

Scheduled Group Programs

Art and Environmental Education



Silverwood Park is a regional center for arts and the environment located in St. Anthony, MN, near the creative arts district of Northeast Minneapolis. As a part of Three Rivers Park District, Silverwood's team of interpretive naturalists and teaching artists promote environmental stewardship through year-round arts- and nature-integrated programs designed for youth, family and adult audiences.

SCHEDULED GROUP PROGRAM PRICING

Scheduled programs start at \$5.50 per participant (up to 1 hour) or \$7.50 per participant (1–2 hours), and a minimum fee is collected for up to the first 15 participants. Any of the listed programs may be held on-site (at Silverwood Park), while programs denoted with "***" may also be offered in an off-site setting away from the park, with an added \$90.00 travel fee per visit. For more information on fee assistance, please visit: <https://www.threeriversparks.org/page/program-fee-assistance>.

BUILDING A PROGRAM FOR YOUR NEEDS

Where applicable, group capacity, minimum ages and seasonality of programs are listed under each program. Some programs may be combined or modified to accommodate a larger group size over a longer duration. Please contact us to learn more about creating a program which will fit your group's schedule or size.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE A PROGRAM

Contact David Donovan, Silverwood Program Coordinator
763-694-2065 | David.Donovan@ThreeRiversParks.org

PATTERNS IN NATURE**

Grades: K+ | 1.5 hours | Capacity: 32 students

Explore incredible patterns from across the natural world. From the patterns we see in the tiniest ice crystals as they form into snowflakes, to enormous shapes we see in hurricanes and even galaxies. We will use science and art to describe and compare the patterns we see, including common shapes and properties such as bilateral and radial symmetry. Students will create geometric artwork inspired by the patterns we observe.

TESSELLATIONS AND SCALES**

Grades: 1+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 32 students

Discover the unique advantages scales provide to a diverse range of living things, from fish and birds to reptiles, butterflies and even plants. We will take a close-up view of these structures, observing how they fit together across an entire organism like a puzzle. Then, we will create our own art through this geometric process known as "tessellation".



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MUSHROOMS AND GELLI PRINTING

Grades: K+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 32 students

Is a mushroom more like a plant, an animal? Together, we may just find out why fungi occupy their own kingdom entirely. We will examine artifacts and set out on a hike to uncover the unique role in the ecosystem fungus plays. Then, students will creatively experiment with a form of printmaking known as gelli printing, capturing the smallest details of natural objects through the artmaking process.

ANIMAL TRACKS AND RELIEF PRINTING**

Grades: 1+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 32 students

Find out what we can learn by examining all of the nature clues left behind by animals in nature. Learn how a set of animal tracks can help us estimate the size of an animal, where they might be going and why, as well as how the animal moves. Our adventures will inform our art making, as we express our discoveries through a process called "relief printing" in which students will design, carve, ink and print their own images.

MAMMALS AND 3-D BOOK MAKING**

Grades: 1+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 32 students

What do humans have in common with animals like a gray squirrel, whitetail deer or a red fox? We will investigate what makes a mammal a mammal, drawing on the furry creatures that call Minnesota home. To tell the story of these animals, we will create our own unique book structures using flat paper structures layered to create three-dimensional compositions where we will place our mammals into their own habitats.

FELTING AND ANIMAL ARCHITECTS**

Grades: K+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 32 students

Investigate the incredible engineers and architects from the natural world. We will learn about the big roles these often small animals play in their ecosystems, whether they burrow underground, tunnel below tree bark, chew on wood, or weave delicate nests and webs. Students will examine natural artifacts in the classroom, uncover evidence on a hike, then create a colorful fiber arts project inspired by the cup-shaped nests built by some birds.

OWLS IN FELT

Grades: K+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 32 students

Step into the life of owls to understand what makes these birds of prey truly unique, from their silent flight to senses which allow them to see and hear the world around them even in the dark of night. Students will explore artifacts up close before getting out in the park to visit habitats where these birds live. We will creatively reflect on what we learn and observe by creating colorfully felted owls using natural wool and traditional techniques.

SPIDERWEB EMBROIDERY**

Grades: 1+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 24 students

Can you spot the difference between a cobweb and a sheet web? How about funnel web and an orb weaver? Together, we will peer into the fascinating world of spiders to understand how they construct such intricate webs and how these structures are used to help them survive in their habitats. Students will then create their own webs using basic embroidery techniques, adding a spider and even some other critters the web has caught.



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TEXTURES IN NATURE AND CLAY

Grades: Pre-K+ | 1.5 hours | Capacity: 32 students

How does a pinecone feel? Which trees have rougher bark? Why do leaves have bumpy veins? Explore the park and discover textures in nature. Students will collect natural materials on a hike and head into the studio to make clay impression tiles (Grades Pre-K to 3) or cups (Grades 4+) with their collected materials.

Fired clay projects will be ready for pickup within three weeks after a group's scheduled program.

ROCK YOUR ART: GEOLOGY AND CLAY

Grades: 1+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 32 students

Do you like to search for unique rocks such as agates? Do you wonder where some of the spectacular patterns in rocks such as these come from? We will investigate what is special about Minnesota's geology and how different rocks and minerals occur in nature. Inspired by colors and geological processes, we will create our own marbled clay bowls by combining two different clays into a bowl form.

Fired clay projects will be ready for pickup within three weeks after a group's scheduled program.

CLAY KEEPSAKE CABINETS

Grades: 4+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 18 students

Are you a collector of interesting objects? Is there a certain way you keep your collection organized? Silverwood Naturalists have quite the collection of artifacts from across the natural world! We will examine the most curious objects and learn how different scientists might approach grouping them by their various properties they have in common. Students will make a clay curiosity cabinet to organize and display objects from their own collection.

Fired clay projects will be ready for pickup within three weeks after a group's scheduled program.



HANDMADE PAPER AND DECOMPOSERS

Grades: K+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 48 students

Take an up-close look at a vital part of any ecosystem: decomposers! Learn how these small but mighty organisms help to break down natural materials to make nutrients available to other creatures and keep the whole cycle turning. We will take a page out of their book and learn how recycled fibers can be broken and reformed to create our own handmade paper to take home.

WATERCOLOR AND METAL TOOLED FISH

Grades: 1+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 48 students

Dive into the aquatic habitats found across Minnesota, the land of 10,000 lakes. Here on the shores of Silver Lake, we will take a look at what makes this resource such a special habitat to many plants and animals on and under the surface. We will create our own aquatic artwork using watercolor, then add a shimmering fish inhabitant to the scene using a process called "metal tooling", in which designs are pressed into a metal surface that is then decorated with colorful inks.

BUTTERFLIES AND FAUX-STAINED GLASS**

Grades: 3+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 32 students

Take a journey through art history to understand the popular movement known as "Art Nouveau." Like other artists of this style, we will draw our influence from the natural world, using colors, forms, and subjects seen in plants, flowers and insects such as butterflies. At the end of our class, students will have created their own faux-stained glass pieces to display and illuminate their home.



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REFLECT ON WATER THROUGH GLASS ART

Grades: 3+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 24 students

Join an artist and a naturalist to experience the elemental forces of water and artmaking with glass. Together, we will consider an essential ingredient to all known life, water, as we explore all of its forms, from solid ice, liquid water and gaseous vapor. We will reflect on our learning using the similarly fluid media, glass, as we collage colorful, cut pieces then fuse them in the heat of the kiln.

Fired glass projects will be ready for pickup within three weeks after a group's scheduled program.

BATS AND SCRATCHBOARD MOBILES**

Grades: 1+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 48 students

Take flight and learn about the lives of bats! Handle artifacts in the classroom to learn more about how a bat's body helps them to navigate and move around their world. Students will experience the process of echolocation by creating a visual sound map of their surroundings. Then, we will scratch, cut and assemble our own bat mobiles (hanging, balanced sculptures that spin) using colorful scratchboard elements inspired by our furry flying friends of the night.



TREE SCIENCE AND WOOD CARVING

Grades: 4+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 32 students

Do you have a favorite tree that you like to climb or sit under? We will explore what goes on under the bark or below the ground, then learn how to decorate our own artistic creations through the traditional Scandinavian wood carving technique known as "kolrosing", where a design is etched into a wood surface and colorful materials are pressed into the design to bring it out.

FIREBUILDING AND CHARCOAL DRAWING

Grades: 1+ | 2 hours | Capacity: 24 students

Spark up a new skill and ignite your curiosity as we learn the safety and basic techniques involved in building a fire. During the program, students will use fire and naturally harvested plant materials to create the charcoal they will use to then create spectacular still-life or landscape drawings.

GUIDED NATURE OR SCULPTURE WALK

Grades: K+ | 0.5-1.5 hours | Capacity: 24 students

Join in a guided hike in the park to explore the seasonal changes in habitats such as the pond, forest, lake and prairie. Along the way, we will also discover unique art installations along the trails, including sculpture and poetry. This program feature can be a stand-alone offering or easily added onto another program to increase capacity or program length. During winter, this program may also include kicksledding or snowshoeing if weather conditions allow.



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