

RED OAK

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 during winter. 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 Nature Center or The Wilds at Red Oak must reserve a date. There is a required \$2 per person fee for all groups visiting on their own and a \$50 reservation fee to explore inside the nature center. 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
Park District
where fun begins

ENDORSED
BY:





IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Offered November-February only. Additional standards upon request.

WINTER WILDLIFE

2nd - 4th 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! Presentation may include a live animal.

\$5/student, minimum of 15 students.

REPTILES ROCK

2nd - 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.

\$5/student, minimum of 15 students.

NATURE'S RECYCLERS

3rd - 4th grade suggested
Up to 1 hour

Discover the unsung heroes of the natural world! We'll explore the vital role of organisms that break down waste and return nutrients to the soil. Through hands-on activities and interactive learning, students will gain a deeper appreciation for these tiny-but-mighty recyclers who help keep our world healthy and thriving. Program includes millipede or cockroach meet and greet and owl pellet investigation.

There is a \$10 per student fee for this program that includes all materials (including individual owl pellet).





RED OAK
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FIELD EXPLORATION

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

SURVIVAL CHALLENGE

2nd - 4th 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

Step into the role of a nature detective! In this interactive field trip, students will journey through the forest to examine staged forensic scenes, using critical thinking to uncover clues to the culprit. From tracks to feathers, leaves to bite marks each scene holds clues to the animals inhabiting our forests.

SEASONAL HIKE

Pre-K - 3rd grade
Up to 1 hour

Walk with an educator 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 throughout history. 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.



RED OAK
THE WILDS

STUDENT SCIENTISTS

1400 N. RIVER RD., NORTH AURORA, IL 60542

STUDENT SCIENTISTS

(5th - 8th grade) designed to be a full-day field trip. Program is \$10 per student. Max capacity 100 students/day.

This program is designed for entire grade levels to come out to The Wilds at Red Oak and spend a day in nature. Teachers can choose for their students to participate in a variety of activities. Length of the program is dependent on the size of the group and number of activities chosen. Students may be divided into groups to accomplish the full curriculum (see sample schedule).

Teachers choose up to 4 activities that may include a self-led hike (materials provided) due to staffing limitations on certain dates. Other options available upon request - let us know what you need to fulfill your curriculum!

Choices include, but not limited to:

- Endangered Prairie Ecosystem
- Crayfish Deep Dive
- Forest Invasive Species Study
- Nature Exploration hike
- Water Monitoring
- Predator-Prey game

Sample Schedule

| Activity 1 | Activity 2 | Activity 3 | Activity 4 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Group A | Group B | Group C | Group D |
| Group D | Group A | Group B | Group C |
| Lunch for all groups | | | |
| Group C | Group D | Group A | Group B |
| Group B | Group C | Group D | Group A |



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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 at both facilities.

DIRECTIONS

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

The Wilds at Red Oak: ½ mi. 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: \$5 per student*

Non-district schools and homeschool groups: \$8 per student*

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

**Prices are subject to change.*

School Visit: School visits are \$5 per student for all programs except Eww program level 1 at \$7 per student and Nature's Recyclers which is \$10 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 any date within the September through May calendar.
- Programs must be booked at least one month in advance; earlier registration is highly recommended as dates fill quickly.
- Checks should be made payable to Fox Valley Park District. Visa, Discover and Master Card are also accepted.
- Supplemental funding may be available for your school. To inquire, contact our education supervisor, 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

Program chaperones are charged \$2 per adult (except for Student Scientist).

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
- Whole facility
- Picnic grove and fire pit at Red Oak

Hey Groups!

Enjoy a 1/2 hour private rental of Red Oak Nature Center
for groups up to 25 at a time!

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
- IDNR Trunk rentals

