

PRE-K - 1ST GRADE

Field Trip Themes:

PRAIRIE PALS (PRAIRIE)

Explore the prairie, discover tall grasses, vibrant wildflowers, and wildlife as you walk the trails. Students will explore sunlight, water, air, soil, and space — all through interactive games, nature walks, and up-close plant observations in the garden.

FROGGY FUN (POND/WETLANDS)

This field trip is 'ribbiting'! Students will hop into froggy fun as they explore the sounds of the pond, learn the frog life cycle, and play a froggy food chain game!

LIVING IN THE FOREST (WOODLANDS)

The forest is home to all kinds of life, from the biggest deer to the smallest insect. We will explore how these creatures use this habitat to raise their young and thrive, through games, hands-on activities, and more!

WHAT IS POLLUTION AND WHAT CAN YOU DO?

This field trip explores pollution—where it comes from, how it spreads, and what it does to our world. Students will discover how pollution affects animals, people, and the planet, and they'll learn simple, powerful ways we can all work together to keep Earth clean and healthy.

STEAM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, AND MATHEMATICS)

Students will dive into hands-on activities that connect creativity with real-world nature exploration. Build mini shelters like engineers, observe plant patterns like scientists, sketch wildlife like artists, or use math to measure trees, trails, and more! All activities will be season and weather dependent.

2ND - 5TH GRADE

Field Trip Themes:

WHERE ARE ALL THE PRAIRIES? (PRAIRIE)

Students will learn how prairies once covered large parts of Illinois and supported many different plants and animals. Through hands-on activities, guided observation, and interactive discussions, we'll explore how this habitat has changed over time.

WADE INTO THE WETLANDS (WETLANDS)

Wade into the wetlands with dip nets to observe the world beneath the water. Understand the importance of all aquatic creatures - big and small - during the wetland food chain game.

WALK IN THE WOODLANDS (WOODLANDS)

This field trip is no ordinary walk in the park—it's an adventure in the woods! Students will explore the wonders of trees and meet the animals that call them "Home Tweet Home," all while learning why these habitats are so important and how we can help protect them.

NATURE HEROES

Discover the amazing superpowers animals use to survive — and learn how we can use our own human powers to protect the planet! Students will explore, play, and become everyday heroes for nature.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

FIELD TRIP THEMES:

PIECES OF THE PRAIRIE (PRAIRIE)

The prairie is buzzing with life, but these ecosystem can be puzzling. During this field trip, you will piece together all the elements of the prairie to understand the importance of biodiversity in an endangered habitat.

WET - WATER & ENERGY TOGETHER (WETLANDS)

Are you ready to dive into the water . . . cycle? Students will explore the wetlands and its importance for biodiversity, life cycles, and food webs. This field trip will leave students feeling refreshed about this renewable resource.

TANGLED IN THE TREES (WOODLANDS)

Explore the intricate web of life in a forest ecosystem through hands-on activities, games, and real-world observation. Discover how species interact and how environmental changes ripple through the entire woodland community.

BIOBLITZ

Want an all day field experience? Immerse your students in a BioBlitz! Using field guides, tablets, and other resources, students will explore all 3 habitats to identify as many flora and fauna as they can. This in-depth field investigation is hands-on, educational, and fun, all while collecting real data for the nature center!

PEOPLE FOR THE PLANET

Our planet has a problem, but YOU can be a part of the solution. Students will be rewed up to explore and learn about nature's fuel - wind, water, and solar energy, and then leave energized about a more sustainable future.

HATCHET

Compete in a mock game of survival in the woods based on the classic book: *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen. Communication and teambuilding are deeply rooted in this field trip, as groups compete in fort building, fire starting, and water purifying challenges!

NATURE JOURNALING AND POETRY

Connect students with the natural world through observation, reflection, and creativity. During this outdoor learning experience, participants will explore DHNC or WG equipped with journals, pencils, and a curious mindset.

FIELD TRIPS enrich and expand curriculum, strengthen observation skills, immerse learners in sensory activities, increase environmental knowledge, and expand awareness of community! Field trips are available year round and subject to availability.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Nationally trained naturalists guiding students
- Duration typically ranges from 30 minutes - 1.5 hours depending on group needs.
- Interactive, hands-on activities.
- Visuals (pictures, puppets, taxidermy, etc.)
- Outdoor exploration **all year round**
 - Please dress for mostly outdoor exploration
 - Closed toe shoes are highly recommended
 - If severe inclement weather, alternative indoor activities will be conducted.
- While at the nature center, groups can take advantage of on your own activities: picnic lunch, nature play area, visitor center exploration, and more!

To help your students prepare for their field trip, be sure to watch our Field Trip video on our website: www.dhnature.org/fieldtrips