Lowry Nature Center
Group Program Menu

Programs offered in FALL, WINTER or SPRING

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**Preschool**
Preschool groups can take our Nature Through the Seasons class, which highlights seasonal changes through experiential learning.

**6th Grade and up**
We can cater any of our listed topics to older students.
Lowry Nature Center is an environmental education facility based in Carver Park Reserve of the 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.

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

- Classes are 1.5 to 2 hours (Groups coming for 3.5 hours or more can choose two classes)
- $4.80 per student per class/Minimum is $72 or 15 kids (rates will change July 1, 2022)
- Group ratios are typically 15 participants : 1 naturalist
- Curriculum is science inquiry based
- Additional topics can be added to your trip to fit your group's needs
- Participants who require accessibility adaptions have options. Inquire for more information
- We can adapt any program to suit older student and adult audiences
- Financial assistance is available upon request

NATURE THROUGH THE SEASONS

Fall | Winter | Spring 🍃❄️🌱

Explore habitats around Lowry Nature Center and see what nature is up to! Every class will be different because the content changes with the landscape, but groups can expect hands-on activities and sensory exploration meant to spark curiosity and build connection with outdoor spaces. Some of the seasonal changes we highlight include:

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

PLANTS: SEEDS AND SPROUTS
Fall | Spring 🌿 🌼
Meet a new green friend during this class about plants! Observe the colors, shapes, sizes (and even smells!) plants come in. Learn what these living things need to grow and how plants help creatures like you grow too.

WINTER ECOLOGY: LIFE IN WINTER
Winter 🌨
Does it feel colder today? Why does it get dark so early? What is snow? Explore the frozen world and find answers to these questions (and more!) in this class all about winter. Discover what the animals do to survive the cold and how YOU can prepare for winter weather.

BIRDS: BIRD BASICS
Fall | Winter | Spring 🌿 🌨 🌼
A bird is a bird is a bird...or is it? 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 what kind of habitat they need to survive.

MAPLE SYRUP: A MINNESOTA TRADITION
Spring 🌿
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.
1st-2nd Grade

**INSECTS: NOT JUST BUGS**
Fall | Spring 🍂 📈
What makes an insect? 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.

**POND: LIFE IN THE POND**
Fall | Spring 🍂 📈
Life in the pond is never dull. Learn about aquatic life cycles for creatures who live both under water and on land. See what the living things in a pond need to survive.
*This class can include meeting one of Lowry's live reptiles or amphibians.*

**PLANTS: SEEDS AND CYCLES**
Fall | Spring 🍂 📈
All plants have structures that help them survive. Learn the parts of a plant and how to identify those parts on different species. Discover seeds and how plants make more plants. This class is all about what plants need to grow and how WE can help them.

**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.*
1st-2nd Grade

WINTER ECOLOGY: STAYING WARM
Winter 🌨
Plants and animals use different features to conserve energy and stay warm in winter. Learn how fur, feathers and other forms of insulation protect living things (including humans!) from the cold.

MAPLE SYRUP: A MINNESOTA TRADITION
Spring 🌿
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.
3rd-5th Grade

INSECTS: COLLECTION AND CLASSIFICATION
Fall | Spring 🍃 🌿
What's the difference between a dragonfly and a damselfly? Collect insects and observe the unique traits they have developed to survive in their environments. Students will also learn how humans use these traits to classify different insect groups.

POND: 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.

PLANTS: SEEDS
Fall | Spring 🍃 🌿
Explore the Lowry trails as Minnesota's plants drop their seeds before winter. Collect seeds in a variety of habitats and learn unique strategies for when and how they're dispersed.

PLANTS: TREE ID AND ADAPTATIONS
Fall | Winter | Spring 🍃 🍁 🌿
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. (This class is for 4th grade and up)

BIRDS: BANDING AND MIGRATION
Fall | Spring 🍃 🌿
As seasons change a wonderous 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.
3rd-5th Grade

**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.

**WILDERNESS SKILLS: FORTS AND FIRES**
Fall | Winter | Spring 🍁 🌱 🌬
Set up a wilderness encampment with your peers. Activities can include the Rule of 3s for basic human needs, essentials for constructing a shelter, and how to build a fire. This is an excellent course for team-building, problem-solving and engineering.
*The BASIC class is 2 hours and includes forts OR fires
*The EXTENDED class is 3+ hours and includes forts AND fires

**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.

**MAPLE SYRUP: A MINNESOTA TRADITION**
Spring 🌱
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.