

Silverwood Park - School Program Offerings

For reservations call 763.694.7707

Silverwood Park is a regional center for the arts and the environment, devoted to the integration of nature-based experiences and artistic creation. Explore the park through our program themes. Professional artists will create an experience with in-depth and hands-on activities that will highlight your chosen theme. We invite you to explore the wonders of the natural world through the arts!

Silverwood's white oak forest, lakeside setting, and accessible trails offer opportunity for inspiration, exploration, and connection to the natural world. Through classes, events, indoor & outdoor exhibition space, and performances, the park provides programming that uses art making as a vehicle for teaching respect for the environment and reconnecting with the natural world

Curriculum standards have been identified for each program listed. You can *request* our detailed standards chart to help aid you in your decision. The programs have been adapted for each grade level and address the grade's graduated standard needs. However, we can likely modify a given topic to a different grade level, as well. We want your visit to provide a unique personal learning opportunity, to enhance classroom lessons, to develop environmental awareness, and to promote stewardship.

	Fall (Sept/Oct/Nov)	Winter (Dec/Jan/Feb)	Spring (Mar/Apr/May)
Pre-K Puppet Shows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper Explorations • Clay Texture Tiles • Printmaking – fish Printing • Bookmaking • Autumn Wonders • Animals in Clay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper Explorations • Clay Texture Tiles • Printmaking – fish Printing • Bookmaking • Snow Explorations • Animals in Clay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper Explorations • Clay Texture Tiles • Printmaking – fish Printing • Bookmaking • Spring Breeze • Summer Butterflies (June – August) • Animals in Clay
Grades K-3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Journaling • Papermaking • Bookmaking – Trees • Fish Printing • Clay Tiles • Animals in Clay • Photography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Journaling • Papermaking • Bookmaking –Trees • Fish Printing • Clay Tiles • Animals in Clay • Photography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Journaling • Papermaking • Bookmaking – Trees • Fish Printing • Clay Tiles • Animals in Clay • Photography
Grades 4th-6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Journaling • Papermaking • Bookmaking –Trees • Clay Mugs • Animals in Clay • Photography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Journaling • Papermaking • Bookmaking – Trees • Clay Mugs • Animals in Clay • Photography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Journaling • Papermaking • Bookmaking – Trees • Clay Mugs • Animals in Clay • Photography
Grades 7 - 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Journaling • Papermaking • Clay Mugs • Animals in Clay • Photography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Journaling • Papermaking • Clay Mugs • Animals in Clay • Photography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Journaling • Papermaking • Clay Mugs • Animals in Clay • Photography

Preschool

Paper Explorations

Discover how paper is made using recycled materials, plant fibers, and even seeds! Your visit will include a hike to collect natural materials, look for seeds, and talk about some of nature's paper makers. Each student will create two pieces of handmade paper. 1.5 hours

Clay Texture Tiles

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 from their materials. 1.5 hours

Printmaking: Fish printing

Explore the Japanese art of *Gyotaku* – fish printing. Japanese fisherman printed their fish to document their catch. How do we record our fish today? Learn what makes a fish a fish, what types of fish live in Silver Lake and spend time exploring Silverwood wetlands. Students will create detailed prints of native fish (rubber reproductions) and illustrate their natural habitats. 1.5 hours

Bookmaking

What kinds of animals live at Silverwood Park? Go on a hike to search for some of our forest friends: look for evidence of wildlife, feel feathers, listen for frogs, look for animal tracks. Following our outdoor experience students will create and decorate an animal inspired book! 1.5 hours

Spring Breeze

Join us for an exciting day of exploration and art as we learn all about wind. Create your own wind art, learn how seeds use wind to travel and blow giant bubbles! (March—May) 1.5 hours

Summer Butterflies

Hike through our prairie in search of butterflies. Learn about their life cycle, how far they can travel, and what types of plants they love. Create a butterfly work of art exploring color and pattern. (June—August) 1.5 hours

Autumn Wonders

Fall is a wonderful time at Silverwood Park! The animals are preparing for winter and the trees are too! During your visit we will look for signs of fall, collect leaves, and make leaf prints. (September—November) 1.5 hours

Snow Explorations

Bundle up and head outside for adventures in the snow! The snow will be your canvas as we paint, sculpt, and get creative with winter. Make a winter wonderland painting with ice cubes and a snowman necklace the birds will love! (December—February) 1.5 hours

School Curriculum Program Descriptions

Nature Journaling

Examine nature through the eye of an artist! Observational drawing and scientific notation are tools that encourage looking closely and recording what you experience. Create a nature journal of your very own and head outside to draw and write about what you see, hear, smell and wonder. Areas of focus may include: the seasons, plants, trees, and water. Grades 1 – 12. 2 hours

Papermaking

Discover how paper is made using recycled materials and plant fibers. Learn about the history of papermaking and create two pieces of handmade paper.

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

Papermaking with Invasive/Non-Native Plants

Consider how an ecosystem is changed when an invasive or non-native species moves in. Understand how these new species are introduced to the Minnesota landscape and how they have adapted to a new environment. Harvest these alien invader plants at the park and put them to good use by creating botanical papers. Grades K – 12. 2 hours

Nature's Papermakers: The Wasp

Did you know wasps are nature's papermakers? Learn more about these amazing creatures and how they use saliva to build nests. Examine a wasp's nest under a microscope. Compare and contrast wasp papermaking techniques and artist papermaking techniques in our studio. Each student will make two pieces of paper using recycled materials and natural items collected in the park. Grades K – 6. 2 hours

Bookmaking: Trees

Discover the importance of Silverwood Park's Oak Forest through the creation of a tree-inspired book. Hike to observe and identify some of Minnesota's native trees and create bark rubbings for your book's cover. Learn about the many ways animals and people use trees, how to identify a dead or dying tree, and explore what happens under a rotting log! Add your new knowledge to your book in the form of drawings, writing, poetry, or even nature riddles! Grades K - 6. 2 hours

Fish Printing

Explore the Japanese art of *Gyotaku* – fish printing. Japanese fisherman printed their fish to document their catch. How do we record our fish today? Learn about fish anatomy, what types of fish live in Silver Lake and explore Silverwood's wetlands with buckets and nets. Students will create detailed prints of native fish (rubber reproductions) and illustrate their natural habitats. Grades K - 3. 2 hours

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. Grades K - 3 (tiles), Grades 4—12 (mugs). 1.5 hours

Animals in Clay

Learn about the geology of clay formation while exploring the animal world. Create ceramic sculpture and decorate it with colorful matte underglazes.

Bird Rattles

Grab binoculars and hike into the woods, looking for birds, bird homes, and listening for unique calls. Learn about bird anatomy, habitat, and ways to identify our feathered friends. Afterwards, use your new knowledge to create bird-inspired clay rattles. Grades 3 - 8. 3 hours

Fish in Relief

Develop a better understanding of aquatic life as you participate in an outdoor pond or indoor minnow study (season/weather permitting). Learn about fish anatomy, adaptations and habitat. Create your own fish plaque using clay. Grades 1 - 4. 3 hours

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. Grades 4 - 12. 3 hours

Landscape Photography

What can photography teach us about the landscape? Learn how landscape photographers use photos of the environment to motivate society to care and protect our natural resources. Head outdoors for a photo/nature scavenger hunt within the oak forest, savannah and lakeshore ecosystems. Cameras Provided Grades 1 - 12. 3 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. Grades 1—12. 3 hours
Cameras Provided

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. 3 hours, offered seasonally

Custom Programs

Educational programs for all ages incorporate hands-on curriculum based art and nature experiences to provide an enriching field trip directly linked to the multi-disciplinary learning needs of your group. If desired, a naturalist-artist educator can adapt programs to more closely meet your needs by specifically focusing on a particular area of interest.

Fees

Regular Program Fee \$75 minimum per group or:

\$6.25 per student per 1-2 hour program

\$8.00 per student per 3 hour program

\$10.00 per student per 4 hour program

\$50.00 Additional firing fee for all clay programs

Financial Assistance Available

Reservations or questions, call 763.694.7707

**Silverwood Park
2500 County Road E West
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