

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!**

Hello Nature

Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Grab an explorer pack and hit the open trail. Use all 5 senses as you explore the natural world. Create your own recycled nature journal to take along on future adventures.

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 and identify several animals along the Hidden Ponds Trail.

Remarkable Rocks

1st Grade-2nd Grade

Investigate different properties, strengths and purposes of rocks. Make rock art and see geology up close as you walk to the edge of the last Wisconsin Glacier.

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, go on a recycle scavenger hunt or play log tag and learn what types of organisms live inside a log and recycle it back into the earth over time.

The Key To Natures ID

2nd Grade-4th Grade

You don't have to be a Master Naturalist to identify plants and animals, you just need to know what to look for! Depending on the season, learn how to ID trees, fish, birds, tracks, scat and more!

Animal Adaptations

3rd Grade-5th grade

Learn why animals adapt and evolve overtime. Explore the difference between "antlers" and "horns" or the various types of bird beaks and uncover several other animal adaptations.

Whats In Your Water?

3rd Grade-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.

Lowdown on Landforms

4th Grade-5th Grade

Explore the amazing landforms of Willow River State Park. Learn how we can protect one of our most important one, the Willow River by constructing your own erosion and pollution control plan.

Reading The River

5th 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

5th 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.

ALL Ages Welcome For:
Live animal encounters, geocaching, themed-hikes, snowshoeing, scavenger hunts, crafts and more!