



Medina County
Park District

Environmental Education Program Guide

For true science learning to take place, you must experience the natural world. Our technological advancements have certainly made it easier to acquire scientific knowledge, but it will never replace the reality of direct contact with natural areas such as a forest, meadow, or pond.



































WOLF CREEK
ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
























Our environmental education curriculum is designed to meet criteria outlined in the content themes for science under the Ohio Content Standards for Education. Our goal is to help you enhance your curricular studies with practical applications in the natural environment with a dedicated team of naturalists that actively engages your students in learning and fosters in them an appreciation for the natural world.

At Wolf Creek Environmental Center, children can discover the wonder of nature and have learning become an adventure.

Program Options at a Glance

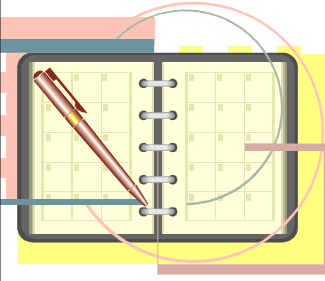
 =Fall (Sept.-Nov.)  =Winter (Dec.-Jan.)  =Spring (Mar.-May)

Core Programs – meet new revised content standards in science										
Season	Program Title	Page #	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Seasonal Discoveries - Autumn	5	X	X						
	Seasonal Discoveries - Winter	5	X	X						
	Seasonal Discoveries - Spring	5	X	X						
  	Focus on Food Chains	5			X					
  	Animal Architects	5				X				
  	Fossil Detectives	5				X				
  	What's Under Your Feet?	5					X			
	Metamorpho-what? - Insects	6					X			
	Metamorpho-what? - Amphibians	6					X			
  	Earth's Living History	6						X		
  *	Ponds & Wetlands	6	*Not available in March					X	X	
  	Forest Ecology	6						X	X	
	Meadow Investigations	6						X	X	
  	Soils, Minerals, and Rocks	6								X

Enrichment Programs										
Season	Program Title	Page #	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
 	SENSE-ational Hike	7	X	X	X					
  	What's Wild?	7	X	X	X					
  	Feathers, Fur, Scales, and Skin	7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
  	Where'd They Go?	7				X	X	X	X	X
  	Bats!	7				X	X	X	X	X
  	Nothing to Fear	8				X	X	X	X	X
  	Nature Hike	8				X	X	X	X	X
 *	Magnificent Monarchs	8	*September only			X	X	X	X	X
	Incredible Insects	8				X	X	X	X	X
	Tracks and Scat	8				X	X	X	X	X

Don't see it on the list? Call to discuss special requests.

Scheduling Information



To schedule a core program or enrichment opportunity at Wolf Creek Environmental Center, please call Donna, Medina County Park District Secretary, at 330.722.9376 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Plan ahead. A minimum of four weeks' advance notice is required for reservations, but popular months (October, April, and May) fill early. Please submit *Connecting Children and Nature* transportation grant requests (see Page 4) at least one month in advance.

Programs

Programs are offered Tuesday through Friday between 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Group size is generally limited to 60, but may vary with staff availability.

All programs are **FREE** for Medina County schools/groups. Out-of-county schools/groups are invited to inquire about availability and fees for programs.

When calling for reservations, please be prepared to provide:

- Program choice
- School/group name, grade, and number of students and adults
- Name, address, and phone number of contact person
- Preferred date/time and alternate date/time
- Special requirements or needs



Confirmation of your reservation and specific details about selected programs will be sent to the contact person.

SPECIAL REQUESTS: If the program offerings listed do not meet your exact educational objectives, please call to discuss modifications or specific needs that can be addressed with sufficient notice.

Other Important Information

Please call if you are unable to keep your scheduled reservation.

Programs are held rain, snow, or shine as scheduled. If being outdoors is not possible due to unsafe conditions, the program will be adapted to indoor activities.



Please ensure all children are dressed appropriately for hiking and outdoor activities.

Picnic tables outside the facility are available for your use for lunch. If weather is inclement, an indoor space for lunch will be provided.



Collecting of any kind is not permitted on park district properties including Wolf Creek Environmental Center.





Connecting Children and Nature

Transportation Assistance Grant Program

Who funds the grant program?

The Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc., a 501(C)3 supporting organization of Medina County Park District, is offering a grant program to provide transportation cost assistance to school groups wishing to travel to the Wolf Creek Environmental Center for field studies. Grants are offered to applicants on a first-come, first-served basis.

What schools are eligible?

All Medina County school groups in second through twelfth grades during the regular school year are eligible to apply. Grant monies are limited to actual busing costs up to \$150 per bus.



When can I request a grant application?

Once you have scheduled a program with the park office, you can request a grant application. Individual applications for each program date in which funds are being requested must be filled out completely and signed by the school principal. Grant applications must be received within two weeks of scheduling a field study date. Applications with incomplete or incorrect information will be immediately denied. Grant checks (not to exceed \$150 per bus) will be mailed after the scheduled program has taken place and an invoice has been issued by the school for payment.



Who do I contact?

For questions about field trip funding, to schedule a program, and to obtain a grant application, please contact Donna, park district secretary, at 330.722.9376.



Seasonal Discoveries

Pre-K and Kindergarten Length: 1 hr.

Available:   

Through observation of living things in their unique natural environments, students will gain understanding of the interrelationships and adaptations that allow living things to survive throughout the changing seasons. *Outdoor program.*

Fall (Sept. – Nov.)



Explore different habitats to observe how plants and animals change their behaviors to prepare for the coming winter.

Winter (Dec. – Feb.)



Discover the different strategies used by plants and animals to survive the cold winter. Search for signs of animal activity, and discover what migrates and hibernates and why.

(March – May)



Senses awaken in the spring with the sights, sounds, and smells of nature! Search for signs of renewed life in trees budding, flowers blooming, birds singing, and other animal behavior.

Focus on Food Chains

1st Grade

Length: 1 hr.

Available:



Where do living things get their energy? Why do animals live in certain types of habitats? Students will explore these habitats and discover how animals and plants depend on one another to survive. *Outdoor program.*

Animal Architects

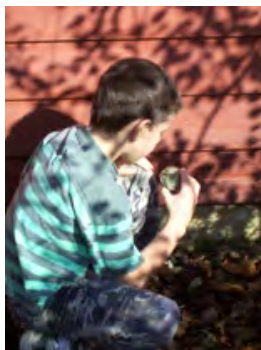
2nd Grade

Length: 1 ½ hr.

Available:



Meet the engineers and architects in your backyard. Learn how living things impact their environment and can shape the landscape. Students will search for animals that can move the earth and plants that can break rocks! *Outdoor program.*



Fossil Detectives

2nd Grade

Length: 1 ½ hr.

Available:



Students will become detectives of pre-history to learn how living things are impacted by their environment. Through hands-on activities, we will compare modern organisms to extinct fossil organisms. *Indoor/outdoor program.*

What's Under Your Feet?

3rd Grade

Length: 1 ½ hr.

Available:



Rocks aren't just for your driveway! When you look closely, they tell a story. Students will investigate the different processes that occur to make varying rocks and the unique characteristics of rocks that allow them to be sorted and classified. Students will also learn about soil composition and that it has characteristics that can be measured and observed. *Indoor/outdoor program.*

Metamorpho-what?

3rd Grade

Length: 1 ½ hr.

Available:  

At every moment on earth, organisms are growing, reproducing, dying, and decaying - they are experiencing their life cycles. Students will discover that the details of life cycles are different for every organism and how these affect organisms' abilities to survive and reproduce in their natural environments. *Indoor/outdoor program.*

Fall (Sept. – Nov.)

Learn about the life cycles of insects including their struggles to survive through outdoor exploration of habitats.

Spring (March – May)



Explore the amazing life cycles of amphibians through hands-on activities.

Earth's Living History

4th Grade

Length: 1 ½ hr.

Available:   

The land speaks to us by revealing the major environmental changes that have occurred over time. Students will discover evidence of these changes and the animals supported by each, from ancient oceans to massive glaciers. *Indoor/outdoor program.*



Ponds & Wetlands

4th & 5th Grades

Length: 1 ½ hr.

Available:   ***Not available in March**

Ponds and wetlands are teeming with life! Students will investigate these environments for insects, tadpoles, fish, and other aquatic life, as well as examine invisible life with microscopes. *Indoor/outdoor program.*

Forest Ecology

4th & 5th Grades

Length: 1 ½ hr.

Available:   

Students will learn about the different layers of a forest community while comparing the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers. By conducting a hands-on investigation of life on the forest floor, students will discover the many relationships among organisms such as insects, frogs, and snails. *Outdoor program.*

Meadow Investigations

4th & 5th Grades

Length: 1 ½ hr.

Available: 

Students will trace the organization of simple food chains and food webs in a meadow ecosystem. They will conduct a field study by collecting and observing insect life and discuss life cycles, metamorphosis, and predator-prey relationships. *Outdoor program.*



Soils, Rocks and Minerals

6th Grade

Length: 1 ½ hr.

Available:   

Students will discover some basics of geology through this hands-on activity-filled program. Topics include soil composition and formation, rock and mineral identification and uses, as well as erosion and weathering. *Indoor/outdoor program.*



SENSE-ational Hike

Pre-K – 1st Grades **Length: 1 hr.** **Available:**   

Let's look, listen, feel, and hear what is happening all around us as we enjoy the great outdoors! Students will learn how animals use their senses and will compare them to their own. *Outdoor program.*

What's Wild?

Pre-K – 1st Grades

Length: 1 hr.

Available:   

Nature provides wild animals with everything they need to survive without human intervention.

Through an engaging story and fun activities, students will learn about the differences between wild animals and pets and discover why wild animals do not make good pets. *Indoor/outdoor program.*



Feathers, Fur, Scales, and Skin

Pre-K – 6th Grade **Length: PreK-1=1 hr Grades 2-6=1 ½ hrs.**

Available:   

With help from a few live animal ambassadors and hands-on objects, students will learn the many fascinating and unique characteristics of different animals, how they use these characteristics for survival and how they compare to humans. *Indoor program.*

Where'd They Go?

2nd – 6th Grades

Length: 1 ½ hrs.

Available:   

Students will take a journey back in time to learn about wildlife that once roamed Medina County and throughout Ohio. Wildlife that used to live here but does not anymore is called “extirpated” wildlife. Through games, activities, and a short hike, students will discover which animals have been extirpated. *Indoor/outdoor program.*



Bats!

2nd – 6th Grades

Length: 1 ½ hrs.

Available:   

Students will learn all about bats that live in Medina County and around the world. Where do bats go in the daytime? How many mosquitoes can a bat eat in one night? Just how small is the smallest bat in the world? Students will play bat games, do bat activities, and take a short hike to visit the park district's bat condo. *Indoor/outdoor program.*

Nothing to Fear

2nd – 6th Grades

Length: 1 ½ hrs.

Available:



Throughout North America, there are species of wildlife that can be dangerous to humans. Find out what animal poses the greatest threat to humans living in North America and to those living in Medina County... its smaller then you may think. Students will gain the knowledge needed to enjoy nature without fear. *Indoor/outdoor program.*

Nature Hike

2nd – 6th Grades

Length: 1 ½ hrs.

Available:



Our parks offer boundless educational opportunities. On your walk, a naturalist will help students look for plants and animals and share interesting facts about Ohio's wildlife. *Outdoor program.*

Magnificent Monarchs

2nd – 6th Grades

Length: 1 ½ hrs.

Available:



***September only**

Students will engage in a study of monarch butterflies learning about their life cycle and migration and how scientists study populations through tagging. A hike through Monarch habitat will follow, weather permitting. *Indoor/outdoor program.*



Incredible Insects

2nd – 6th Grades

Length: 1 ½ hrs.

Available:



Students will learn insect basics from body parts to life cycles to identification. They will explore the meadows with nets capturing and identifying insects of all varieties. *Outdoor program.*

Tracks & Scat

2nd – 6th Grades

Length: 1 ½ hrs.

Available:



We don't often see the larger mammals of Ohio, but we know they are here by the evidence they leave behind. Students will learn how tracks and scat (the scientific word for "poop") are important to discovering the hidden animals around us and then take a hike to search for some. *Indoor/outdoor program.*



A minimum of four (4) weeks' advance noticed is required to schedule a program, but don't wait too long – our schedule fills up quickly. Call Donna at 330.722.9376 to schedule your class program today!