

Willow River State Park Field Trip Programs



Children need nature. Let's help them fall in love with it together! Move the classroom outdoors and explore everything nature has to offer with our Naturalist at Willow River or Kinnickinnic State Park. Programs vary from 1.5 to 2 hours long, with free time to explore the Nature Center, natural playgrounds, hiking trails and more. Below are examples of programs and suggested grade levels. We can modify most programs to fit any grade level, interests or time needs. Don't see a topic of interest listed? Ask us about it, as this list is not inclusive. **Call 715-386-9340 or email: naturecenter@willowkinnifriends.org to reserve your field trip program. 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 mammal trivia hike to uncover 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.

Nature's Recyclers

2nd grade

Hike through the life cycle of a tree and see how they are recycled back into the earth when they die. Go on a recycle scavenger hunt or make a bird house out of recycled plastic bottles.

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. Explore the difference between "antlers" and "horns" and the various types of bird beaks and uncover several other animal adaptations.

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.

How Can I Help?

3rd-5th Grade

Explore 4 important Wisconsin habitats and uncover how you can help protect them and the species living within them. Test your knowledge of endangered and invasive species on a fact-find trivia hike!

Reading The River

4th 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

4th 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.

More Fun To Explore!

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