



RED OAK
NATURE CENTER

930 N. River Rd.
North Aurora, IL 60542

RED OAK
THE WILDS

1400 N. River Rd.
North Aurora, IL 60542

630-897-1808
ROprograms@fvpd.net



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Nestled on the east bank of the Fox River, Red Oak Nature Center and The Wilds are surrounded by 80 acres of lush forest and wildlife habitat – an ideal setting for students to investigate the great outdoors.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Our Environmental Educators encourage students to explore and investigate through hands-on experiences to discover more about ecology, animals, habitats, biology, and STEM concepts. All programs outlined in this booklet align with CORE and Next Generation Science Standards some programs can be customized to fit specific curriculum needs with advance notice.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Schedule a Red Oak Environmental Educator to visit your classroom from Fall thru Spring. With Next Generation Science Standards at the core, Red Oak encourages curiosity through class participation and ignites critical thinking in your classroom.

SELF-GUIDED VISITS

Groups wanting to visit Red Oak or Lippold Park must reserve a date. There is a required \$2 per person fee for all groups visiting on their own and a \$50 rental fee to explore inside the building. Call 630-897-1808 or email roprograms@fvpd.net for more information.

IDNR TRUNK AND HIKE BAGS

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has provided Red Oak Nature Center with educational trunks and hike bags. These items contain resources about a variety of nature topics - complete with books, photos, samples and more. The items are loaned to educators and groups free of charge. For more information regarding topics and availability, call Red Oak at 630-897-1808.

RENTALS

Red Oak Nature Center can be rented for your group to privately enjoy at 1/2 hour intervals or for field days, room parties, and more! More information inside! **All groups wanting to visit Red Oak must reserve a date and time to enter the Nature Center.**

Fox Valley
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where fun begins



ENDORSED
BY:





IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Offered November-February only. Additional standards upon request.

VIRTUAL FLEXIBILITY!

Environmental education lessons once taught in the classroom now can be online!

Each program listed on this page includes live virtual instruction from a Red Oak Environmental Educator and a hands-on activity kit, with directions and materials for one class of 30 participants (to be picked up by the teacher in advance).



WINTER WILDLIFE LEVEL 1*

**PreK - 2nd grade suggested
Up to 1 hour**

Explore how animals survive winter. Students will learn the three ways animals survive: migrate, hibernate or adapt. This program may include a themed story, bio-facts for hands on investigations, pictures and the possibility of a live animal ambassador from the nature center.

WINTER WILDLIFE LEVEL 2*

**3rd - 5th grade suggested
Up to 1 hour**

After a brief review of the three ways animals can survive winter, students will be put into groups to focus on the special traits that help our native animals survive. Using provided data sheets and bio-facts, groups will present and debate over which animal has the best survival trait before casting their own vote to decide on a winner!

REPTILES ROCK LEVEL 1*

**1st - 2nd grade suggested
Up to 1 hour**

Learn about the unique traits that make reptiles so special. Through an interactive presentation students will learn the four basic traits all reptiles have. This program includes live animal ambassadors from the nature center.

REPTILES ROCK LEVEL 2*

**3rd - 4th grade suggested
Up to 1 hour**

Slither deeper in to the anatomy of a snake and their exclusive traits that separate them from the rest of the animals. Students will learn about snake traits through an interactive

presentation followed by a compare and contrast study of two different species of snake ambassadors from the nature center.

**\$60 for first classroom, \$30 each additional classroom.*

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO EEW LEVEL 1

**1st - 2nd grade suggested
Up to 1 hour**

The sticky feel of spider webs, the stinky smell of skunks, the slimy trail of a slug...all these things might make you go "EEW!" but after this interactive presentation students will learn just how important being gross is to surviving! Be prepared to use all your senses during this presentation to get the full experience!

There is a \$5 per student fee for this program that includes all materials.

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO EEW LEVEL 2

**3rd - 4th grade suggested
Up to 1 hour**

Students will get a hands-on experience about the grosser side of nature, including scat and owl pellets, through a presentation with interactive experiments and investigations. Students will understand how valuable being gross can be, in order to survive.

There is a \$7 per student fee for this program that includes all materials (including individual owl pellet).



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FIELD EXPLORATION

930 N. RIVER RD., NORTH AURORA, IL 60542

SURVIVAL CHALLENGE

3rd - 5th grade
Up to 1.5 hours

Students will become wildlife biologists for a day as they learn about Illinois' top predator-the coyote and its prey, the white tailed deer. Students will learn about the impact both species have on local habitats through an interactive presentation. Students will head out to investigate a staged forensic scene where they will be tasked with gathering information and putting together their theory as to what happened between the coyote and the white tailed deer.

A SQUIRREL'S LIFE

Pre-K - 1st grade
Up to 1 hour

Learn about one of our most common mammals, the Squirrel. Students will use hands on investigation skills while being lead on a hike by our friends Gray Squirrel and Fox Squirrel. As we hike through the woods students will be asked to search for everything a squirrel needs to survive: food, water, shelter and space. By the end of our exploration students will be able to decide whether or not Red Oak can support a healthy and happy squirrel population.

ECO-DETECTIVES

2nd - 5th grade
Up to 1 hour

Get students excited about the natural world and its mysteries! Using active learning and inquiry, students explore the outdoors and are challenged to discover and explain its mysteries all around us.

SEASONAL HIKE

Pre-K - 3rd grade
Up to 1 hour

Walk with a naturalist as we take a closer look at the seasonality of our forest. Students will take an experiential hike while our staff find signs of fall, winter, or spring to share with your students. By engaging all senses we will gain a deeper understanding of the changes that happen during each season. (Teachers may choose to add on a visit to the cave or time inside the nature center's exhibits to extend the exploration.)

SAP TO SYRUP

Pre-K - 3rd grade
Up to 1 hour

AVAILABLE IN MARCH ONLY

After a brief discussion on why we call March the "Maple Tapping Season" students will take a hike through the woods to see the sap collecting processes used by Native Americans, the first settlers and today's sugar farmers. They will then assist staff with identifying maple trees, calculating age, and finally collecting maple sap before learning the process of how the sap gets turned into syrup. This hike through time will end with everyone tasting a sample of delicious, 100% pure maple syrup!



PROGRAMS ARE HELD OUTSIDE. PLEASE PLAN AND DRESS ACCORDINGLY.



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ADDITIONAL RED OAK PROGRAMS

STUDENT SCIENTISTS

(4th -6th grade) time varies- expect about one hour per chosen activity-this program is \$10 per student

This program is designed for entire grade levels to come out to Lippold Park and spend a day in nature. Teachers can choose for their students to participate in a variety of activities including a forest restoration project, a prairie habitat study, an aquatic survey, play a survival challenge activity, participate in some team building games or go on a self-guided exploration hike. Length of the program is dependent on the size of the group and number of activities chosen.

Teachers can choose up to 4 activities that may include Self-led hike (materials provided) due to staffing limitations on certain dates.

Choices include:

- Prairie Investigation
- Forest Restoration
- Pond Study
- Predator-Prey game
- Self-guided Nature Exploration hike
- Crayfish Study

Other options available upon request-let us know what you need to fulfill your curriculum!



PROGRAMS ARE HELD OUTSIDE. PLEASE PLAN AND DRESS ACCORDINGLY.



PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Lasting memories for students and teachers

PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Programs are available starting at 9:30 a.m. Some exceptions can be made.
- Red Oak Nature Center staff can lead groups one class at a time (with some exceptions). All field trips require a minimum of 15 students.
- Programs are delivered rain or shine (except severe weather conditions).
- **NOTE: On-site programs are held outside. Please plan and dress accordingly.**

DURING YOUR VISIT

- Environmental Educators will greet your class on time and be prepared to teach.
- Environmental Educators will follow a lesson plan and accomplish the goals and objectives stated.
- Programs are designed to be fun and interactive, as well as educational.
- At the time of reservation, please inform us of any special needs you may have so that we may best accommodate your group.
- Restrooms and a drinking fountain are located inside the Nature Center.

DIRECTIONS

Red Oak: On Route 25, one mile north of Route 56 in Batavia.

Lippold Park: 1/2 mile north of Red Oak.

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT

- Please arrive on time for your scheduled program. See Cancellations and Changes for late policy.
- Please provide students and chaperones with nametags.
- Maintain discipline, encourage exploration and participation and assist when requested.

RESERVATIONS

To reserve your visit, contact Red Oak Nature Center Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 630-897-1808 or email roprograms@fvpd.net.

REGISTRATION & FEES

In-district schools: \$4 per student

Non-district schools and homeschool groups: \$7 per student

Student Scientists: \$10 per student, for both in-district and non-district schools.

School Visit: School visits are \$4 per student for all programs except Eww program level 1 at \$5 per student and Eww program Level 2 which is \$7 and includes all material fees per student. Schools further than 15 miles from the Nature Center would be assessed a \$25 mileage fee.

- Schools may register for the entire school year.
- Programs must be booked at least one month in advance; earlier registration is highly recommended.
- Checks should be made payable to Fox Valley Park District. Visa, Discover and Master Card are also accepted.
- Grants are available from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. For more information call Red Oak Nature Center at 630-897-1808. or visit, redoaknaturecenter.info

BUS ENTRANCE & PARKING

Red Oak Nature Center's parking lot is located directly off of Route 25. Bus drivers must exit the lot for the duration of the program after dropping off students.

Buses are not permitted to remain in the Red Oak Nature Center parking lot. Buses should park at The Wilds (1/2-mile north of Red Oak Nature Center) and return to the lot 10 minutes before the end of the program.

Small buses allowed to park in the Red Oak lot in designated parking spaces only! Look for signage.

CHAPERONES

Teachers, support staff, and Student Scientist chaperones are always free! Chaperones for all other programs are charged \$2 per adult.

PROGRAM CONFIRMATION

- A Confirmation will be emailed. Please review and verify that the program date and time, number of registered students and any special instructions are correct. The email will also include program guidelines. This email will be sent to the person responsible for booking the program, it is their responsibility to forward to other relevant parties.
- Payment balance is due the day of the program; cash, check or charge. Refunds cannot be issued.

CANCELLATIONS AND CHANGES

- Groups must notify Red Oak to cancel or reschedule visits (subject to availability of dates). For cancellations that are made with less than 48 hours notice, there is a \$60 cancellation fee.
- School groups more than 30 minutes late are subject to additional fees and/or cancellation.
- If there are severe weather conditions, we will make our best effort to modify the program if necessary or notify you of a cancellation as quickly as possible.
- Refunds may be issued in specific circumstances, but are at the discretion of the supervisor.
- All programs and fees are subject to change.



FACILITY RENTALS

Looking for a unique field day location?

Ready to get your students connected back to nature?

Rent a room, shelter or the whole facility at Red Oak Nature Center or at The Wilds at Red Oak.

- Maple classroom rental
- Acorn classroom rental
- Whole facility
- Picnic grove at Red Oak
- Shelter at Red Oak
- Shelter and grounds at The Wilds.

Small/homeschool groups

1/2 hour private rental of whole Red Oak facility for \$50

Please contact ROprograms@fvpd.net for availability and rates or go to RedOakNatureCenter.info for more details!



SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

- Homeschool and private group programs
- Teacher workshops and professional development programs
- Nature play on-site preschool program
- Pre-made NGSS STEM kits and Nature themed activity bags
- IDNR Trunk rentals

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