies and behaviors help birds survive. This class includes meeting one of Lowry's live birds.

DAKOTA LIFEWAYS: MITAKUYE OWASIN

Fall | Spring  

***This class is a full day (4.5-hour) program*

Explore Minnesota's natural history through historic lifeways of the Dakota people. Discover local plants and animals and the Dakota belief of Mitakuye Owasin—we are all related. Learn Dakota words connected to the natural world. Visit a tipi, play traditional games, learn to make twine and gather plants to make tea.

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INSECTS IN OUR WORLD

Fall | Spring  

The world needs insects....right? Discover the traits all insects have in common and review their life cycles. Collect insects and observe the traits they use to survive in their environments. Consider the roles insects play in our world and how we can help them.

3rd-5th Grade

MAPLE SYRUP: A MINNESOTA TRADITION

Winter 

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PLANTS: SEEDS AND CYCLES

Fall | Spring  

What does a plant NEED to survive? Review plant parts and their function and observe traits of plants in different habitats. Explore how seeds grow and disperse. This class focuses on hands-on learning and interaction with plants.

PLANTS: TREE ID AND ADAPTATIONS

Fall | Winter | Spring   

***This class is for 4th grade and up*

Plants use adaptations to survive in different environments. Learn to use a dichotomous key and identify different tree species from their inherited traits. Compare and contrast how those traits help the trees survive.

POND STUDY

Fall | Spring  

Is a pond an ecosystem? Visit a wetland and identify the living things that call it home. Study relationships between the plants and animals and decide if this environment is its own system.

WILDERNESS SKILLS

Fall | Winter | Spring   

Let's get back to basics! This class explores the Rule of 3s and basic human needs, essentials for constructing a shelter and how to build a fire. Program includes hands-on practice. This is an excellent course for team-building, problem-solving and engineering.

3rd-5th Grade

WINTER ECOLOGY: TRACKS AND TRAILS

Winter 

There is a constant battle being fought in nature: eat or be eaten. Learn how energy cycles through food webs and how to follow tracks to read the story of the landscape.

WINTER ECOLOGY: LIFE ON THE ICE

Winter 

There are only so many places you can walk across a lake. Use tools to study the ice. Learn what lives under the ice. Discover how living things adapt to survive and thrive through Minnesota's coldest months.

6th Grade and up

BIRDS: BANDING AND MIGRATION

Fall | Spring  

Observe bird banding (Lowry's longest ongoing citizen science project), discuss the science behind migration, hike with binoculars to look for birds and find out how YOU can support migrating birds.

BIRDS: RAPTORS

Fall | Winter | Spring   

Learn three key traits all raptors have in common, explore how different bodies and behaviors help birds survive, enjoy bird adaptation activities and meet one of the live raptors that call Lowry home.

DAKOTA LIFEWAYS: MITAKUYE OWASIN

Fall | Spring  

***This class is a full day (4.5-hour) program*

Explore Minnesota's natural history through historic lifeways of the Dakota people. Discover local plants and animals and the Dakota belief of Mitakuye Owasin—we are all related. Learn Dakota words connected to the natural world. Visit a tipi, play traditional games, learn to make twine and gather plants to make tea.

HISTORIC GRIMM FARMHOUSE

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PLANTS: SEEDS AND CYCLES

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What does a plant NEED to survive? Review plant parts and their function, and observe traits of plants in different habitats. Explore how seeds grow and disperse. This class focuses on hands-on learning and interaction with plants.

PLANTS: TREE ID AND ADAPTATIONS

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Plants use adaptations to survive in different environments. Learn to use a dichotomous key and identify different tree species from their inherited traits. Compare and contrast how those traits help the trees survive.

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Popular Full-day Program Combos

Full-day programs are a 4.5 hour time commitment. 2 hours in the morning, 30 minutes for lunch, and 2 hours in the afternoon.

BIRD DAY

Fall | Winter | Spring   

- BANDING AND MIGRATION featuring bird banding, migration game and binocular hike
- RAPTORS featuring bird traits, adaptation activities and meeting a live raptor

BUG DAY

Fall | Spring  

**Fall bug days are offered First Day of School - mid October

**Spring bug days are offered mid April - end of School Year

- INSECTS featuring insect traits, sweep netting and meeting an insect eater
- POND STUDY featuring pond forms, dip netting and ecosystems

FIRE AND ICE DAY

Winter 

- WINTER ECOLOGY featuring kicksledding and ice study OR tracks and trails
- WILDERNESS SKILLS featuring fort- and firebuilding

SHELTERS AND SYRUP DAY

Winter 

- MAPLE SYRUP featuring maple tree ID, tapping, sap collection and tasting
- WILDERNESS SKILLS featuring fort- and firebuilding