



Miami County Park District

School Field Education Programs



Field
Programs



Special
Events

Programs aligned with
State Academic Content Standards



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Funding available through Park District Grants for bussing to park field trips.



MIAMI COUNTY PARK DISTRICT SCHOOL FIELD PROGRAM OFFERINGS FOR ELEMENTARY K-3

I'M A TREE (Kindergarten)



(Fall) - Students will explore trees and seasons, variations among living things, habitats, plants and animal features that help them live in different places, living and non-living things, differences between natural and man-made, and gifts we get from trees. Students dress up like trees on the trail, sort leaves and make a leaf crown, play in the leaves and in and on trees, and meet animals that make trees their home.

HOW ANIMALS PREPARE FOR WINTER - Hibernate, Migrate, or a New Coat Make (Kindergarten)

(Fall) - Students embark on an animal adventure meeting up with “bigger than life” animals such as the groundhog, squirrel, raccoon, beaver, and owl and goose who show how they spend the winter. Students help the beaver build his lodge out of sticks in the forest, crawl through a “groundhog tunnel”, make leafy squirrel nests, climb like a raccoon on the fallen trees, look for birds through binoculars and travel like geese in a V formation.



ANIMAL FOOD FINDERS/ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS (GRADES 1, 3)



(Spring) Students will explore how animals find, get and eat their food in different habitats by the adaptations that each animal has. On the trail through activities, games, explorations of animals different specialized body parts by the handling of live animals, and also close up investigation of skulls, teeth, fur etc.. Students have fun imitating the different animals and how they find and eat their food throughout the trail





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NATURAL RESOURCES

(Grade 1)



(Fall) - Students becoming “miners” on the trail digging up “miniature cars, refrigerators, lamps” etc. as they learn how things they use everyday come from non-living natural resources - rocks and minerals deep in the ground. They explore the creek and surrounding band to find their own “special rock” and see the varieties and how they can be used for many things. Students explore how living things provide resources we use in everyday life also by meeting trees of the forest and pulling surprises from the tree boxes at each tree and making a tree leaf/resource booklet to take home.

OHIO HABITATS

(Grade 2,4)

(Fall) - Students compare the habitats of many different kinds of Ohio plants and animals and some of the ways animals and plants depend on each other. The trail activities take them through the meadow, forest, creek and cave as they become different animals to discover the interdependence of them all. Students collect “evidence” of interdependence along the way to make a Habitat Booklet to take home.



ROOTS, STEMS, LEAVES -PLANT PARTS - Dirt Made Your Lunch!

(Grades K, 1,2,4)



(Spring) - It’s a trip through “Mother Nature’s Super Store” as students carrying their “shopping” bags head through the meadows and woods to discover that all of the food that they eat comes from plants. Through tasting of the wild foods and their store bought counterparts, the students learn about the six plant parts and how each plant part is a part of their daily diet. A picnic in the park with the food they have collected from Natures Super Store wraps up the adventure (including the all time favorite of Fried Dandelions!)



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ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION (and the Vertebrate 5) (Grade 3)



(Spring) With nets, shovels, magnifiers, and sharp eyes students explore the pond, meadow and woods to investigate the invertebrates and vertebrate animals that live there. Live animals to hold and closely see along with games and hands –on investigation helps promote an understanding of diversity of life. Students get a chance to shrink down to a bug size in the INVERTEBRATE VILLAGE.

HEAT AND PRESSURE – The Rock Cycle (Grades 3,4,6)

(Spring) - The exploration of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rock comes alive at Charleston Falls geologic trail. Students discover how we use rocks in our everyday lives, how the different types of rocks are formed, break open geodes to discover igneous marvels, go inside a sedimentary rock (the cave), explore dirt composition, fossils and travel to different stations around the falls as they go “around” the rock cycle.



THE F.B.I. (Grades 3,4)



(Spring) - The amazing cycle of decomposition is explored as students discover the agents of decomposition (fungus, bacteria, and invertebrates). The forest “graveyard” is explored by students with magnifiers, shovels, and collecting trays to see evidence of these agents at work and how new dirt is made.





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THE WATER CYCLE BOOGIE (Grades 2,4)



(Spring) - The water cycle boogie goes round and round as the students become water droplets in the water cycle on the trail through animals and plants, in the creek, cave, pond and prairie. With boots, nets, energy and imagination, the water cycle is followed and re-inacted through each state of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.

HABITAT ORIENTEERING (Grades 3,4,5)

Students will explore how different habitats provide different types of food, water, shelter for different animals by utilizing the amazing skill of orienteering. Each student has their own compass to use in their exploration groups to follow the habitat trail and discover the parks habitats after an extensive session in how to be an orienteerer.



FOOD CHAIN ORIENTEERING (Grades 3,4,5)

Students learn about food chains while collecting evidence of the animals trail whose food chain they are following. Utilizing the compass as a guide students travel the habitats and make their own food chain





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STREAM QUALITY MONITORING (GRADES K,1,2,3,4,5,6)



Students learn how their everyday actions affect the quality of their water that they use everyday. With boots, nets, magnifiers, and macro-invertebrate charts students discover how the animals that live in the river can indicate our water quality.

HUG THE EARTH/WATERSHED WITH THE BANANA SLUG STRING BAND (Grades K,1,2,3,4,5,6)

Add the powerful learning experiences of our naturalist lead classroom programs of music and art with any of the above outdoor exploration park field trip offerings and you have the most complete and fun learning of all!

