



350 E. Irving Park Road
Itasca IL 60143
Ph: 630/773-2257
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Itascaparkdistrict.com

Dear Teachers:

Please consider Springbrook Nature Center as a destination for your next field trip.

The Nature Center offers a wide variety of age-appropriate programs throughout the school year to provide students with first-hand exposure to their environment and nature. All our programs are interactive and designed to teach an awareness and appreciation for the environment.

Our prices are very reasonable, \$100 per hour (for up to 15 students) for all on-site programs. Out-reach programs are a minimum of \$150 for up to 15 students + travel time. It is an extra \$7 per additional child. We also have a picnic shelter for your use if you want to stay for lunch or a snack.

The Nature Center is located at **130 Forest Avenue, Itasca, Illinois 60143.**

I have attached information about the programs we offer. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

We look forward to your visit, or bringing nature to your classroom!

Sincerely,

Chris Carling
Recreation / Nature Supervisor

Itasca Park District
350 E. Irving Park Rd.
Itasca, IL 60143

P: 630-773-2257
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How to Register for a Program

- Decide which season your class would like to visit the nature center.
- Select an age-appropriate program from the inside of this flyer.
- Email Chris at ccarling@itascaparkdistrict.com or call the Itasca Park District at (630) 773-2257, Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Programs must be registered at least two weeks in advance; earlier registration is recommended and appreciated).
- \$100 per hour (for up to 15 students) for all on-site programs. Out-reach programs are a minimum of \$150 for up to 15 students + travel time. Fees may be subject to change. It is an extra \$7 per additional child.

Things You Can Expect from Us

- Our naturalists will greet your class on time and be prepared to teach.
- Our naturalists will follow a lesson plan and accomplish the goals and objectives stated.
- Our programs are fun and interactive as well as educational.
- We will try to accommodate any special needs you may have regarding a program.

Things We Expect of You

To ensure that your visit is a valuable experience, your help is needed.

- Please arrive on time for your scheduled program.
- Dress appropriately for outdoor activities (Programs are designed to be outdoors - remember boots, raincoats, hats, mittens, etc.).
- Please wear nametags.
- Maintain discipline, encourage participation, and assist when requested.
- Bring adult helpers (Please do not bring siblings).
- Have a good time!

| Fall Programs | |
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| Grade | September – November |
| <i>Preschool (3 years old)</i> | Hike for Tykes (1 hr.) |
| <i>Preschool (4 years old)</i> | A Time for Wonder (1 hr.) Mouse Walk (1 hr.) |
| <i>Kindergarten</i> | Discovery Walk (1 hr.) Signs of Fall (1 hr.) |
| <i>1st</i> | Furry Friends (1½ hrs.) Wonder Walk (1 hr.) |
| <i>2nd</i> | Earth Magic (1 hr.) Mini-Beast Patrol (1½ hrs.) |
| <i>3rd</i> | Autumn Adventures (1½ hrs.) Earth Walk (1½ hrs.) |
| <i>4th</i> | Wildwalk (1½ hrs.) |

| Spring Programs | |
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| Grade | March – May |
| <i>Preschool (3 years old)</i> | Hike for Tykes (1 hr.) |
| <i>Preschool (4 years old)</i> | A Time for Wonder (1 hr.) Tremendous Trees (1 hr.) |
| <i>Kindergarten</i> | Discovery Walk (1 hr.) Signs of Spring (1 hr.) |
| <i>1st</i> | Furry Friends (1½ hrs.) Wonder Walk (1 hr.) |
| <i>2nd</i> | Earth Magic (1 hr.) I Seed a Plant (1½ hrs.) Spring Time Story (1½ hrs.) |
| <i>3rd</i> | Earth Walk (1½ hrs.) Geology (1½ hrs.) |
| <i>4th</i> | Wildwalk (1½ hrs.) |

*Outreach Programs are taught at your school in your classroom. They are highlighted in yellow within the following alphabetical list.

| Outreach Programs* | |
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| Grade | December – March |
| <i>Preschool (3 years old)</i> | Tales of Tails (1 hr.) |
| <i>Preschool (4 years old)</i> | Movin' in the Woods (1 hr.) Let's Talk Turkey! (1 hr.) |
| <i>Kindergarten</i> | Animal Coverings (1 hr.) |
| <i>1st</i> | Animal Families (1 hr.) |
| <i>2nd</i> | Spider School (1 hr.) |
| <i>3rd</i> | Soil Secrets (1 hr.) |

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| <p>Animal Coverings</p>  | <p>Outreach Why do birds have feathers? Why do turtles have shells? How do these coverings determine where these animals will live? Explore different animal “coverings” in a variety of sensory activities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| <p>Animal Families</p>  | <p>Outreach Two families have gotten mixed-up and it’s up to you to sort them out. Learn what is similar and what is different about birds and fish.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| <p>A Time for Wonder</p>  | <p>Follow the Spring Brook Nature Center Timekeeper on a tour through the woods to discover its secrets. Use your senses of touch, sight, smell and hearing, along with an array of tools to explore the forest.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| <p>Autumn Adventures</p>  | <p>Learn what it is like to be a groundhog in hibernation, a robin winging its way south, and a squirrel hunting for its food. You’ll discover how local animals survive the winter as you are introduced to the ideas of hibernation, migration, and adaptation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1½ hours</p> |
| <p>Discovery Walk</p>  | <p>Look for pieces of a broken rainbow left behind after a storm. Catch a hidden smell and make other wonderful discoveries using your senses as we walk around our grounds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| <p>Earth Magic</p>  | <p>Come on a walk to explore the outdoors! This hike uses sensory, sharing, and empathizing activities as we discover a hidden world, meet a new forest friend, learn to use your “third eye” and uncover nature’s palette.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| <p>Earth Walk</p>  | <p>This adventure includes brief, structured activities to utilize your senses and stretch your imagination. Learn about adjectives as we write poetry, discover unique perspectives of a tree, enjoy a quiet “Magic Spot” and gather a dozen touches.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1½ hours</p> |
| <p>Furry Friends</p>  | <p>Accompany “Little Diver” (a baby muskrat) on a journey. Follow clues to discover what distinguishes a mammal from other animals.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1½ hours</p> |
| <p>Hike for Tykes</p>  | <p>Exercise all your senses on this magical hike. Use touch gloves, a sniff bag, rabbit ears, and a “small thing” detector to experience the natural world.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| <p>I Seed a Plant</p>  | <p>A seed is a tiny package of life. Learn what is in this marvelous package and investigate the four requirements it needs to grow. You will also plant seeds to grow at school or at home.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1½ hours</p> |
| <p>Let’s Talk Turkey!</p>  | <p>Outreach Gobble, gobble! What are a wattle, a snood, and a beard doing on a bird? Learn more about this native bird that’s on the minds of so many people at Thanksgiving. We’ll make a turkey craft to celebrate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Taught in November only) 1 hour</p> |
| <p>Mini-Beast Patrol</p>  | <p>Join us on a mission to learn about insects and other small creatures. Find a home for your mystery creature where all its needs are met. You must find living evidence before its identity is revealed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1½ hours</p> |

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| Mouse Walk |  | <p>Wiggle your whiskers and come along as we take a look at the natural world through the eyes of a mouse. Make a mouse home, gather and store food for the winter, and learn how to hide from predators. Collect natural smells and place them in a “sniff box” to take back to school.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| Movin’ in the Woods |  | <p>Outreach Discover how different animals get around in the woods by movin’ and groovin’ like woodland critters do. You may even get to meet some live animals and see how they move!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| Signs of Fall |  | <p>Fall is alive with brilliant colors, crisp air, and preparations for winter. Through the use of “road signs,” learn how local plants and animals prepare for the coming cold and what makes autumn so special.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| Signs of Spring |  | <p>Birds are singing, flowers are blooming, and everything is green. It’s spring! Discover some of the local signs of the new season on a hike through the prairie. Construct your own bird’s nest to take home.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| Soil Secrets |  | <p>Outreach You walk on it everyday and it gets under your fingernails, but you probably don’t think about soil much. Uncover the facts of soil: why it’s so important and how it’s in trouble. Take part in the Soil Olympics.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| Spider School |  | <p>Outreach Imagine having eight legs and eight eyes. Learn about the world of the amazing spider and find out what makes them so special.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| Spring Time Story |  | <p>Using an oversized storybook, follow the life of Fledge, a young Red-winged Blackbird. On the journey, you will find and defend a territory, raise a family, and feed your young.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1½ hours</p> |
| Tales of Tails |  | <p>Outreach Explore classic nursery rhymes, stories and songs to learn the truth about coyotes and how they compare to pet dogs. Participate in activities related to the coyote’s habitat, movement and behavior.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| Tremendous Trees |  | <p>Get introduced to trees at a puppet show. Go outside for a leaf matching game, create bark rubbings and sing a tree-mendous song.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| Wild Walk |  | <p>Take a walk on the wild side to discover the natural world. Use your observation skills to locate camouflaged animals. Become more familiar with binoculars while viewing Spring Brook’s wildlife.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1½ hours</p> |
| Winter Discovery Walk |  | <p>Come discover the joy and beauty of the natural world in winter. A special program that has been designed to meet the needs of each of the grades (K-8). With proper snow conditions, the winter discovery walk will be conducted on snowshoes. Dress to be outside (coat, hat, mittens and boots).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |
| Wonder Walk |  | <p>Use your built-in camera to view the world from a new perspective. Attend a tea party, become a “famous artist,” and wash your hands in a whole new way.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 hour</p> |