Silverwood Park is a center for the arts and environment devoted to the integration of nature-based experiences and artistic creation. Since its opening in 2009, Silverwood artists and naturalists have teamed up to create unique art programs for people of all ages and abilities.

Regular Program Fee
$78.00 minimum per group or $6.50 per student for a 1-2 hour program
*Financial and Transportation Assistance Available

All programs may be scheduled year-round unless seasonally noted.

Rock Your Art - Geology Clay
Do your youth like to look for agates? Search for stones of special shapes or colors? Our naturalist will tell you about patterns and colors found in rocks and why they look like they do. Join our artist in the fun of marbling clay and forming it into a bowl. Natural and artmaking tools are provided so creativity and learning can flourish.
Grades 1-12, 2 hours

Maple Syrup and Hydrodynamic Painting – STEM to STEAM
Learn the history and techniques of maple syruping along with how it relates to the physics of hydraulics and pressure. Watch how trees are tapped and how the sap is collected. See equipment and taste the final product. Youth will join our instructors in learning more in depth about fluid mechanics, hydraulics, and pressure. Use straws, tubes, and physics to create hydrodynamic paintings.
Grades K-12, 2 hours, Season: Spring only

Stars, Stories, and Shadow Puppets
Do your youth love to look at the stars and imagine what is in space? Our naturalist and artist will bring the science and art of the constellations and our solar system to this program. Learn about astronomy and constellations from our Naturalist. Craft your own stellar story, then create constellation shadow puppets based on those stories using a shadow puppet screen. Imagine what you can see in the night sky.
Grades K-12, 2 hours

Forecast Calls for Art
Our naturalist and artist are ready to share the science of stormy weather and show your youth how it can inspire your art. You’ll create a ‘cloud cup’ light that’ll glow brightly the next time clouds roll in and learn the basics of drawing using symbols and shapes meteorologists use. All science tools and art materials are provided.
Grades 1-12, 1.5 hours

Mask Making, Patterns in Nature, and Gustav Klimt
Create a whimsical mask using your imagination, markers, decorative paper, and more. Learn about Gustav Klimt, a symbolist painter who used patterns from nature in his work. Then, our naturalist will tell you about patterns and colors found in nature and why they look like they do.
Grades 1-12, 1.5 hours

Trick Photography: Reflections, Refractions, and Trick Photography
Our artist and naturalist will bring many tools and gadgets so youth can explore, play, learn, and create art with light. Bend light, cast rainbows, shoot a trick photograph, or warp space. All kinds of sci-art fun will happen in this program. Lights, cameras, lenses, reflectors, refractors, and more are provided.
Grades K-12, 2 hours
Minnesota Heritage
Youth will learn about Minnesota’s history, heritage, and traditions as it relates to our natural resources. Learn the history of the fur trade, hunting, trapping, and exploring with our naturalist. Afterwards, head back to the future to create a Minnesota history collage using mixed media art processes.
Grades 1-12, 2 hours

Fish Frenzy Puppets
Learn from our naturalist about the fascinating and sometimes freaky-looking creatures found in Minnesota lakes and ponds. Join our artist in making a fantastical fish puppet from paper bags, wire, and color to show your friends and family.
Grades K-6, 1.5 hours

Wind Power
Silverwood educators will bring in the coolest science and art tools so you can explore, play, and learn about the energy that comes from the wind. Youth will have fun creating their own colorful propellers and then test how much energy they capture. Make a take-home pin-wheel and get ready to have a mind-blowing time!
Grades 1-8, 1.5 hours

Entomology Printing and Nature Journal
Aren’t insects interesting?! Youth will join in learning about insect adaptations to survive in Minnesota! See our Silverwood insect collection, learn how insects are classified, and go bug hunting with our naturalist. Then, join our artist in creating eco-friendly insect prints using balsa wood and printing ink to create a cover for a natural journal. Youth leaders and teachers will be supplied with journal prompts to use later in the classroom.
Grades K-12, 1.5 or 2 hours, Season: Spring, Summer only

Explore Seeds: Plantable Paper
Look at the life cycle of a seed and learn how and why different seeds travel. Compare different seeds while hiking through a variety of habitats at Silverwood. Add seeds to your paper pulp to create beautiful and functional handmade paper. Plant your paper and watch it grow!
Grades K-12, 2 hours, Season: Spring, Summer only

Clay Texture Tiles or Mugs
How does a pine cone feel? Which trees have rough bark? Why do leaves have bumpy veins? Explore the park and discover textures in nature. Students will collect pine cones, acorns, sticks, or leaves on a hike and head into the studio to make clay impression tiles with their materials. Clay projects will be ready for pick up 3 weeks following your visit.
Grades K-3 (tiles), Grades 4-12 (mugs), 1.5 hours

Photography: Through the Eyes of an Animal
Consider what it’s like to walk and think like an animal or insect. Choose a creature that lives at Silverwood and with camera ready, move and see like that animal. Where do you sleep? What do you eat? How big or small are you? Record your experiences with photographs. Cameras provided.
Grades 1-12, 2 hours, Season: Spring, Summer, Fall only

Photography: Light and Life Cycle
Head outside to discover how photographing plants and trees will help you to look and see more than you’ve ever noticed before. Discover how plants, trees and photographs all depend on light. Use the camera to document a plant life cycle. Cameras provided.
Grades 1-12, 2 hours, Season: Spring, Summer only

Clay Animal Habitat
Through class discussion and field exploration, we will investigate the four basic components of habitat: shelter, water, food, space. Inspired by our discoveries, we’ll make toad abodes, bird feeders, or mini-habitats. Clay projects will be ready for pick up 3 weeks following your visit.
Grades 4-12, 2 hours

Fibonacci
Learn about how nature is connected to math! What is the Fibonacci sequence and how is it related to tree branches? Through class discussion, youth will learn about the Fibonacci sequence and where it is found in nature. Interactive art projects that show how Fibonacci is present in nature will be created. End by creating a viewfinder book and hiking outside to find more examples of Fibonacci.
Grades 4-12, 2 hours