

# NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

## Animal Friends

**Season:** any  
**Group Size:** max 20  
**Duration:** 20-30 min. (2- to 3-year olds)  
30-45 min. (4- to 5-year olds)  
**Site:** Classroom visit or in-park  
**Fee:** \$25.00/class up to 10; \$35.00/class up to 25

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.

**PreK/K**

## The Four Seasons

**Season:** any  
**Group Size:** max 20  
**Duration:** 20-30 min. (2- to 3-year olds)  
30-45 min. (4- to 5-year olds)  
**Site:** Classroom visit or in-park  
**Fee:** \$25.00/class up to 10; \$35.00/class up to 25

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.
- Examine birds' nests, eggs and feathers and discover how they fit into the cycle of the seasons.

**PreK/K**

## Nature's Shapes & Sizes

**Season:** spring, summer, fall  
**Group Size:** max 30  
**Duration:** 45 min. - 1 hr.  
**Site:** BXW, FBC, SL, STP  
**Fee:** \$1.50/student

Practice simple math skills.

- Match natural items to different shapes and sizes.
- Practice grouping and comparing natural items on a hike.
- Count the signs of the season.

**PreK/K**

## Sniff, Touch, Taste & Listen

**Season:** spring, summer, fall  
**Group Size:** max 30  
**Duration:** 45 min. - 1 hr.  
**Site:** BXW, SL, STP  
**Fee:** \$1.50/student

Hike the trails and explore nature using all five senses.

- Listen to birds and sniff a leaf.
- Munch on a Touch-Me-Not seed and look for woodpecker holes.
- Touch a creepy crawly critter!

**PreK/K**

## Sugar Camp Safari

**Season:** mid-February to mid-March  
**Group Size:** max 60  
**Duration:** 1 hr. for 30; 1.5 to 2 hrs. for 31-60  
**Site:** BXW  
**Fee:** \$2.00/student

Learn about maple trees and how they make sap that we can turn into maple syrup.

- Watch 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.

**PreK-1st**

## Six-Legged Science

**Season:** summer to early fall  
**Group Size:** max 60  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for 30; 3 hrs. for 31-60  
**Site:** BXW, SL, STP  
**Fee:** \$2.50/student

Learn the characteristics, diversity and importance of insects.

- Collect insects for up-close observation using sweep nets and collection jars.
- Assemble a giant insect puzzle.
- Compete in an insect relay race.

**1st-3rd**

## Ponder a Pond

**Season:** spring, summer, fall  
**Group Size:** max 60  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs for 30; 3 hrs. for 31-60  
**Site:** BXW, SL, STP  
**Fee:** \$3.00/student

Discover ponds during this hands-on program.

- Scoop aquatic plants and animals with hand strainers.
- Use microscopes and hand lenses to observe them.
- Play pond bingo and predator-prey games to review material learned.

**1st-4th**

## Who Lives Here & Why?

**Season:** mid-April to mid-November  
**Group Size:** max 60  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for 30; 3 hrs. for 31-60  
**Site:** BXW, FBC, SL, STP  
**Fee:** \$2.50/student

Learn the components of a habitat.

- Hike to discover various habitats and which animals live there.
- Look at the signs that animals leave behind.
- Find out how animals are adapted to their particular habitat.

**2nd**

## Animals Prepare for Winter

**Season:** winter or fall  
**Group Size:** max 60  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for 30; 3 hrs. for 31-60  
**Site:** BXW, FBC, SL, STP  
**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 they deal with the cold temperatures.
- Find out how animals survive on limited food supplies.

**2nd-3rd**

## Classify that Animal

**Season:** spring, summer, fall  
**Group Size:** max 60  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs for 30; 3 hrs. for 31-60  
**Site:** BXW, FBC, SL, STP  
**Fee:** \$2.00/student

Learn how animals fit into different groups.

- Find out how classifying helps us study the natural world.
- Discover what makes mammals, birds, fish, insects, reptiles and amphibians unique.
- Hike the trails to locate these animals in their natural settings.

**2nd-3rd**

## Spiders

**Season:** spring, summer, fall  
**Group Size:** max 60  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for 30; 3 hrs. for 31-60  
**Site:** BXW, SL, STP  
**Fee:** \$2.50/student

Discover the amazing characteristics that make spiders unique.

- Observe live spiders.
- Use sweep nets and other collection methods to hunt for spiders.
- Play a web-building game.

**2nd-4th**

## Maple Syrup

**Season:** mid-February to mid-March  
**Group Size:** max 60  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for 30; 3 hrs. for 31-60  
**Site:** BXW  
**Fee:** \$3.00/student

Experience syrup production first-hand.

- Take a historical look at sap-collecting 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.

**2nd & up**

## Owls & Bats

**Season:** spring, summer, fall  
**Group Size:** max 60  
**Duration:** 1.5 hrs. for 30; 3 hrs. for 31-60  
**Site:** BXW, FBC, SL, STP  
**Fee:** \$3.00/student

Explore myths and facts about some often-misunderstood creatures.

- Learn what bats and owls eat and how they interact with other animals.
- Dress up like a bat and discover which plants are pollinated by bats.
- Find out what traits make owls such excellent predators.

**3rd-4th**

## Predator & Prey

**Season:** any  
**Group Size:** max 30  
**Duration:** 2 hrs.  
**Site:** BXW, SL, STP  
**Fee:** \$2.00/student

Enter the world of food chains.

- Find out how predators and prey are connected to each other.
- Discover the energy source at the beginning of all food chains.
- Hike the trails to look for signs of our native predators: robins, dragonflies, foxes and more!

**4th-5th**

## Swamp Stomp

*Limited Availability*

**Season:** May  
**Group Size:** max 30  
**Duration:** 2-2.5 hrs.  
**Site:** SL  
**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 shoes and bring a towel, plastic bag, change of clothing and a second pair of shoes.*

**5th & up**

# CULTURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

## Pioneer Skills

**Season:** October to December  
**Group Size:** max 30  
**Duration:** 4.5 hrs.  
**Site:** FBC

**Fee:** \$100.00 for up to 25 students; \$130 for 26-30 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.

**4th-5th**

## Paddles from the Past

**Season:** May or September  
**Group Size:** min 20; max 80  
**Duration:** 2.5 to 4.5 hrs (depending on group size)  
**Site:** FBC  
**Fee:** \$70.00/canoe trip

Step back in time to the fur trade era to learn about the French-Canadian voyageurs.

- Park interpreters, in period dress, portray characters of the era and describe life in 1816.
- Participate in a mock-rendezvous to practice bartering and play a rousing game of Bully of the Brigade.
- Take a trip on Baugo Creek in a 34-foot replica fur trade canoe.

**7th-8th**



*^Middle school students learn about the fur trade industry during the early 1800s in this participatory program at Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park.*

### Park Site Key Code:

BXW= Bendix Woods  
FBC= Ferrettie/Baugo Creek  
SL= Spicer Lake  
STP= St. Patrick's



*Out-of-County Schools please add 50¢ per student to the program fee.*

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

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

**For groups larger than 60**  
With advance planning, we can accommodate groups larger than 60 depending on time and staff availability. Teachers will lead a portion of the activities (activities and materials provided).

**For groups larger than 35**  
Teachers will need to lead an activity while half the group is working with the Interpreters. In most cases we can supply you with simple program-related activities you can conduct on your own, or you may bring activities of your choice.

**Group Size Limits**  
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.

**Interpretive Programs**  
At our Interpretive Programs, your students learn as they experience nature and cultural heritage. Hands-on, active learning helps students gain a greater understanding of the importance of conserving natural resources and practicing sound stewardship.

**About St. Joseph County Parks**  
Programs led by Park Interpreters enhance grade-level interdisciplinary curricula. Pre-visit materials are included to broaden the experience beyond the park visit.

# St. Joseph County Parks INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

## 2011-2012 Programs & Field Trips for Schools



*These young bird watchers focus their attention by using hand-made binoculars!*

For more information about county park locations, amenities and additional activities, visit our web site at [www.sjcparks.org](http://www.sjcparks.org).

- Facilities**
- Bendix Woods County Park, New Carlisle
  - Ferrite/Baugo Creek County Park, Osceola
  - Spicer Lake Nature Preserve, New Carlisle
  - St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend

**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 web site at [www.sjcparks.org](http://www.sjcparks.org).

- Plan Ahead - Schedule Early!**  
You may phone in your reservation up to nine months in advance of the date you are interested in. Reservations can be made weekdays by calling 574/654-3155.
- When you call to schedule your program, please provide us with the following information:
- The school's name, address, phone number & e-mail
  - Contact name
  - Number of students and grade level
  - (check program group size limits first)
  - Program title
  - Date requested (have options available)
  - Arrival and departure times
  - Park site for your program, if there is a choice (see park site key code at bottom of program listing)
  - Students with special needs

**Cancellation Policy**  
The only time a program will be cancelled by park staff 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.

Cancelations due to circumstances beyond your control (i.e. transportation issues/school closings) are understood. If a reschedule date is not available, we will issue you a voucher to use toward future programming. Your voucher will expire one year from the date of issuance.

**Weather**  
The interpretive staff adjusts program schedules the day of your program if the weather is less than favorable. 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.

### 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 often tailor a program to suit your classroom/grade level needs.

Classroom programs are available—we'll bring programs to the school. Call us to find out how we can adapt our programs to the classroom.

#### Assembly Programs:

**Great for libraries!**

**Duration:** 1 hr.

**Fee:** \$50/program

- Sensational Spiders
- Awesome Amphibians
- Rockin' 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!

## Financial Assistance Available

### School Scholarship Fund

This fund enables teachers to apply for a scholarship to reduce the cost of their program, up to a 50% discount off the program fee. Funding is limited; contact prior to your request for available funds, 574/654-3155.

### Scout Leaders!

Badge Blitzes are being offered for Boy and Girl Scouts to earn the requirements for nature and environmental badges. As these "blitzes" are planned, program dates will be listed on the park web site at [www.sjcparks.org](http://www.sjcparks.org) or you can be added to our mailing list by calling 574/654-3155.

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