

Fox Valley

Park District

Where fun begins



RED OAK NATURE CENTER & LIPPOLD PARK



2343 S. River St., Batavia, IL
630-897-1808
roprograms@fvpd.net

Nestled on the east bank of the Fox River, Red Oak Nature Center and Lippold Park are surrounded by 80 acres of lush forest and wildlife habitat – an ideal setting for students to investigate the great outdoors.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT RED OAK NATURE CENTER

Our Environmental Educators encourage students to explore and investigate through hands-on experiences to discover more about ecology, animals, habitats, biology, orienteering and STEM concepts. All programs outlined in this booklet align with CORE and Next Generation Science Standards some programs can be customized to fit specific curriculum needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Schedule a Red Oak Environmental Educator to visit your classroom from Fall thru Spring. With Next Generation Science Standards at the core, Red Oak encourages curiosity through class participation and ignites critical thinking in your classroom.

SELF-GUIDED VISITS

Groups wanting to visit Red Oak or Lippold Park must pre-register. There is a required \$1 per person fee for all groups visiting on their own. Call 630-897-1808 or email roprograms@fvpd.net for more information.

IDNR TRUNK AND HIKE BAGS

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has provided Red Oak Nature Center with educational trunks and hike bags. These items contain resources about a variety of nature topics - complete with books, photos, samples and more. The items are loaned to educators and groups free of charge. For more information regarding topics and availability, call Red Oak at 630-897-1808.

RENTALS

Rent Red Oak Nature Center or Lippold Park for field days, room parties and more. More information inside.



ENDORSED BY:





Environmental Educators in your classroom

September to February. NGSS available upon request.

ASSEMBLIES AND PRESENTATIONS

Available to all ages

Our educators are available to speak to your environmental groups, homeschool, or afterschool clubs on a variety of topics.

Wildlife • Citizen scientist projects • Service projects

\$100 One-hour presentation

\$150 First Assembly session and one-hour with animals

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

HOMESCHOOL

Groups can choose any of the listed programs in this brochure.

\$5 per participant

Minimum of 15 students or \$75

TEACHER IN-SERVICE PROGRAMS

Teacher trainings are available in a variety of hourly lengths both on the grounds of Red Oak or directly to your site with an array of hands-on interactive activities or the offering of a traditional professional presentation. Topics include but are not limited to: STEM, Freshwater ecology, Habitat study, Tree study, Illinois ecology, Food webs, Sustainability, and even Bigfoot.

Email ROprograms@fvpd.net for more detail!

WINTER WILDLIFE LEVEL 1

(pre-k-2nd) approx. 30 min. to 1 hr.

Explore how animals survive winter. Students will learn the three ways animals survive: migrate, hibernate or adapt. This program may include a themed story, bio-facts for hands on investigations, pictures and the possibility of a live animal ambassador from the nature center.

WINTER WILDLIFE LEVEL 2

(3rd-5th grade) 1.25 hrs.

After a brief review of the three ways animals can survive winter, students will be put into groups to focus on the special traits that help our native animals survive. Using provided data sheets and bio-facts, groups will present and debate over which animal has the best survival trait before casting their own vote to decide on a winner!

REPTILES ROCK LEVEL 1

(1st- 2nd grade) approx. 1 hr.

Learn about the unique traits that make reptiles so special. Through an interactive presentation students will learn the four basic traits all reptiles have. This program includes live animal ambassadors from the nature center.

REPTILES ROCK LEVEL 2

(3rd -4th grade) 1 hr.

Slither deeper in to the anatomy of a snake and their exclusive traits that separate them from the rest of the animals. Students will learn about snake traits through an interactive presentation followed by a compare and contrast study of two different species of snake ambassadors from the nature center.

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO EEW LEVEL 1

(1st – 2nd grade) approx. 45 min. to 1 hr.

The sticky feel of spider webs, the stinky smell of skunks, the slimy trail of a slug...all these things might make you go "EEW!" but after this interactive presentation students will learn just how important being gross is to surviving! Be prepared to use all your senses during this presentation to get the full experience!

**There is an additional \$20 materials fee per class for this program*

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO EEW LEVEL 2

(3rd – 4th grade) 1.25 hrs.

Students will get a hands-on experience about the grosser side of nature through a presentation with interactive experiments and investigations. Students will understand how valuable being gross can be, in order to survive.

**There is an additional \$20 materials fee per class for this program*

FEES

\$50 for first classroom, \$25 each additional classroom. Discounted fee applies to same-day, same-program visits only, for both resident and non-resident districts.

Classrooms over 20 miles from Red Oak will be charged an additional \$25 transportation fee.



Field Studies at Red Oak Nature Center

Outdoor Programs • September - November & April/May

SURVIVAL CHALLENGE

(3rd – 5th grade) approx. 1.25 hrs.

Students will become wildlife biologists for a day as they learn about Illinois' top predator—the coyote and its prey, the white tailed deer. Students will learn about the impact both species have on local habitats through an interactive presentation. Students will head out to investigate a staged forensic scene where they will be tasked with gathering information and putting together their theory as to what happened between the coyote and the white tailed deer.

A SQUIRREL'S LIFE

(pre-k- 1st grade) approx. 45 min. to 1 hr.

Learn about one of our most common mammals, the Squirrel. Students will use hands on investigation skills while being lead on a hike by our friends Gray Squirrel and Fox Squirrel. As we hike through the woods students will be asked to search for everything a squirrel needs to survive: food, water, shelter and space. By the end of our exploration students will be able to decide whether or not Red Oak can support a healthy and happy squirrel population.

ECO-DETECTIVES

(2nd – 4th grade) approx. 1.5 hrs.

Get students excited about the natural world and its mysteries! Using active learning and inquiry, students explore the outdoors and are challenged to discover and explain its mysteries all around us.

SEASONAL HIKE

(pre-k – 3rd grade) approx. 45 min. to 1 hour

Walk with a naturalist as we take a closer look at the seasonality of our forest. Students will take an experiential hike while our staff find signs of fall, winter, or spring to share with your students. By engaging all our senses we will gain a deeper understanding of the changes that happen during each season. (Teachers may choose to add on a visit to the cave or time inside the nature center's exhibits to extend the exploration.)

RESTORATION STATION

(1st -12th grade) approx. 1-2 hrs.

Restoration is a process best learned with hands on experience. Our staff will lead a discussion about what invasive species are, how they change our landscapes, and what can be done to get rid of them. Groups will then head outside to complete a restoration project which may include one of the following options (options are based on season): invasive plant removal (year round), native plantings (spring only), seed collection or seed dispersal, and Pond/River clean up. Habitats include: forest, prairie, creek/river bank.

SAP TO SYRUP

(pre-k – 3rd grade) approx. 1 hr.

AVAILABLE IN MARCH ONLY

After a brief discussion on why we call March the "Maple Tapping Season" students will take a hike through the woods to see the sap collecting processes used by Native Americans, the first settlers and today's sugar farmers. They will then assist staff with identifying maple trees, calculating age, and finally collecting maple sap before learning the process of how the sap gets turned into syrup. This hike through time will end with everyone tasting a sample of delicious, 100% pure maple syrup!



PROGRAMS ARE HELD OUTSIDE, PLEASE PLAN AND DRESS ACCORDINGLY.



Field Studies at Lippold Park

Outdoor Programs • Sept. - Oct. & April/May

PROGRAMS at RED OAK

POWERFUL PLANTS

(2nd – 3rd grade) approx. 1.25 hrs.

This interactive program focuses on all aspects of plant life including what it takes to grow, the different ways plants disperse their seeds and the challenges our native plants face today including a game about plant competition. Some activities are seasonal (ex. Fall we will pick seeds, spring we will spread seeds etc.) and location may vary but all programs will be outside.

GONE AND MOVED ON!

(2nd-4th grade) approx. 1 hr.

Imagine the thundering hooves of bison, the leftover meal of a cougar, or the tracks left behind by a black bear. Now imagine seeing these animals right outside your door! It wasn't too long ago that these animals once called Red Oak and your neighborhoods home and someday they may return. During this exciting presentation with animal biofacts to investigate students will learn about some of the animals that are now extirpated from Illinois including the bison, black bear, wolf and more, before deciding for themselves who is most likely to return.



Please note that there are no indoor facilities at this time; however portable toilets will be available for school groups.

STUDENT SCIENTISTS

(4th -6th grade) time varies- expect about one hour per activity-this program is \$8.50 per student

This program is designed for entire grade levels to come out to Lippold Park and spend a day in nature. Teachers can choose for their students to participate in a variety of activities including a forest restoration project, a prairie habitat study, an aquatic survey, play a survival challenge activity or participate in some team building games. (Length of the program is dependent on the size of the group and number of activities chosen) (4 total chaperones per class are required for this program)

ECO-EXPLORERS

(2nd – 4th grade) approx. 1-1.5 hrs.

Red Oak Nature Center has the privilege of housing four different habitats on its grounds: forest, prairie, wetland and cave. As eco-explorers students will focus on a habitat of your choice and through hands-on investigations learn about the plants and animals that are uniquely adapted to surviving there. Each habitat will have its own variety of activities based on that area, but general concepts will include plant and animal inhabitants (with real biofacts to study) survival traits, habitat threats, and restoration and conservation techniques. Choose forest, prairie or wetland.

PROGRAMS ARE HELD OUTSIDE, PLEASE PLAN AND DRESS ACCORDINGLY.



Planning Your Nature Program Visit

Lasting memories for students and teachers while learning

PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Programs are available starting at 9:30 a.m.
- Red Oak Nature Center staff can lead groups two classes at a time (with some exceptions). All field trips require a minimum of 15 students.
- Programs are delivered rain or shine (except severe weather conditions).
- **NOTE:** Programs are held outside, please plan and dress accordingly.

DURING YOUR VISIT

- Environmental Educators will greet your class on time and be prepared to teach.
- Environmental Educators will follow a lesson plan and accomplish the goals and objectives stated.
- Programs are designed to be fun and interactive, as well as educational.
- At the time of reservation, please inform us of any special needs you may have so that we may best accommodate your group.
- Restrooms and a drinking fountain are located inside the Nature Center.

DIRECTIONS

Red Oak: On Route 25, one mile north of Route 56 in Batavia, IL.

Lippold Park: 1/2 mile north of Red Oak.

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT

- Please arrive on time for your scheduled program. See Cancellations and Changes for late policy.
- Please provide students and chaperones with nametags.
- Maintain discipline, encourage exploration and participation and assist when requested.

RESERVATIONS

To reserve your visit, contact Red Oak Nature Center Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 630-897-1808 or email ropprograms@fvdpd.net.

REGISTRATION & FEES (UPDATED)

In-district schools: \$1 per student

Non-district schools and homeschool groups: \$5 per student

Student Scientists: \$8.50 per student, for both in-district and non-district schools.

School Visit: \$50 for first classroom, \$25 each additional classroom (same-day, same-program). Fee applies to both in-district and non-district schools.

- Schools may register for the entire school year.
- Programs must be booked at least two weeks in advance; earlier registration is highly recommended.
- Checks should be made payable to Fox Valley Park District. Visa, Discover and Master Card are also accepted.
- Grants are available from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. For more information call Red Oak Nature Center at 630-897-1808. or visit, redoaknaturecenter.info

BUS ENTRANCE & PARKING

Red Oak Nature Center's parking lot is located directly off of Route 25. Bus drivers must exit the lot for the duration of the program after dropping off students. Buses are not permitted to remain in the Red Oak Nature Center parking lot. Buses should park at Lippold Park (1/2-mile north of Red Oak Nature Center) and return to the lot 10 minutes before the end of the program.

CHAPERONES

While not required, they are recommended.

There is a max of 2 free chaperones per class. Additional chaperones are \$2 per person.

Teachers are free.

LUNCH FACILITIES

At Red Oak Nature Center: An outdoor picnic grove for groups is provided. **At Lippold Park:** Shelter with limited seating for groups. There are no indoor eating accommodations.

We encourage zero-waste lunches.

PROGRAM CONFIRMATION

- A Confirmation will be emailed. Please review and verify that the program date and time, number of registered students and any special instructions are correct. The email will also include program guidelines. This email will be sent to the person responsible for booking the program, it is their responsibility to forward to other relevant parties.
- Payment balance is due the day of the program; cash, check or charge. Refunds cannot be issued.

CANCELLATIONS AND CHANGES

- Groups must notify Red Oak to cancel or reschedule visits (subject to availability of dates). For cancellations that are made with less than 48 hours notice, there is a \$60 cancellation fee.
- School groups more than 30 minutes late are subject to additional fees and/or cancellation.
- If there are severe weather conditions, we will make our best effort to modify the program if necessary or notify you of a cancellation as quickly as possible.
- Refunds may be issued in specific circumstances, but are at the discretion of the supervisor.
- All programs and fees are subject to change.



Rentals

Building our community together



MAKE SCHOOL MEMORIES

Looking for a unique Field day location? Ready to get your students connected back to nature? Rent a room, shelter or the whole facility at Red Oak Nature center or at 'The Wilds of Red Oak' located at Lippold park.'

- Maple classroom rental
- Acorn classroom rental
- Whole facility
- Picnic grove and fire pit
- Shelter
- Shelter and grounds at Lippold Park

Please contact ROprograms@fvpd.net for availability and rates or go to Foxvalleyparkdistrict.org for more details!



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WHEREFUNBEGINS.ORG