The interpretive staff adjusts program schedules the day of your program if the weather is unfavorable. We do not cancel programs if it is raining or snowing. We ask that teachers and chaperones ensure that students are dressed appropriately for the weather.

About St. Joseph County Parks Interpretive Programs
At our Interpretive Programs, your students experience nature and cultural heritage through hands-on, active learning. Students gain a greater understanding of the importance of conserving natural resources and practicing sound stewardship.

Programs led by Park Interpreters enhance grade-level interdisciplinary curricula. Pre-visit materials are included to broaden the experience beyond the park visit.

Group Size
Group sizes are limited to a ratio of 15 students to one Park Interpreter. There is a ten-student minimum for all of our Interpretive Programs.

For groups larger than 30
Teachers will lead an activity while part of the group is working with the Interpreters. We will supply you with simple program-related activities you can conduct on your own, or you may bring activities of your choice.

Payment
Full program fees are due in advance unless prior payment arrangements are made. If payment is not received within two weeks prior to the program date, your program will be cancelled. Vouchers will be issued for overpayments. Make checks payable to St. Joseph County Parks.

Mail payment to:
Bendix Woods County Park
32132 SR 2
New Carlisle, IN 46552

Weather
The interpretive staff adjusts program schedules the day of your program if the weather is unfavorable. We do not cancel programs if it is raining or snowing. We ask that teachers and chaperones ensure that students are dressed appropriately for the weather.

Cancellation Policy
The only time park staff will cancel a program is if the park is closed due to extreme weather or for situations that are beyond our control. We make every effort to adjust program content for current weather conditions.

If you call to cancel due to weather, we will attempt to reschedule your program. If we are unable to reschedule, you will not receive a refund or voucher. Cancellations due to circumstances beyond our control (i.e. transportation issues/school closings) are understandable. If a reschedule date is not available, we will issue you a voucher to use toward a future program. Your voucher will expire one year from the date of issuance.

Financial Assistance Available
School Scholarship Fund
This fund can cover up to 50% of the program fee.

Transportation Grants
These grants can cover up to $100 per bus. Funding for School Scholarships and Transportation Grants is limited; call 574/654-3155 to find out if funds are available.

Customize a Program!
Do you have a specific topic that you are studying in school, but don’t see it listed in our brochure? Do you see a topic under another grade level that you would like to have offered to your class? Give us a call and we can accommodate to your classroom grade level needs.

Many of our programs can be brought to your school. Call us to find out how!

Assembly Programs:
Great for Libraries!
Duration: 1 hr.
Fee: $50/program
• Sensational Spiders
• Awesome Amphibians and Reptiles
• Birds of a Feather
• Bountiful Bats
• Owls Around Us
• Insect Investigations
• If you would like a topic you don’t see listed, just ask!

Facilities
• Bendix Woods County Park, New Carlisle
• Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, Osceola
• Spicer Lake Nature Preserve, New Carlisle
• St. Patrick’s County Park, South Bend

For more information about county park locations, amenities and additional activities, visit our website at www.sjcparks.org.

Catch tadpoles, snails and water bugs during a Ponder a Pond program!

Indiana State Science Standards
To help educators make sound choices about our programs, we have provided the current science and social studies standards corresponding to our programs on our park website at www.sjcparks.org.
**Cultural History Programs**

**Pioneer Skills** 4th-5th  
**Season:** October to December  
**Group Size:** max 30  
**Duration:** 4.5 hrs.  
**Site:** Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park  
**Fee:** $10.00/student for up to 20 students; $13.00 for 21-30 students  
Discover the skills that were part of pioneer daily life.  
• Spin yarn on a drop spindle and weave cloth on modern and antique looms.  
• Visit our 1830s-era one-room schoolhouse and meet an old-time teacher.  
• Make a pioneer toy to take home.  
**Standards:** SS.1.4.1

**Paddles from the Past** 7th-8th  
**Season:** May or September  
**Group Size:** min 20, max 80  
**Duration:** 2.5 to 4.5 hrs. (depending on group size)  
**Site:** Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park  
**Fee:** $70.00/canoe trip (canoe holds 20 people)  
Step back in time to the fur trade era to learn about the French-Canadian voyageurs in Indiana.  
• Park interpreters, in period dress, portray characters of the era and describe voyageur life in 1816.  
• Participate in a mock-rondorvence to practice bartering and play a roguing game of Bully of the Brigade.  
• Take a trip on Baugo Creek in a 34-foot replica fur trade canoe.  
**Standards:** SS.4.1, SS.4.4.1

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**Natural History Programs**

**Nature’s Shapes & Sizes** PreK-K  
**Season:** 45 min.  
**Duration:** 45 min.  
**Fee:** $1.50/student  
**Standards:** K.PS.1, K.LS.2

**Sniff, Touch, Taste & Listen** PreK-K  
**Season:** 45 min.  
**Duration:** 45 min.  
**Fee:** $1.50/student  
**Standards:** K.PS.1, K.LS.2

**Sugar Camp Safari** PreK-1st  
**Season:** mid-February to mid-March  
**Duration:** 1 hr. for up to 30 students, 2 hrs. for 31 or more  
**Site:** Benidox Woods County Park  
**Fee:** $3.00/student  
Learn about maple trees and how they make sap that we can turn into maple syrup.  
• Enjoy an interactive puppet show.  
• Drill a tap hole in a tree and hang a sap bucket.  
• Watch sap being cooked in the sugar house and taste the finished maple syrup.  
**Standards:** K.LS.2, K.SS.1.1, K.SS.3.5, SS.1.1.1, SS.1.3.6, SS.1.3.9

**Diggin’ Soils** 1st  
**Season:** 6 hrs. for up to 30 students; 3 hrs. for 31 or more  
**Fee:** $2.50/student  
Dig into the soil to discover what’s made of!  
• Discover the creatures that live in the soil.  
• Dig up soil samples and conduct simple experiments to examine soil components and properties.  
• Build a small compost bin to take back to the classroom.  
**Standards:** SS.1.2, SS.1.3

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**Habitats: Who Lives Here & Why?** 1st-2nd  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for up to 30 students; 3 hrs. for 31 or more  
**Fee:** $3.00/student  
Learn the components of a habitat.  
• Visit different native Indiana habitats.  
• Look for animals that live in each habitat and the signs they have left behind.  
• Find out how animals are adapted to their habitat.  
**Standards:** SS.1.LS.2, SS.3.LS.2, SS.3.LS.4, SS.3.LS.5

**Six-Legged Science** 1st-4th  
**Season:** Late spring to early fall  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for up to 30 students; 3 hrs. for 31 or more  
**Fee:** $2.50/student  
Explore the many ways in which animals get ready for winter.  
• Take a hike to look for clues to animals’ winter survival strategies.  
• Discover how animals cope with the cold temperatures.  
• Find out how animals survive on limited food supplies.  
**Standards:** SS.1.LS.2, SS.3.LS.4, SS.3.LS.5

**Animals Prepare for Winter** 1st-4th  
**Season:** Fall or winter  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for up to 30 students; 3 hrs. for 31 or more  
**Fee:** $2.50/student  
Explore the mysterious world of night-loving creatures.  
• Imagine that you are a nocturnal animal and test your senses.  
• Play pond bingo and predator-prey games to review material learned.  
• Use hand lenses to observe them.  
• Scoop aquatic plants and animals with hand strainers.  
**Standards:** SS.1.LS.2, SS.1.LS.4, SS.2.LS.2, SS.2.LS.3, SS.4.LS.3

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**Pond’s a Party** 1st-4th  
**Season:** 45 min.  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for up to 30 students; 3 hrs. for 31 or more  
**Fee:** $3.00/student  
Discover ponds during this hands-on program.  
• Scoop aquatic plants and animals with hand strainers.  
• Use hand lenses to observe them.  
• Play pond bingo and predator-prey games to review material learned.  
**Standards:** SS.1.LS.1, SS.1.LS.2, SS.1.LS.3, SS.1.LS.4, SS.2.LS.2, SS.3.LS.3, SS.4.LS.3

**Night Life** 1st-4th  
**Season:** 45 min.  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for up to 30 students; 3 hrs. for 31 or more  
**Fee:** $3.00/student  
Explore the mysterious world of night-loving creatures.  
• Learn about the lives of bats, opossums, owls and other creatures of the night.  
• Imagine that you are a nocturnal animal and test your senses.  
• Dress up like a bat and discover which plants are pollinated by bats.  
**Standards:** SS.1.LS.2, SS.1.LS.4, SS.2.LS.2, SS.3.LS.3, SS.4.LS.3

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**Maple Syrup** 2nd & up  
**Season:** 45 min.  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for up to 30 students; 3 hrs. for 31 or more  
**Fee:** $3.00/student  
Experience syrup production first-hand.  
• Take a historical look at sap-colllecting methods, learn the Native American origins of maple syrup production and discover the basics of photosynthesis.  
• Learn to identify a maple tree and drill a tap-hole for collecting sap.  
• Visit the sugar house to see sap cooking and taste the sweet result: real maple syrup!  
**Standards:** SS.1.LS.2, SS.1.LS.3, SS.4.LS.3, SS.4.SS.1.1, SS.4.SS.4.1, SS.5.SS.1.1, SS.5.SS.3.1

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**Predator & Prey** 4th-6th  
**Duration:** 2 hrs. for up to 30 students; 4 hrs. for 31 or more  
**Fee:** $3.00/student  
Enter the world of food chains.  
• Find out how predators, prey and plants are connected.  
• Discover how teeth and fur help animals hunt and hide.  
• Visit different habitats to explore the adaptations of the predators and prey that live there.  
**Standards:** SS.4.LS.3, SS.4.SL.1, SS.4.IS.2

**Rochin’ Raptors** 4th-6th  
**Duration:** 2 hrs. for up to 30 students; 4 hrs. for 31 or more  
**Site:** St. Patrick’s County Park  
**Fee:** $3.00/student  
Explore the world of birds of prey.  
• Examine the adaptations (wings, talons, feathers, bones!) that make raptors such amazing hunters.  
• Learn the connection between human actions and raptors’ survival.  
• Visit raptor habitats, view nests and look for the birds themselves!  
**Standards:** SS.4.LS.3, SS.4.SL.2

**Swamp Stomp** 4th & up  
**Limited Availability**  
**Season:** May  
**Group Size:** max 30  
**Duration:** 2-2.5 hrs.  
**Site:** Spicer Lake Nature Preserve  
**Fee:** $4.00/student  
Explore a wetland through immersion!  
• What are wetlands and why are they important?  
• Discover how wetlands function and which animals and plants depend on them.  
• Immerse yourself in a swamp!  
Note: Wear old clothes and lace-up shoes and bring a towel, plastic bag, change of clothing and a second pair of shoes.  
**Standards:** SS.4.LS.3

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**In-Class Programs**

Park interpreters can bring a variety of programs right to your classroom at any time of year!  

**PreK-K**  
**Duration:** 20-45 min., depending on age of children  
**Fee:** $25.00/class up to 10; $35.00/class up to 25; $45.00/26 or more students

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**Little Sprouts’ Nature Tales**  
Natural Tales are stories featuring wonderful creatures found in nature.  
• Pick a story from the list below.  
• Staff bring the story to life with props, puppets and natural history items.  
• Talk about lessons from the story.  
**Stories:** The Salamander Room, How to Hide a Butterfly, The Snake Who Was Afraid of People, Footprints in the Snow, Owl Moon  
Reading Standards: K.1, K.3, K.3, K.3.5

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**Animal Friends**  
Discover the creatures that share our world.  
• Examine furs, feathers, turtle shells and snake skins.  
• Explore the difference between wild animals and pets.  
• Learn the characteristics of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects.  
**Standards:** K.3.2

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**The Four Seasons**  
Explore the ways in which animals and plants change throughout the year.  
• Practice hibernating like a woodchuck and gathering nuts like a squirrel.  
• Act like a tree and play a leaf-matching game.  
• Discover how animals cope with the cold temperatures.  
• Find out how animals are adapted to their habitat.  
**Standards:** SS.4.LS.3, SS.4.LS.1, SS.4.SL.2, SS.4.SL.3

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**Standards:**