

2014

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Learning Opportunities in Nature, Wildlife
and the Cultural History of Central Illinois

Resources

Field Trips

Continuing Education for Teachers

Mobile Nature Center

Macon County Conservation District, Decatur, IL

www.maconcountyconservation.org

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Macon County Conservation District is an extension of your classroom. Our nature programs for all grade levels complement your science curriculum with hands on learning. Our living history programs teach children from pre-kindergarten through college about pioneer life on the Illinois prairie.

All tours, presentation, and programs are correlated with Illinois State Learning Standards (SLS). The exact standards enhanced by the experience will vary depending on the exact content of the program, the tour leader, your students and how you use the experience.

Programs and opportunities are available for schools, home-school groups, after school programs and organized youth groups such as scouts, religious groups, day care centers, and summer camps.

RESERVATIONS

Reservations for all Macon County Conservation District programs and services may be made Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by calling 217-423-7708. Programs can be booked for Tuesdays through Sundays. (Mondays are not available). More detailed information can also be found at the Macon County Conservation District website: www.maconcountyconservation.org.

Reserve well in advance to secure the dates you want.

Special presentations and the Mobile Nature Center can travel to your classroom. If you are interested in saving money, check out the special programs that will travel to you, beginning on page 5. Additional classes at your school can make a reservation for a discounted rate if the program is scheduled on the same day as the others in the school building.

Rain dates are not provided, however, we can often work with your group indoors if the weather prohibits outdoor programming.

If you need to cancel your reservation for any reason, please contact us as soon as possible.

Pavilions must be reserved. We do not have an indoor lunchroom, but can often accommodate groups indoors during bad weather. For more information please contact us:

Macon County Conservation District
3939 Nearing Lane • Decatur, IL 62521
217-423-7708

mccd@maconcountyconservation.org
www.maconcountyconservation.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

We advise sturdy shoes (no sandals), socks, long pants and long sleeves for participation in outdoor programs. Gloves, hats and boots are recommended for damp and winter weather.

VISITING ON YOUR OWN

We encourage you to bring your class to any of the Conservation District sites throughout the year. There is no fee to use the Rock Springs Nature Center or any of our trails. We simply ask that you call ahead and let us know when you plan to visit.

SCHILLING LIBRARY AT ROCK SPRINGS NATURE CENTER

The library has environmental education, history, storytelling and children's sections as well as a vertical file of nature information, a good selection of field guides and books on various nature topics. Most of these resources may be checked out. Call for library hours.

TIPS FOR A "GREENER" FIELD TRIP

Don't just learn about nature on your field trip, do your part to take care of it with these green field trip ideas.

- 1. Bus or car pool.** If traveling by school bus, encourage another class from your school to share the bus. We can accommodate more than one class at a time if you book early. If parents are coming in their own cars to chaperone or if they are bringing their children, encourage them to car pool too.
- 2. Pack a green lunch.** Many parents use single use plastic bags or prepackaged lunches. This is convenient, but expensive and not very green. Encourage parents to pack lunches in reusable containers and send drinks in reusable bottles. For a really "green" lunch, buy locally grown foods, use cloth napkins or a bandana. Make this a contest to see which student has the greenest lunch.
- 3. Recycle everything that can be.** We have bins for aluminum and plastic bottles at our pavilions and in the nature center. Packaging from many food items can be sent to TerraCycle. This company makes resalable items (backpacks, totes and much more) from certain food wrappers, and other "garbage" Check out www.terracycle.net to learn more.



FEES FOR CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Minimum Fee = \$10.00

▲ - Macon County Groups = \$0.50/participant
Out of County Groups = \$1.00/participant

■ - Macon County Groups = \$1.00/participant
Out of County Groups = \$1.50/participant

◆ - Macon County Groups = \$1.50/participant
Out of County Groups = \$2.00/participant

● - AT your place or ours for program presentations –
see page 11

✕ = \$1.00/student



FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

The following hikes and programs are offered only at Conservation District sites. Most are usually held at Rock Springs Nature Center/Conservation Area. The suggested grade level is listed, but most can be adapted for other grade levels.

There is a minimum fee of \$10.00 for each tour or program. One adult, including the teacher, for each 10 students will be admitted free of charge. Chaperones are discouraged from bringing younger children

- ▲ - Macon County Groups = \$0.50/participant
- Out of County Groups = \$1.00/participant

NATURE HIKES AND PROGRAMS

SENSORY HIKE ▲

Colors, shapes, touch, sounds and smells of nature are experienced in the woods and prairies.

Who: Preschool

Time: 45 min.

SLS: 1AECa, Ecb, ECc, 1BECa, Ecb, ECd, 1EECb, ECe, 8AECa, 9AECa, BECb, 10AECb, 11AECa, 12AECa, Ecb, BEca, Ecb, C.ECa, DECa, FECa, 13AECa, 30AECd, CEca, 32AECb

CHANGES — SEASONS ▲

Plants and animals are preparing for what comes next. We will explore the woods to find clues of their preparation.

Who: Kindergarten

Time: 45 min. – 1 hour

SLS: K-LS1-2, K-ESS2-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1

NATURE AWARENESS HIKE ▲

Let our guides lead your students on a hike emphasizing sensory awareness and appreciation of nature while we see what's happening in the woods and prairie.

Who: Grades 1 through 3

SLS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS2-2, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3

BUGS, BUGS, BUGS ▲

So many bugs, so little time! We will meet a few on our hike and look at what makes a bug a bug.

Who: Grades K through 3

When: September through mid-October

Time: 1 hour

SLS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 3-LS1-1

SEEDS — NATURE’S HITCHHIKERS ▲

Take a hike to see what hitches a ride. Look at seeds close-up and aid in seed dispersal.

- Who:** Grades 1 through 3
- When:** September through mid-October
- Time:** 1 hour
- SLS:** 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2, 3-LS1-1

POND LIFE ▲

Hike to a pond to look for turtles, frogs and other critters that live in or around the water.

- Who:** Grades 1 through 3
- Time:** 1 hour
- SLS:** K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1

PRAIRIE PATHS ▲

On this hike we will experience a prairie in all its glory. Learn about “turkey foot and Indian grass,” how the Native Americans and pioneers felt about the prairie and what happened to it.

- Who:** Grade 3
- When:** September through mid-October
- Time:** 1 hour
- SLS:** 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 16E, 1(us), 2a(us), 2c(us)

■ - Macon County Groups = \$1.00/participant
Out of County Groups = \$1.50/participant

MEET THE CREEPY CRAWLIES ■

Learn about invertebrates, emphasizing insects with an indoor presentation and hike.

- Who:** Grades 4 through 6
- Time:** 1 – 1½ hours
- SLS:** 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, MS-LSI-4, MS-LS1-8, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3

MOTHER NATURE’S NEIGHBORHOOD ■

Ecology and natural communities will be covered during an indoor presentation followed by a hike through the natural communities at Rock Springs Conservation Area.

- Who:** Grades 4 through 6
- Time:** 1 – 1½ hours
- SLS:** 4-LS1-4, 4-ESS2-1, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-6, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3, MS-LS2-4, MS-LS2-5, MS-LS1-6

BIG GREEN MACHINE ■

This presentation and hike covers the importance of green plants in the food web and emphasizes wildflowers and leaves in the spring, and seeds and leaves in fall.

Who: Grades 4 through 6

Time: 1 – 1½ hours

SLS: 4-LS1-1, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-6, MS-LS1-7

A SKELETON IN THEIR CLOSET ■

Vertebrate animals will be contrasted with invertebrates during the indoor presentation. A hike to look for evidence of vertebrates, emphasizing mammals, will follow.

Who: Grades 4 through 6

Time: 1 – 1½ hours

SLS 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2

◆ - Macon County Groups = \$1.50/participant

Out of County Groups = \$2.00/participant

PONDS AND WETLANDS ◆

Discover the importance of wetlands through demonstrations and hands on activities. We will hike to a pond and a wetland, collect some critters and examine them back in the lab.

Who: Grades 3 through 8

Time: 2 hours

SLS: 3-LS-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-ESS2-2, 5-ESS3-1, MS-LS1-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-4, MS-ESS2-2, MS-ESS2-4





ANIMALS IN WINTER ♦

This program covers animal activity in winter and includes a presentation and hike to look for animal tracks and other evidence that not all animals hibernate during the winter. Adapted to appropriate age.

Who: Grades P through 8

Time: 1 hour

Fee: Contingent on type of activity and length of program

SLS: 1AECa, b, c, BECa,b,d, EECb,c,e, 8AECa, 9BECa,b, 11AECa, 12.AECa,b, BECa,b, CECa,b, DECa, FEca, 13AECa, 30CECa, K-LS-1, K-ESS2-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-1, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS2-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MA-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3, MS-LS3-1

HOLIDAYS FOR THE BIRDS ♦

Children will learn about birds at our “Window on Wildlife” and make pine cone bird feeders to hang on the trees and shrubs around the Nature Center, or to take back to their school.

Who: Grades P through 2

Time: 1 hour

SLS: 1AECa, b, c, BECa,b,d, EECb,c,e, 8AECa, 9BECa,b, 11AECa, 12AECa,b, BECa,b, CECa,b, FEca, 13.AECa, 19.AECa,b,d,e, BECa, CECa, 30CECd, 32AEC, K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-1, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1

BIRDS OF A FEATHER ♦

Have fun on this interactive field trip. Take a bird nest quiz, do a beak adaptation activity and/or use our binoculars on a bird hike.

Who: Grades 3 through 8

Time: 1 – 2 hours

SLS: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MA-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3, MS-LS-4

FIELD CLASSES AND OUTDOOR SCHOOL ♦

Let us work with you to provide a program tailored to your needs.

Who: Grades 7 through 12

Time: TBD

Fee: Contingent on type of activity and length of program

SLS: will vary according to the exact program developed.

HISTORY FIELD TRIPS

A VISIT TO HOMESTEAD PRAIRIE FARM ♦

Hike through woods and prairies, experience life at an 1860s living history farm — emphasizes change in local environment and lifestyle.

Who: Grades 4 through 6 (limited to one class or 35 students)

Time: 2 hours

When: September through mid-November

SLS: 4-LS1-1, 4-ESS3-1, MS-LS2-2, MA-LS2-4, MS-ESS3-4, MS-ESS3-5, 16A, 3c, 16B, 2c(us), 2d(us), 16C.2b(us), 2c(us), 3b(us), 16D. 2a(us), 2b(us), 3a(us), 3b(us), 16E, 2a(us), 2c(us), 3a(us), 3b(us), 17A, 2a, 17B, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 17C, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 17.2b, 3a

MEET THE TROBAUGHS ♦

Learn about life in the past from stories of the Trobaugh children.

Tour the 1860s house they lived in years ago. Limited to 30 students

Who: Grades K through 3

Time: 1 hour

SLS: 16A 1a, 1b, 1c, 16C 1b(us), 16C 1a(w) 1b(w), 16E 1(us), 17D 1

BETHEL SCHOOL DAYS ♦

A turn-of-the-century, one-room school experience at Bethel Schoolhouse. Adapted to the appropriate learning level for your group.

Who: Grades K through 8

Where: Friends Creek Conservation Area, Argenta

Time: 1 hour

SLS: 16A 1a, 1b, 1c, 16B 2c(us), 16C 1b(us), 2c(us), 16D 2b(us), 3b(us), 16E 1(us), 2a(us), 2c(us), 3a(us), 3b(us)

HOLIDAYS ON THE PRAIRIE ♦

Students will learn about Christmases of the past at the Homestead Prairie Farm and early Christmas traditions in this hands-on program.

Who: Grades 1 and 2

Time: 1 hour

Fee: Macon County Schools \$1.50 per student, Out of County Schools \$2.00 per student

SLS: 16A 1a, 1b, 1c, 16B 1(w), 16C 1b(us), 16D 1(w), 16E 1(us), 17C 1a, 17D 1

HOMESTEAD PRAIRIE FARM TOUR ♦

Living history tour of an 1860s farmhouse and dooryard.

Who: Grades 3 through college

Time: 30 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 16A 2b, 3c, 4b, 16B 2c(us), 2d(us), 4(us), 5b(us), 16C 2b(us), 2b(us), 2c(us), 3b(us), 4a(us), 4b(us), 5b(us), 16D 2a(us), 2b(us), 3a(us), 3b(us), 16F 2a(us), 2c(us) 3a(us), 3b(us)3c(us), 5a(us), 5a(w), 17B 2a, 2b, 3b, 17C2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 3c, 4a, 17D 2b, 3a, 3b, 4. 18C 2

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

YOUR PLACE OR OURS

Let us bring a program to you with the following special presentations from our Mobile Nature Center. These programs may also be scheduled at Rock Springs Nature Center. Presentations are listed by age appropriateness with youngest first. Fees for Special Presentations at Rock Springs Nature Center, all groups \$1.00 per student.

In your classroom, Macon County Schools: \$50.00 per class up to 30 students. \$30.00 each additional class that day.

Out of County Schools: \$60.00 per class up to 30 students. \$35.00 each additional class that day, plus \$.50 per mile round trip. \$20.00 surcharge for trips more than 100 miles round trip.

NATURE PROGRAMS

These programs include an indoor presentation and hike. All programs are 1.5 to 2 hours in length. Programs can be adapted for other grade levels.

✘ - Macon County Groups = \$1.00/participant
Out of County Groups = \$1.50/participant

DISCOVERING DINOSAURS ✘

Children are fascinated by dinosaurs. Children will examine replicas of a dinosaur track, skull, egg, tooth and more. Story time is also available for younger children.

Who: Grades P through 2. Can be adapted for older groups.

Time: 30 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 1AECa,b,c, BECa,b,d, EECb,d,e, 9BECb, 10AECb, 11AECa, 12AECa, BECa, 30AECd, CECa, K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1, 2-ESS1-1, 16.A.1a.

FROG MUSIC ✘

Children will meet live amphibians, make a puppet and enjoy an interactive story while learning about frogs and toads.

Who: Grades P through 3

Time: 1 hour

SLS: 1AECa,b,c, BECa,b,d, EECb, d,e, 11AECa, 12AECa, BECa, b, 19.AECd, 30AECd, CECa, K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4.

THE UN-LOVABLES ✖

This presentation focuses on animals that are not “cute” or “cuddly”. In fact, some of us might even say “YUK!”. Students will learn the truth about these misunderstood members of the animal world and the important role they play.

Who: Grades P through 8

Time: 30 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 1AECa, b,c, BECa,b,d, EECb,d,e, 11AECa, 12AECa, BECa, b, 19AECd, 30AECd,CECa, K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-2, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 5-PS3-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS2-2

WHOO GOES THERE? OWLS ✖

Children will learn about the habits and habitats of native owls. A craft is available for younger students. For the older students, dissection of owl pellets is offered for an extra fee of \$2.00/student. Note—no live owls.

Who: Grades P through 12

Time: 45 min. – 1½ hours

SLS: 1AECa, b,c, BECa,b,d, EECb,d,e, 11AECa, 12AECa, BECa, b, 19AECd, 30AECd,CECa, K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS2-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS1-8, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3, MS-LS4-4. HS-LS2-6

THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES ✖

Students will learn the important role bees play in our lives - from making honey to pollinating food crops. The difference between bees and wasps will also be highlighted. Content adapted to the age group. For older groups, information on native bees and honey bee diseases will be included.

Who: Grades P through college

Time: 30 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 1AECa,b,c, BECa,b,d, EECb,d,e, 11.A.ECa, 12AECa, BECa, b, 19AECd, 30AECd, 30CECa, K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-2, 2-LS2-2, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS1-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-6, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS1-8, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3, MS-LS4-2, MS-LS4-4, HS-LS2-6, HS-LS2-8

REPTILIAN ROUNDUP ✖

Meet a real snake to find out what they are really like. Live turtles and snakes help students learn the true nature and value of these creatures. May be adapted for various age groups.

Who: Grades P through college

Time: 30 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 1AECa,b,c, 1B ECa,b,d, Ecb, d,e, 11AECa, 12AECa, BECa,b, 19AECd, 30AECd, 30CECa, K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS2-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS1-8, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3, MS-LS4-4. HS-LS2-6

FOREST, FOREST, WHERE IS THE FOREST? ✖

Students participate in a skit to “build” a forest and then observe the affects as pioneers move in and cut the trees to build their community.

Who: Grades K through 6

Time: 30 – 45 min.

SLS: 1AECa,b,c, BECa,b,d, EECb, c, e, 9BECa, b, 11AECa, 12AECa, 12BECa,b, 15BECa, 19AECd, 30AECd, K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-ESS3-1, 4-ESS3-2, 5-ESS3-1, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-4, MS-LS2-5, 16A/a, !b, 17B 1a, 2a ,1b, 2b, C 1a, 1b, 2b, 1c, 2c, D 1, 2b.

GOING BATTY ✖

Focusing on Illinois bats, children learn truth from myth about these fascinating mammals. A variety of activities will entertain and educate the students. Note—no live bats.

Who: Grades K through 12

Time: 30 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 1AECa,b,c, 1BECa, b, d, 1EECb, d, e, 11AECa, 12AECa, 12BECa, b, 19AECd, 30AECd, 30CECa, K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS2-2, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS1-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS1-8, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3, MS-LS4-2, MS-LS4-4, HS-LS2-6, HS-LS2-8

ILLINOIS MAMMALS ✖

Learn facts about the life histories of common and uncommon Illinois mammals through examination of pelts, skulls, tracks and scat. Can be tied to Illinois history during the French fur trading era.

Who: Grades K through 12

Time: 45 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 1AECa,b,c, 1BECa,b,d, EECb, d, e, 11AECa, 12AECa, BECa, b, 19AECd, 30AECd, 30CECa, K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS2-2, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS2-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS1-8, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3, MS-LS4-2, MS-LS4-4, HS-LS2-6, HS-LS2-8

SYMBOLS OF OUR STATE ✖

A quick look at Illinois’ natural history through symbols which were chosen by school children to represent our state. Includes the state tree, bird, wildflower, mammal, insect, prairie grass, fish, amphibian, reptile, fossil and mineral.

Who: Grades 1 through 6

Time: 45 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 4-ESS1-1, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS1-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS1-6, MS-LS12-1, MS-LS2-2.



LET'S ROCK ✖

Learn the basics of rocks and minerals and their uses in everyday life. Program also includes a look at fossils.

Who: Grades 2 through 12

Time: 1 hour

SLS: 2-PS1-1, 2-ESS1-1, 4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS3-1, 4-ESS3-2, 5-PS1-1, 5-PS1-2, 5-ESS3-1, MS-ESS2-1, MS-ESS2-2, MS-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-4 MS-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-5, HS-ESS3-1, HS-ESS3-4

A TRIP THROUGH TIME – GEOLOGY OF ILLINOIS ✖

Students will take an imaginary trip through time to explore the geologic history of Illinois. We will discover warm tropical seas, dark muddy swamps with giant insects and the ice age.

Who: Grades 3 through 12

Time: 45 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 3-LS4-1, 4-ESS1-14-ESS2-1, 4-ESS2-2, 4-ESS3-15-PS3-1, 5-ESS2-1, MS-ELS4-1 MS-ESS1-4MS-ESS2-1, MS-ESS2-2MS-ESS2-3, MS-ESS3-1, HS-2SS2-1, HS-ESS2-4

WILD AND WONDERFUL WOLVES ✖

Are Little Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs really presenting an accurate story? Learn about the history of wolves and how people view these animals today.

Who: Grades 3 through 12

Time: 45 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS2-1, MS-LS1-4, MS-LS1-5, MS-LS1-8, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3, MS-LS4-2, MS-LS4-4, HS-LS2-6, HS-LS2-8

EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE ✖

A slide presentation takes participants on a tour of the universe. Greek and Native American legends add to the program. Can be combined with stargazing to provide a highlight to this program. Star Lab information on page 17. Projects or crafts are available.

Who: Grades 3 through college

Time: 1 – 1½ hours

SLS: 3-LS3-2, 4-ESS3-1, 5-PS3-1, 5-ESS1-1, 5-ESS1-2, MS-ESS1-1, MS-ESS1-2, MS-ESS1-3, MS-ESS3-3, HS-ESS1-1, HS-ESS1-2, HS-ESS1-3, HS-ESS1-6.

HISTORY PROGRAMS

NATIVE AMERICAN SKY LEGENDS ✕

The first people in North America had many legends about the beginning of their world. Students will enjoy this interactive storytelling session as they learn about American Indian traditions and the night sky.

Who: Grades P through 5

Time: 30 min. – 45 min.

SLS: 4AEC, 12AECb, 12FEC, 18AEC, 2EKa, 4AKa & b, 12FK, 16AKb, 17CK, 12F, 1b, 2c, 16A, 1a, 1c, 16E, 1(W), 2a(W), 4a(W), 18A, 2.

ONE ROOM SCHOOL ✕

What was school like in the 19th century? Learn about one-room schools, teachers' duties, lessons, and student life with this interactive presentation.

Who: Grades K through 5

Time: 45 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 6AKa & b, 14AKb, 16AKb, 17DK, 16A, 1a, 1b, 1c, 16B, 1a(us), 1b(us), 16C, 1a(w), 4b(us), 16D, 2b(us), 2(w), 3a(us), 3b(us) 16E, 2b(us), 3b(us)

PLAYTIMES PAST ✕

What kinds of toys did children have in the 1800s and what games did they play? Children will discover the fun of old fashioned pastimes during this interactive presentation.

Who: Grades K through 5

Time: 45 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 14Kb, 16AKb, 9AKa & d, 16A, 1a, 1b, 1c, 16D, 2(w), 3b(us), 18A, 1, 2, 3, 19A, 1, 2, 3, 19 B1, 2, 3, 19C, 1, 2, 3

NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE-WAYS ✕

What was life like for the Native Americans who inhabited Illinois? What natural resources were available and how did they use them? Take a trip back to a different time and culture.

Who: Grades K through 12

Time: 45 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 15BK, 16AKb, 17CK, 17DK, 12B, 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 15D, 1b, 2a, 15E, 4b, 16A, 1a, 1b, 1c, 16C, 1a(US), 1a(W), 1b(W), 3a(US), 3b(W), 3c(W), 4a(US), 4b(US), 16D, 2a(US), 2(W), 3(W), 4(W), 16E, 1(US)





QUILTS THROUGH THE YEARS ✕

Children learn the history of quilts and their importance in daily life through sample quilts and the stories they tell. Hands-on materials available for small groups. Can be adapted to other grade levels.

Who: Grades 3 through 6

Time: 45 in. – 1 hour

SLS: 16D, 2b, 16D, 2(w), 18A, 2, 3

THE TRAVELER'S TRUNK ✕

What was it like to be a traveler in the old days of stage coaches and steam trains? Learn how to pack light and make do.

Who: Grades 3 through 12

Time: 45 min. – 1 hour

SLS: 16A, 1a, 1b, 1c, 16B, 1a(us), 1b(us), 16C, 1a(w), 4b(us), 16D, 2b(us), 2(w), 3a(us), 3b(us), 16E, 2b(us), 3b(us)

TRAPPERS AND TRADERS ✕

Who were the first Europeans to explore and exploit Central Illinois? What were they looking for and how did they interact with the people already living here?

Who: Grades 3 through 12

Time: 1 hour

SLS: 12A, 2a, 3c, 12B, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 16B, 2d(us), 2a(w), 16C, 3a(us), 3b(w), 4a(us), 4b(us) 16D, 2a(us), 3a(us), 4(w), 16E, 2a(w), 4a(w)

GOVERNOR OGLESBY MANSION

The Governor Oglesby Mansion offers special presentations for fifth grade classes in early May. This program includes information about the life of Governor Oglesby, his relationship with Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant, and historic Decatur, as well as a tour of the mansion. Special group tours can be arranged. The Mansion is open for public tours the last Sunday afternoon of each month from March through November. To make arrangements for a tour or special presentation call 217-429-9422. The Governor Oglesby Mansion, located at 421 W. William St. in Decatur, is owned by the Macon County Conservation District and operated by Governor Oglesby Mansion, Inc.

MOBILE NATURE CENTER

The Mobile Nature Center can be scheduled for your school or group. It is ideal for outdoor events, science fairs, scout and community activities. A naturalist will be available to make presentations, and engage participants in hands-on activities.

In your classroom, Macon County Schools: \$50.00 per class up to 30 students. \$30.00 each additional class that day.

Out of County Schools: \$60.00 per class up to 30 students. \$35.00 each additional class that day, plus \$.50 per mile round trip. \$20.00 surcharge for trips more than 100 miles round trip.

TELESCOPES

Make arrangements with our staff for an astronomy demonstration using our 8" Celestron and 6" telescopes. Daytime viewing of sun spots or evening viewing of stars and planets is offered at Rock Springs Nature Center, other conservation areas, your school, or a meeting place. Can be combined with Exploring the Universe or the Star Lab for an additional fee.

FEES FOR ASTRONOMY DEMONSTRATION:

Macon County Schools \$30.00 per class for up to 30 students, \$25.00 for each additional class that day.

Out of County \$35.00 per class for up to 30, \$30.00 for each additional class that day. An additional \$.50 per mile for travel, \$10.00 surcharge for more than 100 miles round trip.

STAR LAB FACILITATION

Our trained staff will come to your school to facilitate the Star Lab Mobile Planetarium. Let us take care of all the details of rental, set-up and presentations. Presentations offered by our staff include:

- The Night Sky
- Constellations and Greek Legends
- Native American Legends

All presentations are tailored for the age and ability level and vary in length from 20 to 45 minutes.

Fees for Star Lab Facilitation, Macon County Schools: \$125.00 per day

Out of County Schools: \$150.00 per day. An additional \$.50 per mile for travel, \$20.00 surcharge for more than 100 miles roundtrip.



MUSEUM IN A BOX

These interactive teaching kits, which were assembled by conservation district education staff, are available to educators in the Macon County Area. The kits are correlated with the Illinois State Learning Standards and developed for preschool through 12th grade. They are listed by age-appropriateness with youngest first. Call to reserve. Must be picked up at Rock Springs Nature Center.

FEES FOR THE MUSEUM IN A BOX:

Macon County Schools \$5.00 for 2 weeks, \$2.00 per day late fee

Out of County Schools \$10.00 for 2 weeks, \$2.00 per day late fee

NATURE

OH DEER!

The white tailed deer is Illinois' state mammal. This kit, containing books, lesson plans, a deer pelt, and much more is sure to be a hit with all ages. Use it to augment the study of state symbols, spur a discussion of hunting or help preschoolers learn the difference between white tailed deer and reindeer.

Who: Grades P through 12

SLS: BEC, 1CEC, 4AEC, 5AEC, 5bEC, 11AEC, 12AEC, 12AEC, 12BEC, 12FEC, 11AK, 12AK, 12BK, 12FK, 16AK, 16BK, 17AK, 17CK, 12A, 12B, 13B.

TALKIN' TURKEY

This kit is full of items and information from the National Wild Turkey Federation, plus replica skull, track, scat, egg and other fun materials. It will be a great addition to a unit at Thanksgiving or anytime.

Who: Grades P through 12

SLS: BEC, 1CEC, 4AEC, 5AEC, 5BE, 5CEC, 11AEC, 12AEC, 12BEC, 12FEC, 11AK, 12AK, 12BK, 12FK, 16AK, 16BK, 17AK, 17CK, 12A, 12B, 13B, 16E, 17C

DINOSAURS

Every kid loves dinosaurs. This kit contains interactive materials, curriculum materials, and lots of fun stuff for the dino fan. Sure to be a hit.

Who: Grades K through 4

SLS: 12A, 12B, 12E, 13B

INSECTS

Loads of information and fun activities. This kit includes lesson plans, games, Magic School Bus and other videos, posters, real specimens plus collecting equipment.

Who: Grades K through 6

SLS: 12A, 12B, 13B



REPTILES

Learn about common and uncommon reptiles with this kit chock full of books, videos, posters, games, activity ideas and more.

Who: Grades K through 6

SLS: 12A, 12B, 13B

ASTRONOMY

Includes background materials, lesson plans, videos, posters, games, books, websites and much more. Perfect supplement for a unit or enrichment materials.

Who: Grades K through 12

SLS: 12F

BATS

Learn about bats in Macon County and beyond. Kit includes videos, slides, skulls, skeletons, books, lesson plans, activities, posters.

Who: Grades K through 12

SLS: 12A, 12B, 13B

BIRDS OF PREY

This kit contains materials relating to hawks and owls with emphasis on local species. Posters, activities, lesson plans, skulls, and much more included.

Who: Grades K through 12

SLS: 12A, 12B, 13B

FOSSILS

Kit includes video lab for middle and high school. Also has "bucket of fossils" which will delight all ages. Materials to "make a fossil" included, along with books, lesson plans and background materials.

Who: Grades K through 12

SLS: 12A, 12B, 12E, 13B , 16A

FROGS AND TOADS

Full of facts about frogs and toads. Lesson plans, posters, books, videos and CDs help the student discover more about these amphibians.

Who: Grades K through 12

SLS: 12A, 12B, 13B

TREES

Trees are so important to our environment. This kit helps students learn to identify common trees with seeds, wood, and leaves. It also helps younger students understand the importance of trees to our lives. Contains lesson plans, books, specimens and posters.

Who: Grades K through 12

SLS: 12A, 12B, 13B, 16E

WETLANDS, PONDS AND STREAMS

Fresh water aquatic environments are often misunderstood. Help your students learn about the importance of this varied habitat with videos, books, activities, posters, test kits and lesson plans.

Who: Grades K through 12

SLS: 12A, 12B, 13B, 16E

PRAIRIE

Learn more about this important, but vanishing biome. Illinois is nicknamed "The Prairie State" for a reason. Kit includes lesson plans, videos, CDs, prairie plant specimens, skulls, scat and egg replicas of prairie birds.

Who: Grades 3 through 12

SLS: 12A, 12B, 13B, 16E, 17B, 17C

HISTORY

1860s FARM LIFE

Students will catch a glimpse of life in rural Central Illinois. You'll gain in-depth perspectives through artifacts, activities and selected topics that demonstrate the experiences of men, women, and children that lived the 19th Century farming lifestyle.

Who: Grades K through 6

SLS: 13A, 16A, 16D, 16E

NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE-WAYS

The Native Americans in Illinois had their own way of life attuned to the environment. This kit helps students understand and appreciate the unique aspects of Illinois tribes through artifacts and furs from the animals they hunted, the crops they grew, and legends from the Midwest.

Who: Grades K through 6

SLS: 12B, 15D, 16A, 16C

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

The Civil War Museum in a Box provides an in depth look into the life of the common American Civil War soldier. Students gain this experience through artifacts, activities, and selected topics that focus on food, daily living, and the hardships that soldiers faced.

Who: Grades 3 through 12

SLS: 16B, 16D

LENDING TRUNKS

Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Lending Trunks are available at the Rock Springs Nature Center. These kits are for use by educators and are free of charge. Call to reserve. Kits must be picked up at Rock Springs Nature Center.

ILLINOIS INSECTS AND SPIDERS TRUNK

Insects and spiders fascinate students. Encourage them to learn more about these organisms by using the resources in this kit. Books, DVDs, student activities, field guides, posters, insect/spider observation equipment and a video are just some of the items included.

Who: Grades P through 6

SLS: 12A, 12B, 13B

PEOPLE AND ANIMALS FROM ILLINOIS' PAST TRUNK

Prehistoric mammals, extirpated mammals and Native Americans' relationship with nature are the subjects of this resource trunk. Contents include: mammoth and mastodon tooth replicas, Native American games, activities, posters, replica pottery, a video, reference and activity books.

Who: Grades P through 6

SLS: 12A, 12B, 16A, 16E, 17C, 18A

ILLINOIS BIRDS RESOURCE TRUNK

Stop and listen to one of nature's instruments with this kit filled with field guides, books, track and egg replicas, DVDs, videos, CD's with bird songs and calls, and even bird replicas that sing!

Who: Grades P through 8

SLS: 1BEC, 1CEC, 4AEC, 5AEC, 5BE, 5CEC, 11AEC, 12AEC, 12BEC, 12FEC, 11AK, 12AK, 12BK, 12FK, 1C, 4B, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6C, 6C, 10A, 12A, 12B, 13B, 16E, 17A, 17C, 18A

ILLINOIS WILD MAMMALS TRUNK

Discover Illinois mammals with this kit! Pelts, skulls, replica tracks and scat and many other interesting items are sure to be a hit with your students.

Who: Grades P through 12

SLS: 12A, 12B, 13B, 16E

ILLINOIS' STATE SYMBOLS RESOURCES TRUNK

Are you teaching about Illinois? Then this is the resource kit for you. Photos, replicas, actual samples, activity book, information and other items are included for your use. There's an Illinois Facts section, too.

Who: Grades K through 6

SLS: 11AK, 12AK, 12BK, 12FK, 16AK, 16BK, 17AK, 17CK, 12A, 12B, 13B.

ILLINOIS PRAIRIE RESOURCE TRUNK

Are you teaching about prairies or the people who inhabited the prairies? Then borrow the Illinois Prairies trunk! Field guides, activity books, reference manuals, bison artifacts, numerous lessons, CD-ROMs and other items are included for your use.

Who: Grades K through 8

SLS: 12A, 12B, 13B, 16E, 17B, 17C

ILLINOIS TREES RESOURCE TRUNK

Check out this kit! It is jam-packed with books, posters, "tree cookies," lumber samples, videos, and more!

Who: Grades K through 10

SLS: 1BEC, 1CEC, 4AEC, 5AEC, 5BE, 5CEC, 11AEC, 12AEC, 12BEC, 12FEC, 11AK, 12AK, 12BK, 12FK, 1A, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5C, 11A, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 16E, 17A

ILLINOIS' INVASIVE SPECIES RESOURCE TRUNK

Invasive species are a daily topic in the news. What are they? How did they get here? What problems do they cause? What can we do about them? These questions and more can be answered by using the new Illinois' Invasive Species resources trunk! Contents include student activities, background information, images, lessons, field guides, specimens and other items.

Who: Grades 3 through 12

SLS: 12A, 12B, 16E, 17A, 17B, 17C, 17D.

ILLINOIS FOSSILS RESOURCE TRUNK

This kit emphasizes Illinois fossils. Includes fossil molds, fossil hunt kits, reference collection, field guides, posters, activities, and a video.

Who: Grades 4 through 8

SLS: 12A, 12B, 12E, 13B

AQUATIC ILLINOIS RESOURCE TRUNK

Discover the secret life of water with this kit. Children will explore the biological, historical, chemical, and other aspects of water through books, posters, water sampling tools, videos, DVD's and activities!

Who: Grades 5 through 9

SLS: 1BEC, 1CEC, 4AEC, 5AEC, 5BE, 5CEC, 11AEC, 12AEC, 12BEC, 12FEC, 11AK, 12AK, 12BK, 12FK, 12A, 12B, 12E, 12F, 13B, 16A, 16E, 17A, 17B, 17C, 17D

FIELD TRIP PACK

This backpack includes many items to assist your early childhood students as they explore nature. Hands-on equipment will encourage self-initiated learning. Suggestions for teachers on how to incorporate natural-resources activities into your lessons are also included.

Suggested grades: P through 3

EXPLORATION PACKS & WORKSHOPS

EXPLORATION PACKS

If you would like to explore Rock Springs Conservation Area on your own with your students, our Exploration Packs enhance your experience. Each pack includes a trail guide with interest areas circled and a toolkit for fun. Field guides and activities for children and adults are included. Seasonal and topical packs allow your group to explore many aspects of nature as it changes with the seasons. Pack topics include: Birds, Insects, Forest Ecology, Wetlands and Ponds, Prairie Ecology, Spring and Summer, Tracks and Trails, and Winter Ecology. These self-guiding packs are made available by a grant from PPG Industries.

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Teacher workshops for continuing professional development units (CPDUs) are offered throughout the year. Register on line at maconcountyconservation.org.

IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS

Our staff is available to come to your school to work with the faculty during in-service days. Teachers can earn CPDUs. Some topics which might be of interest are:

RAPTOR FOCUS SERIES

Leighty-Tabor Science Center, Millikin University 7:00 – 8:00pm

The Raptor Focus Series consists of fun and informative presentations by Illinois Raptor Center's Jacques Nuzzo. The the three program series focuses on the life history of Illinois raptors. Identification, natural history, interactions with the environment, impacted by humans and what their future may hold will be covered. With 23 years as a wildlife rehabilitator, Jacques shares his unique prospective. A live raptor from the Illinois Raptor Center will be shown at the conclusion of each presentation. This series is open to the public. Space is limited.

Sponsored by Decatur Audubon Society, Millikin University and Macon County Conservation District

Session 1: January 28 – Raptors – Special Forces of the Bird World

Session 2: February 25 – Barred Owls – The Voice of the River

Session 3: March 25 – Screech Owls – The Big, Little Owl

Fee: \$10/session

CPDU: 1/session available to teachers

LEWIS AND CLARK TEACHER WORKSHOP

March 20, 2014, 4pm – 8pm

In 1804 Meriwether Lewis and William Clark left Camp Dubois in Illinois and undertook an expedition equal to the trip to the moon. This amazing journey of exploration by the Corps of Discovery is still relevant today. Many aspects of the trip will be explored along with ideas for classroom activities and projects, website list, field trip ideas and other resources. A light supper is included.

Fee: \$15.00

CPDU 4

Macon County
Conservation District
3939 Nearing Lane
Decatur, IL 62521

Change Service Requested



*"I have brought groups to
Rock Springs for a
variety of programs and
this was by far the best,
which is saying a lot since
every program has been
very well done!"*

—Teacher from
Our Lady of Lourdes School
Grades K-6