



SCHOOL PROGRAMS



## GETTING STARTED

Group reservations can be made by telephone, or email **kensington.naturecenter@metroparks.com**. Please call 810-227-8917 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., daily to schedule. All reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance.

To schedule a program, have the following information ready:

- date and time you would like to visit
- number of children
- activities you would like to schedule
- school address, email address and phone number

## CONTENT EXPECTATIONS

All programs meet the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE), the Next Generation Science Standards and support Common Core standards.

## CONFIRMATION

A confirmation email and invoice will be sent after you schedule an appointment.

## A FIELD TRIP THAT COMES TO YOU!

EDventures are educational programs that can be adapted to your location.

Listed below are some of the most popular EDventures, but others listed may be adapted for your location. Call for more details.

### MICHIGAN PIONEERS

INDOORS · 1 HOUR

In the early 1800s, moving to Michigan to start a new life presented unique challenges. This program will focus on daily activities, tools, crops, travel and pastimes of Michigan's early pioneers. First person interpretation and hands-on activities help bring history alive.

*FOCUS: time & chronology · comprehending the past · diversity of people, places & cultures · human/environment interaction · location, movement & connections*

## COST

### IN-PARK

Programs are \$3 per student per hour, \$45 minimum charge per group. For schools outside of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties, programs are \$4 per student per hour, \$60 minimum charge per group. Vehicle Permit required for park entry, excluding school buses.

### EDVENTURE

*These programs are at your school.*

Cost is \$100 for the first program, \$75 for additional programs the same day. There is a maximum of four programs per day, with 30 students per program (*subject to change due to topic choice*).

## PAYMENT

We accept all forms of payment: cash, check, Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Checks can be made out to HCMA.

## SOUVENIRS

We carry a small amount of nature-related toys and snacks. Prices vary according to item.

### FRENCH VOYAGEURS

INDOORS · 1 HOUR

Travel back in time and experience the Great Lakes fur-trade era from the mid-17th through the 19th century. We'll focus on the everyday life of voyageurs using first person interpretation and hands-on activities featuring furs and trade goods.

*FOCUS: time & chronology · comprehending the past · judging decisions from the past · diversity of people, places & cultures · human/environment interaction*

## AMAZING ADAPTATIONS

1 HOUR

Using mounts and hands-on activities, we'll take a look at how adaptations help shape the way an animal looks and acts. Students will work together to design animals using an understanding of various adaptations.

*FOCUS: characteristics · adaptations · predator-prey · ecosystems*

## WINTER WILDLIFE

1 HOUR

Learn about the basic needs of animals in winter and the characteristics and behaviors that help them survive. Students will have a chance to interact with live reptiles.

*FOCUS: characteristics · habitats · classification · life requirements · adaptations · ecosystems*

## POND ECOSYSTEMS &amp; LIFE CYCLES

MAY 1 – OCTOBER 31 ·

INDOORS · 1 HOUR

The class will learn about animal structure and classification by playing identification games and then explore pond life first-hand.

*FOCUS: environmental adaptations · food chains · structures & functions · classify ecosystems*

## RAPTOR SURVIVAL

INDOORS · 1 HOUR

We'll investigate the various adaptations of birds of prey and the role they play in the environment with hands-on activities including live animals. You'll meet "Raptor Man" (one of your students) and Ranger, the red-tailed hawk that makes his home at the nature center.

*FOCUS: adaptations · classifications · characteristics · life requirements · predator-prey · human/environment interactions*

FOOD CHAINS:  
WHAT'S FOR DINNER

INDOORS · 1 HOUR

Watch the food chain in action and discover animal interdependence. Students will act out a food chain and observe live animal interactions to gain an understanding of the connections between parts of a food chain. This program features a visit with Ranger, a live red-tailed hawk.

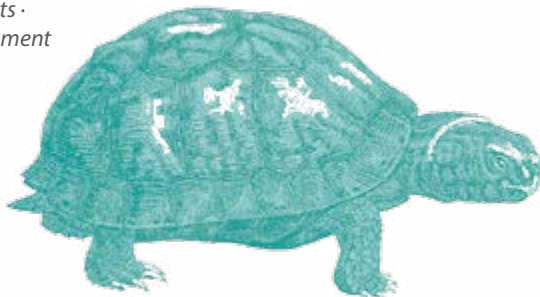
*FOCUS: adaptations · classifications · characteristics · life requirements · predator-prey · human/environment interactions · trophic levels*

## SPRING SYMPHONY

SPRING · 1 HOUR

Many animals are singing and calling this time of year. Want to know what the birds and frogs are saying? Spring is the time to find out. Students will sing in a "frog chorus" and interact with live reptiles.

*FOCUS: characteristics · classification · adaptations · ecosystems · habitats · life requirements*



All of the following indoor programs include songs, stories, puppets and even a live animal or two.

### SPRING IS HERE

SPRING · INDOORS · 1 HOUR

It sure is noisy out there and it's all due to the weather. Find out what all the shouting is about.

*FOCUS: characteristics · habitats · classification · life requirements · adaptations*

### SING 'N SPRING

SPRING · OUTDOORS · 1 HOUR

"Peep, peep!" – What was that sound? Do I smell a skunk? Discover the sights, sounds and smells of nature in spring. The perfect companion to "Spring is Here".

*FOCUS: characteristics · habitats · classification · life requirements · adaptations*

### ONE LEAF, TWO LEAF, RED LEAF, BLUE LEAF?

FALL · OUTDOORS · 1 HOUR

Why do leaves change color? Why do some trees lose their leaves? We'll search for clues: leaf colors, shapes and seeds to solve the mysteries of the trees.

*FOCUS: plant parts & function · plant life cycles · identify the needs of plants*

### FALL'S THE TIME TO GET READY

FALL · INDOORS · 1 HOUR

All the animals are busy getting ready for winter. Students will learn about all the fall preparations necessary for animals to survive the coming winter.

*FOCUS: characteristics · habitats · classification · life requirements · adaptations*

### MY LITTLE CHICKADEE

WINTER · OUTDOORS · 1 HOUR

In winter, some songbirds at Kensington Metropark will actually take sunflower seeds from your hands! Introduce your little chickadees to ours, as we observe these amazing creatures in action, and make a bird feeder to take home.

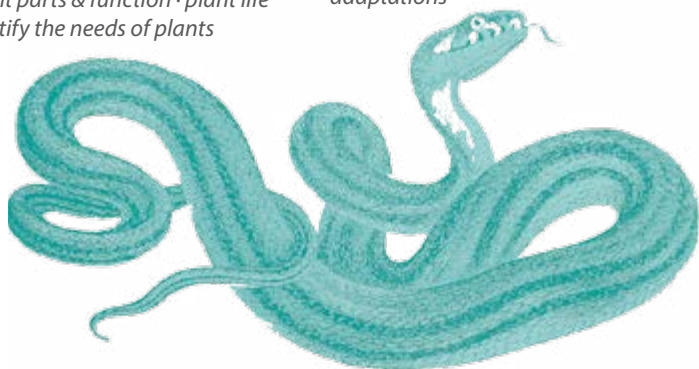
*FOCUS: characteristics · habitats · classification · life requirements · adaptations*

### ANIMALS IN WINTER

WINTER · INDOORS · 1 HOUR

The kids are wearing their winter clothes, so are the animals. Find out how animals stay safe and cozy all winter long.

*FOCUS: characteristics · habitats · classification · life requirements · adaptations*



## PLANT PARTS & THEIR CYCLES

FALL & SPRING ·  
INDOORS & OUTDOORS · 1 HOUR  
Discover the parts of plants and their cycles. Discuss how a flower turns into a seed, how seeds travel and dress up a student to become a flower. Students will plant a seed to take home.

*FOCUS: plant parts & function · plant life cycles · identify the needs of plants*

## FALL COLORS

FALL · OUTDOOR · 1 HOUR  
There is an explosion of color in the fall. Experience color change and falling leaves while hiking through several different habitats.

*FOCUS: plant parts & function · plant life cycles · identify the needs of plants*

## AUTUMN ANIMALS

FALL · INDOORS · 1 HOUR  
Experience the needs of animals and their survival strategies as they prepare for the coming winter. Students will have a chance to interact with live reptiles.

*FOCUS: characteristics · habitats · classification · life requirements · adaptations · ecosystems*

## CHICKADEE CHOWDOWN

WINTER · OUTDOORS · 1 HOUR  
Not all birds migrate to survive the winter. See who's still here and what it takes for them to get through the winter. Includes hand-feeding of birds, and students will make a bird feeder to take home.

*FOCUS: species adaptation & survival · structures & function · classification · environmental adaptation · ecological relationships*

## WINTER WILDLIFE

WINTER · INDOORS · 1 HOUR  
Learn about the basic needs of animals in winter and the characteristics and behaviors that help them survive. Students will have a chance to interact with live reptiles.

*FOCUS: characteristics · habitats · classification · life requirements · adaptations · ecosystems*

## WINTER WALK

WINTER · OUTDOORS · 1 HOUR  
Become nature detectives and find tracks and signs of the common birds and mammals of Kensington Metropark. Includes hand-feeding of birds.

*FOCUS: species adaptation & survival · ecological relationships · food webs · ecosystems*



## WONDERFUL WETLANDS

**OUTDOORS · 1 HOUR**  
 Discover what makes a wetland a wetland. Your students will tromp through a swamp, bounce on a bog and have fun in a fen while identifying several different types of Michigan wetlands. No worries... their feet will stay dry!

*FOCUS: habitats · classification · life requirements · adaptations · ecosystems*

## SPRING SYMPHONY

**SPRING · INDOORS · 1 HOUR**  
 Many animals are singing and calling this time of year. Want to know what the birds and frogs are saying? Spring is the time to find out. Students will sing in a "frog chorus" and interact with live reptiles.

*FOCUS: characteristics · habitats · classification · life requirements · adaptations · ecosystems*

## CRITTER CONVERSATIONS

**SPRING · OUTDOORS · 1 HOUR**  
 Listen to all that springtime animal chatter! Birds are singing and frogs are calling. While on a hike, students will discover what some of the animal sounds mean and seek out nesting birds.

*FOCUS: species adaptation & survival · ecological relationships · food webs*

## THE SWEET LIFE OF A MAPLE TREE

**MARCH · INDOORS · 1 HOUR**  
 Discover why maple trees give us sweet sap in the spring. Your class will become a living maple tree and act the function of the different parts of a tree. This is the perfect complement to the Farm Center's "Maple's Sweet Story."

*FOCUS: plant parts & function · plant life cycles · identify the needs of plants*

## POND ECOSYSTEM & LIFE CYCLES

**MAY 1 – OCTOBER 31 · INDOORS · 1 HOUR**  
 The class will learn about animal structure and classification by playing identification games and exploring the life found in a pond first-hand.

*FOCUS: environmental adaptations · food webs · structures & functions · classify animals*





## CAUSE & EFFECT: BLUEBIRDS

MARCH 15 – JUNE ·  
INDOORS & OUTDOORS · 1 HOUR

Explore human/environment interactions with a look into the lives of bluebirds.

Students will gain an understanding of ecology concepts through hands-on investigation of bird life cycles and their surprising interdependent relationships with humans, plus a hike on a bluebird trail to search for live bluebirds.

*FOCUS: life requirements · life cycles · human/environment interactions · ecological relationships*

## LET'S GO FISHING

FALL & SPRING ·  
OUTDOORS · 1 HOUR

Learn proper casting technique and then go fishing with the nature center's rods and reels.

*FOCUS: environmental adaptations · food chains · structures & functions · classify animals*

## WINTER ADVENTURE

Enjoy the outdoors during the winter. Register for one or both programs to expand your winter adventure experience.

## ANIMAL TRACKING

WINTER · INDOORS & OUTDOORS ·  
1 – 1½ HOURS

Learn tracks, signs and scat of some of the common birds and mammals of Kensington. Indoors, students will solve track mysteries and practice animal movements, followed by an outdoor scavenger hunt to look for winter animal clues.

Optional: Bring a white T-shirt and make an animal track T-shirt for \$1 extra per person.

*FOCUS: identify basic needs · identify & compare living and non-living things · food webs · ecological relationships*

## LIFE CYCLES OF THE TALL & FEATHERED

APRIL – JUNE · INDOORS &  
OUTDOORS · 1 HOUR

We'll delve into the life cycles and physical adaptations of herons and cranes, then hit the trail for a guided hike to the nearby heron rookery. Students will use spotting scopes to observe nesting herons in their natural habitat.

*FOCUS: adaptations · life requirements · life cycles · ecological relationships · human/environment interactions*

## ROCKS ROCK!

FALL & SPRING ·  
INDOORS · 2 HOURS

Make edible rocks and minerals, watch as the rock cycle happens right before your eyes and meet "Glacier Man" (one of your students). At the end of the program, students will go on a scavenger hunt to find rocks and minerals in everyday use in the classroom, followed by a trip to the gravel pit to search for fossils.

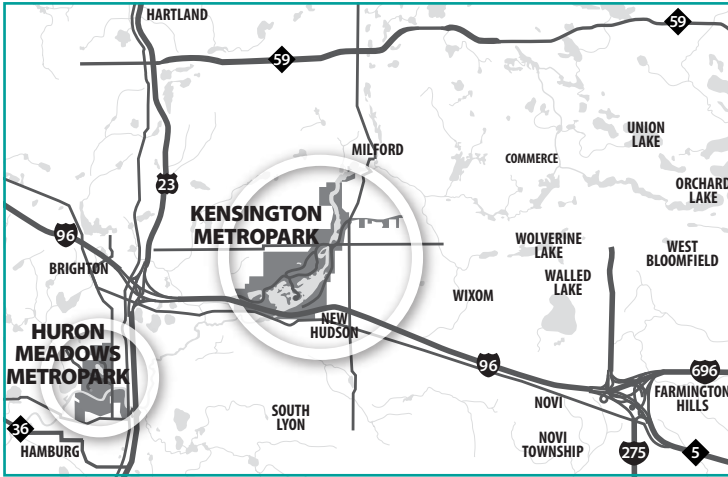
*FOCUS: earth materials · surface changes · using earth materials · fossils: rock formation*

## WINTER SURVIVAL

WINTER · INDOORS & OUTDOORS ·  
2 HOURS

Your class will practice basic survival skills, such as compass use, in the safety of the Nature Center classroom. Then head outside to try out their skills by surviving a mock plane crash.

*FOCUS: Identify basic needs · human/environment interaction · species adaptation & survival · environmental adaptation · ecological relationships*



## KENSINGTON METROPARK



Mailing Address: 2240 West Buno Road, Milford, MI 48380  
Driving/GPS: 4570 Huron River Parkway, Milford, MI 48381



Call  
810-227-8917



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