

Willow River State Park Field Trip Programs



Come to the park and explore everything nature has to offer with our interpretive naturalists! **Guided field trips can be scheduled with us in January, May, and September between the hours of 10:00am-2:00pm.** Students rotate through a variety of activity stations, with free time to picnic afterwards, or explore the nature center, playgrounds, hiking trails and more. Below are examples of programs and suggested grade levels.

Email: naturecenter@willowkinnifriends.org, or fill out our program request form to reserve your field trip well in advance as our schedule fills up FAST. Happy Trails!

Animal Detectives

Kindergarten-3rd grade

Analyze animal tracks, scat, and other signs to uncover who's been in the area, then go on a hike to uncover the tracks of several animals along the Hidden Ponds Trail.

Hello Nature

Kindergarten-3rd grade

Grab an explorer backpack and hit the open trail. Use all 5 senses as you embark on a sensory scavenger hunt or create your own recycled nature journal to take along on future adventures

Remarkable Rocks

1st-2nd grade

Investigate different properties, strengths and purposes of rocks. Make rock art and witness geology up close as you hike to the beautiful Willow Falls.

Incredible Insects

1st grade

Learn what makes a bug different from other animals. Use your imagination to create your own insect and then go outside and see how many you can catch and observe.

Lowdown on Landforms

2nd-5th grade

Explore the amazingly ancient landforms of Willow River State Park. Learn how we can protect our lakes and rivers by constructing your own erosion and pollution control plan.

Terrific Trees

2nd-5th grade

Go on a guided hike and learn how to ID a variety of different trees, make beautiful leaf rubbing art and learn why trees are so important to all living beings on earth.

Animal Adaptations

2nd-5th grade

Learn why animals adapt and evolve overtime. Witness first hand why there are so many types of bird beaks playing a game called "Which Beak is Best".

Whats In Your Water?

2nd-5th grade

See what pollutants can get into our rivers and lakes from everyday activities. Then predict if preventing pollution is easier than trying to restore polluted water.

Reading The River

2nd grade & UP

Dive into the Willow River with hands-on water quality testing and macro-invertebrate analysis. Learn about the keystone species living in these waters and what happens if they disappear.

Microscopic Miracles

3rd grade & UP

Learn the importance of taking a "closer look" as you identify several small but miraculous creatures under a microscope lens, then observe hand-picked items and witness their magnified complexity up close.

Wilderness Aware

5th Grade & UP

More rigorous than our other courses. Focuses on: Compass and map reading, shelter and fire-building, finding and filtering water, signaling for help, being properly equipped, etc.

More Fun To Explore!

Live animal encounters, geocaching, ID or themed-hikes, snowshoeing, kayaking, scavenger hunts, nature crafts and more!