

KENSINGTON METROPARK
NATURE CENTER



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 supports Common Core standards.

CONFIRMATION

A confirmation email, chaperone information and map will be sent after you schedule an appointment.

COST

IN-PARK

Programs are \$2 per student per hour, \$30 minimum per group.

EDVENTURE

These programs are at your school.

Cost is \$75 for the first program, \$50 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

- Park entry is \$7 per vehicle per day. School buses are free.
- We accept all forms of payment

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 can be adapted for your location. Call for more details.

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

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

POND ECOSYSTEMS & 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

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

ROCKS ROCK!

INDOORS · 1 HOUR

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.

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

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

FRENCH VOYAGEURS

INDOORS · 1½ HOURS

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.

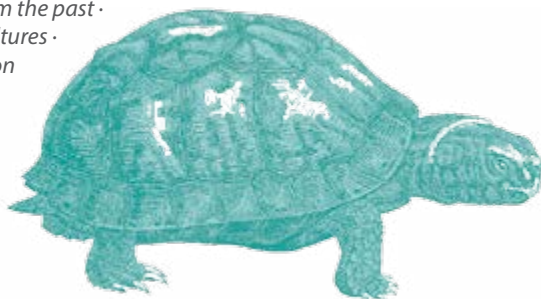
FOCUS: time & chronology · comprehending the past · judging decisions from the past · diversity of people, places & cultures · human/environment interaction

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD: THE SOLAR SYSTEM

INDOORS · 1 HOUR

Your young astronauts will learn the moon phases, build a model of the solar system, experience planetary distances and motions and build a kitchen comet.

FOCUS: characteristics of objects in the sky · patterns of objects in the sky · solar system motion



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

SPRING IS HERE

SPRING · OUTDOORS · 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.

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.

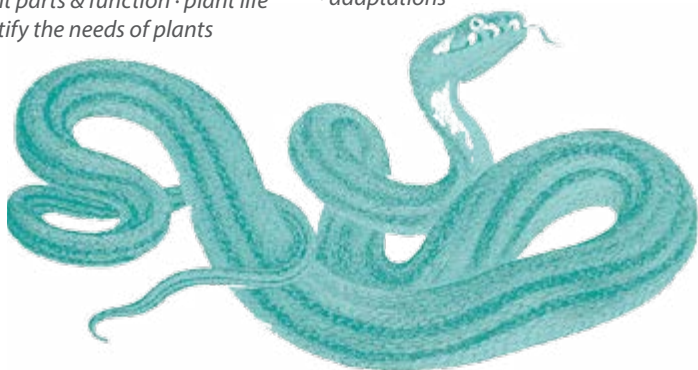
FOCUS: characteristics · habitats · classification · life requirements · adaptations

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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



FRENCH VOYAGEURS

INDOORS · 1½ HOURS

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INDOORS · 1 HOUR

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

SOMETHING FISHY

FALL & SPRING · INDOORS · 1 HOUR

Explore fish structure, behavior, habitats and their place in the food chain. Students will examine and identify "fish food," pond insects and other small animals.

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

LET'S GO FISHING

FALL & SPRING · OUTDOORS · 1 – 1½ HOURS

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

OPTIONAL: Bring a white T-shirt and make a fish print T-shirt for \$1 extra.

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

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

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