

# Buchanan County Conservation School Program Ideas

**Note: These programs are just a sampling of what we offer. We are happy to tailor/create new programs to suit your classroom's needs.**

To schedule a program for your group contact Sondra or Jenni at 319-636-2617 or e-mail them at [tanapark@iowatelecom.net](mailto:tanapark@iowatelecom.net). Before you call or e-mail, please have the following information ready:

- First and second (possibly third) selections for program dates
- Name or description of program(s) you would like to schedule:
- Number of groups you will be scheduling for (groups size is class size or smaller):
- Number of people per group:
- Arrival and departure times for your group (be sure and check with the bus garage) or a schedule of specials, recess, and lunch if the programs are to be presented at your site:
- Plans for lunch - will you be eating here or returning to school; how long is your lunch; what is your normal lunch time?
- After scheduling a visit, we will send you a confirmation that includes all the details discussed

**\*PROGRAMS MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK CAN BE PRESENTED INDOORS**

**BUG OFF:** 1 to 2 hours

1st & up--Science, (Art)

Over half the animals on Earth are insects. Learn about insects, where and how they live, and why they are so important to us.

**\*GOING BATTY:** 45 to 90 min.

K & up--Science, English, Math

Students will discover the amazing adaptations of bats through hands-on activities, and learn what they can do to protect these important creatures.



**OUTDOOR GENERAL STORE:** 1 to 3 hours

2nd & up--Social Studies and Science

Find out how Native Americans and pioneers used many of the plants and animals of the woods, wetlands, and prairies to eat, dress, and make things from soap to rope. Try your hand at some outdoor skills.

**\*WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE:** 1 to 2 hours

2nd & up--Science, Social Studies, and Math

Although three quarters of the Earth's surface is covered with water, we have made much of it unusable. Games and activities force children to make choices and help them visualize the consequences.

**\*TREES ARE TERRIFIC:** 1 to 2 hours

2nd & up--Science, Math, and Social Studies

How do individual trees grow, adapt, and reproduce. We will look at tree parts and adaptations and see the story told through tree rings.

**\*MEASURING MOTHER NATURE:** 45 to 90 min

2nd & up--Math and Science

How tall is that tree? How do the antlers of deer determine records? How many bears can live in that forest? How steep is that hill? Math skills applied to real life situations. Activities vary by skill level.



**CREATURES FROM THE LAKE:** 1-2 hours

**CREEK CRITTERS:** 45 min to 1.5 hours

4th & up--Science, Math, and Social Studies

The habitats in the creek and lake are much different than on land. How are aquatic plants and animals suited to life in the water and how do they influence one another? (Old shoes recommended).

**\*HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW:** 1 to 2 hours

4th & up--Science, Social Studies, English, and Math

Extinction is a natural process, so what's the big deal with endangered species? Why are species in trouble? Can and should we do anything to help them?

**DIGGING INTO DIRT:** 1.25 to 2 hours

4th & up--Science, Math, and Social Studies

Soil is more than just dirt. How is it made? What is in it? Why and how should we protect it?

**NUTRITION NATURALLY:** 45 to 90 min.

3rd & up--Health, science, and math

Students will explore the fat, protein, and fiber needs of several native animals, and then use these clues to determine the identities of several "mystery" animals.

**ORIENTEERING:** 1 to 3 hours

5th & up--Math and Science

Learn the parts of the compass and how to use one. Create shapes with simple math skills. More advanced classes follow a course.



**SURVIVAL:** 1.5 to 3 hours

5th & up--Science, Social Studies, and Health

Basic survival skills and rules will be taught. Mental preparedness, making shelters and fires, survival kits, and finding safe food and water will be taught through participation.

**\*POPULATION: WHAT'S IT ADD UP TO?:** 1 to 2 hrs

5th & up--Science, Social Studies, and Math

Spaceship Earth now has more than 6 billion people on it. Is there a limit to how many more will fit? Explore why population is at the heart of many social and science concerns.

**NATURE AT NIGHT:** 1 to 3 hours

5th & up--Science, Math, and Language Arts

Extend the learning experience to the nighttime hours. Focus can be on nocturnal animals, astronomy, or sensory activities. Parents are welcome as well.

**\*SNAKES ALIVE:** .5 to 1.5 hours

All ages--Science

Learning more about these often hated reptiles can remove some untruths and fears. Discover the role of the snake and the unique way it lives. (May include live animals).

**\*BIRDS OF A FEATHER:** 1 to 3 hours

All ages--Science, (Art)

Look at what makes a bird. Beaks, wings, feet and other features help identify birds and determine their lifestyle. (May include live animals).



**\*WHO'S HUNTING WHOM?:** 45 min to 2 hours

All ages--Science and Math

Whether as large as a whale or as small as an ant, find out how predators are adapted for surviving. Food web and pyramid concepts included. (May include live animals).

**\*REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE:** 45 min to 2 hours

All ages--Science, Social Studies, and Math

Learn about ways we can protect and conserve our resources by making changes at the store, home, work, and school. "Shop" ecologically, recycle paper, or check out a "garbage pizza."



**\*EARTH FRIENDLY CRAFT:** 30 min to 2 hours

All ages --Art, Science, and Social Studies

Make crafts using natural and "throw away" items. Birdfeeders, recycled paper, mobiles, T-shirts and more.

**CONSERVATION PROJECT:** 1 to ?? Hours

All ages--Various projects are available for individuals and groups throughout the year. Projects include habitat improvement, garden work, wildlife inventories, and others. All projects include program introduction.

**GPS:** 1 to 1.5 hours

4th & up--Science and Math

Students learn the basics of a Global Positioning Unit (or GPS) and then put their skills to use during a geocaching activity that encourages teamwork and critical thinking.

**IOWA'S HANDS-ON HISTORY:** 1 to 3 hours

3rd & up--Science and Social Studies

Students explore an 1850's home at Jakway Park and get a taste of what everyday life was like over a 100 years ago. Students may participate in hands-on activities such as churning butter, washing clothing with a washboard, and playing a variety of period games.



## FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS

### **MEMORY SCAVENGER HUNT:** 45 min

Pre-K: 1st--Observation, classification, sensory skills: Helping youngsters become more aware of the unique area in which they walk, we have them look for 6-10 items they are presented at the beginning of the walk. What these things are and why they are important completes the walk.

### **“SENSE”-ATIONAL HIKE:** 30 to 60 min

Pre-K: 1st--Sensory skills, connections: Use all of your senses to become more fully connected with the area through which you walk. How would animals use these senses?



### **ALPHABET HIKE:** 45 min to 1 hr

K: 1st--Language Arts and Science

As we walk there are things all around us. The group tries to find things starting with as many letters as possible.

### **ANIMAL REAL ESTATE:** 45 to 90 min

1st: 3rd--Science and Math What do animals need in their home or habitat? Once we know what they need, we will explore the park for different places an animal could live. Detective skills will help us figure out why they live there.

