

STONY CREEK METROPARK  
**NATURE CENTER**



SCHOOL PROGRAMS



A visit to the Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center can reinforce science and history Grade Level Content Expectations (GCLE) in fun and entertaining ways. With the use of live exhibit animals and a guided trail walk, the park interpreter will spend time with your class focusing on concepts such as life cycles, habitats, food chains, adaptations of plants and animals, classification, and human impact on the environment.

## GETTING STARTED

Group reservations can be made by calling 586-781-9113 between 9 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., seven days a week. All reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance. Due to other responsibilities, we are sometimes unable to answer the phone, but leave a message and we'll call back promptly. Please call us for more program details.

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

## CONFIRMATION

A confirmation email and a map will be sent after you make a reservation.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Programs for students in preschool and kindergarten are 60 to 75 minutes in length. Students in first grade and up receive a 1½ hour appointment.
- Programs are available at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. We can accommodate up to two classes of 35 students at each time.

## COST

### IN-PARK

- One hour programs are \$3 per student, \$45 minimum charge per group.
- 1½ hour programs are \$4 per student, \$60 minimum charge per group.
- For schools outside of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties, programs are \$4 per student per hour.
- 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*).

## CONTENT EXPECTATIONS

We gear our presentations to your grade level curriculum. We are capable of accommodating groups from preschool to college level.

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

Choose the topic that best fits your curriculum. We will spend 30 to 45 minutes indoors viewing the exhibits and participating in an interactive presentation. The rest of the time will be spent outdoors on one of our trails, hiking through woods and along Stony Creek. We will visit a pond, walk along a stream, trek through a forest then return to the nature center by a field. We can create a program that best fits your needs, such as spending the full 1½ hours (or extending the program to 2 hours) on pond dipping and aquatic macro invertebrates.

## SPRING TO LIFE

Students will search for spring life, from frogs to plants to birds, and learn about their life cycles. Then they'll come inside and meet some of the nature center animals as they discover what they are doing during spring.

*FOCUS: life cycle · food chain · relationships of organisms*

## CLASSIFICATION

We'll use the nature center's critters and artifacts to discover the similarities and differences between classes of animals. Reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, and fish will be the focus.

*FOCUS: classification · adaptation · life cycles*

## PLANTS AND INSECTS

Flowers are not just sitting there looking pretty. They have a job. Students will discover what that job is and why insects are so important for them.

*FOCUS: relationships of organisms · life cycle · food chain · classification*

## AN INSECT'S LIFE

Through hands-on activities we'll focus on the life of insects, from egg to adult. Then we'll go outside in search of these insects and the places they call home.

*FOCUS: life cycles · life requirements*

## ECOSYSTEMS

Students will get a chance to see how organisms interact, learn how populations of animals affect ecosystems and how we impact these systems.

*FOCUS: interactions of organisms · relationships of organisms · adaptation · populations*

## PREDATOR/PREY

Students will get a chance to learn about predation and population dynamics with a walk through the forest, a game and an interactive discussion.

*FOCUS: relationship of organisms · interactions of organisms*

## LIFE IN A POND

1<sup>ST</sup> – 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADES · INDOORS & OUTDOORS · 10 AM & NOON · \$4/STUDENT

Students will get a chance to search a vernal pond with a net for macro invertebrates. They will learn first-hand about life cycles by seeing different stages of pond life. Students will get a chance to view this pond life up close through microscopes as they discover why these small critters are important to people.

*FOCUS: life cycles · human impact · classification · life requirements · food chain*

## AUTUMN ADVENTURE

KINDERGARTEN – 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE · OCTOBER · INDOORS & OUTDOORS · 9:30 AM – 1 PM OR 10 AM – 1:30 PM · \$6/ STUDENT

Autumn Adventure will introduce your group to the wonders of the fall season. During your 3½-hour appointment your group will take a leaf collection hike, then use the leaves to make a “rubbing booklet” and create a leaf print T-shirt. Your group will also have the opportunity to press your own apple cider and enjoy a cup of cider with some fresh donuts. Finally, take a tractor-drawn hayride on a scenic trail.

### LEAF HIKE & LEAF RUBBING BOOKLET

This portion of the program consists of an outdoor hike where we will collect and learn about the leaves from many of our Michigan trees. After the group has learned how to identify the leaves they will complete a leaf rubbing booklet to take home with them as a reference guide.

### T-SHIRT PAINTING

Using paint and leaf print stamps, the group will paint an autumn T-shirt. Students must bring their own T-shirt for this activity.

### APPLE CIDERING

Students participating in this activity will learn about “apples and bees” and pollination. The students will then take turns operating the cider press and make their very own apple cider! The Nature Center will provide fresh donuts for the students to enjoy with a cup of apple cider.

### WAGON RIDE

Join one of our park interpreters on a scenic tractor-drawn hayride. Relax and enjoy the crisp autumn air from the cozy confines of our hay wagon. A great finish to a day filled with Autumn Adventure!

*FOCUS: adaptations · life cycles · life requirements · food webs · relationships of organisms*

*We can accommodate two classes of 25 people at each time. Lunch is not included. Students need to bring a bag lunch.*



## WINTER ADVENTURE

JANUARY & FEBRUARY · INDOORS & OUTDOORS · 10 AM – NOON · \$4/STUDENT

Students will have a unique opportunity to learn about natural and cultural history. Each session is truly an adventure! Afterwards, classes may stay for lunch.\* Choose an adventure from below:

### HUMAN SURVIVAL

5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

After learning a few basic elements of survival, the appropriate behavior when lost, the minimum essential equipment, and some simple knot tying techniques, the students are challenged in an outdoor scenario. Students will build a sled (travois) big enough to ride on and then transform it into a shelter. The program stresses listening skills and cooperation.

*FOCUS: life requirements · adaptations*

### FIRST PEOPLE OF THE GREAT LAKES

3<sup>RD</sup> – 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADES

Michigan was a land of glaciers, mastodons and giant beavers when the “First People” arrived here 12,000 years ago. As the climate, plants, and animals changed, so did the lives of the human inhabitants. Students will “hunt” caribou with “spears”, play traditional games, and see a rich collection of artifacts. While working in small groups, they will visit various stations, which test their knowledge, and make them think and cooperate, and provide some hands-on opportunities.

*FOCUS: Michigan history · how Native Indians adapted to, used & modified their environment*

### OH DEER!

5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Out of all the wildlife in the Metroparks, deer are the favorite animal to see. Unfortunately, their size and appetite can wreak havoc with the park’s vegetation and the neighbors’ landscape plants. But wait a minute, that wasn’t a problem years ago! What’s happened? Your students will have the opportunity to learn about deer ecology, predation, and population dynamics during this program.

They’ll view deer bones, touch deer fur and play the, “Oh, Deer!” game.

*FOCUS: adaptations · food chain · human impact · life requirements · relationships of organisms*



\*For an additional \$3 per person (adults included), we provide a hotdog lunch with chips and hot chocolate. Students roast their own hotdogs outside around the fire circle. In case of rain, hotdogs are boiled and served inside.



## THE GREAT VOYAGEUR CANOE

3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE+ · OUTDOORS · 10 AM & 11:15 AM · \$75/RIDE

Why do we have roads with names such as Dequindre and Livernois?

The answer: Hats! Michigan history comes alive as students paddle a 34-foot, 20-passenger replica of a Voyageur canoe around the island in Stony Creek Lake. Artifacts and props help participants learn about the importance of the beaver to the French fur trade era.

*FOCUS: Michigan history & the fur trade era · food webs & other relationships*

*Rides are 45 minutes to 1½ hours. We can accommodate one class of 36 people per day. There is a 12-person minimum and 18-person maximum per canoe. (6 people must be adults willing and able to paddle!)*

Park interpreters are available to present 1-hour natural science and history programs for lower and upper elementary students at your school. These programs utilize PowerPoint presentations and specially selected props to keep your students engaged!

Choose up to three programs (3 separate titles or one repeated up to 3 times) per half-day visit. We can stay a full day and present as many as 6 presentations. We will need an audio visual cart, table and screen (or light colored wall). A darkened room is a must!

## WINTER WILDLIFE

K – 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

Do birds migrate because it's too cold? We'll uncover methods animals use for winter survival, such as migration and hibernation as well as adaptations that allow some animals to remain active. Students will have a chance to handle fur, feathers and visit with a live, cold-blooded creature.

*FOCUS: adaptations · characteristics · classification*

## THE LIVES OF THE VOYAGEURS

3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

The strong backs, canoeing skill, and determination of the French Voyageurs brought the explorers, missionaries, traders, and settlers to the land we call Michigan. We'll learn about their daily lives, importance of their contributions and dress up one of your students like a voyageur!

*FOCUS: Michigan history · French fur trade*



## THE EVERYDAY LIVES OF THE GREAT LAKES INDIANS

### 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

The Eastern Woodland Culture developed a stable society based on farming, hunting, fishing, and trade. Details of their lives including housing, farming, weapon and tool manufacturing, hunting techniques, and trade will be featured along with actual artifacts.

*FOCUS: Michigan history · how Native Indians adapted to, used & modified their environment*

## ANIMALS HAVE CLASS

### 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

Although a mammal seems very different from a reptile, they do have something in common! Students will discover the differences and similarities of amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. They will get to visit with some living classroom guests as well as having an opportunity to handle furs, bones, and feathers!

*FOCUS: classification · adaptation · life cycles · food chain*

## MOTHER NATURE'S PAINT BOX

### 3<sup>RD</sup> & 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADES

Spots, stripes and colors displayed by various animals are actually visual signals that can attract attention or warn and confuse enemies. We'll examine what makes color, what sees color, and provide examples that illustrate how colors and markings help animals adapt to their environments. Mounted insects, study skins as well as other interesting items will be shared with your students.

*FOCUS: adaptation · food chain · interactions of organisms*

## THE FOOD CHAIN GOES ON AND ON...

### 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Organisms are related in some odd and surprising ways that go beyond a simple food chain. This program not only provides interesting examples of ecological relationships, but stresses that humans are not separate from this great ecological web. We'll demonstrate how a food chain is actually a circle and provide some interesting hands-on items.

*FOCUS: · adaptations · human impact · biotic & abiotic factors · food chain · ecosystems & ecological relationships*

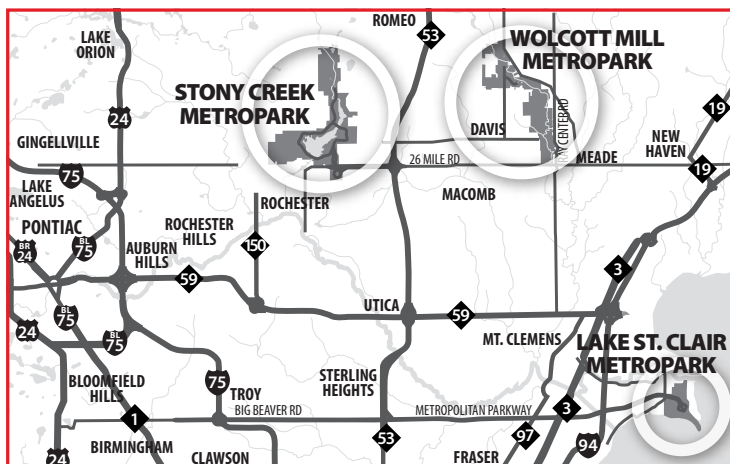
## NATURE'S WAREHOUSE

### 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Your car, electricity, house and road all come from nature! The floor of your school was once alive! Although many of us think of nature as plants and animals, it is actually a "warehouse" of rocks, soil, sand, and ores which are among the raw materials that shape our civilization. This program touches on many topics in your earth science curriculum as it attempts to lessen the gap between people and the earth.

*FOCUS: natural resources · earth materials · human impact on the environment*





## STONY CREEK METROPARK



4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township, MI 48316



Call  
586-781-9113



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