

2017 March Homeschool Workshops
PROGRAM DATES AND DESCRIPTIONS:

March 10, 2017

K-3rd Grade

Program 1 –The Snow’s My Home: This session will explore how some animals have adapted their behavior to turn the challenge of snow into a unique advantage. Games and experiments will help illustrate how snow can be helpful to many animals. *Instructor: Mary Szepi*

Program 2 –Tree Cookies: Students will learn how tree rings show patterns of change in the tree’s life as well as the area where it grows. Hands-on activities and crafts help students examine the interesting history shown in tree rings. *Instructor: Peg LaMartina*

4th Grade and Up

Program 1 –Busy as a Beaver: Nature's Engineers Beavers are busy remodeling nature as few other animals can. Learn about Wisconsin's largest rodent, its fascinating adaptations for survival, what makes it unique, and how it benefits other wildlife. *Instructor: Cathy Chybowski*

Program 2 – Teambuilding Games: Fun, engaging team-building activities that help students feel more comfortable working together. These games draw out commonalities among group members, reduce tension and encourage safe “risk taking” and reflection. *Instructor: Bill Humphrey*

March 17, 2017

K-3rd Grade

Program 1 –Animal Tracks: As they move, animals leave clues about their activities. The tracks and other evidence they leave behind can tell us a lot about what they were doing. Come learn to recognize animal tracks and learn more about their wintertime habits. *Instructor: Mary Szepi*

Program 2 –Patterns in Nature: Patterns are everywhere in nature. While introducing students to basic mathematical concepts we’ll take a hike to explore counting, sizes and the shapes that are found in nature. Since patterns can be located using the senses of sight, hearing and feeling we’ll use our whole bodies to explore this fun topic! *Instructor: Peg LaMartina*

4th Grade and Up

Program 1 – Wisconsin Raptors: Hawks, Eagles and Owls: In the past, societies have worshiped these powerful, graceful birds of prey. What makes them so special? What is a raptor and how do you identify them? Learn much more about these amazing birds and take a close up look at what they eat by examining the bones from an owl pellet. *Instructor: Barb Duerksen*

Program 2 –The History I’ve Seen: Trees and Their Rings: Using a cross section of a tree, students will trace environmental and historical changes in the life of a tree. Students will use skills such as researching, observing and interpreting information to form theories about the life events of individual trees. Students will also construct a model of a tree trunk to show the various inner structures. *Instructor: Cathy Chybowski*

March 24, 2017

K-3rd Grade

Program 1 –Bees of Wisconsin: Buzz into information about the lives of bees with hands on activities and a craft project. *Instructor: Julie Hoel*

Program 2 – Winter Twigs: The winter twigs of each kind of tree are unique, but some of the features common to all show evidence of seasons past and hold promise for the coming spring. Explore winter tree ID with hands-on activities and crafts. *Instructor: Peg LaMartina*

4th Grade and Up

Program 1 –Shelter: Shelter begins with the clothes on our back, and extends to endless possibilities outdoors. We will learn some basics and then explore our surroundings for natural structure, building materials, and insulation that can be used to take care of our warm blooded needs for fun and survival purposes. *Instructor: Nicholas Gale*

Program 2 –Winter Survival: Along with shelter building, what else should you know about keeping safe in the outdoors in winter? Students will learn winter fire building skills as well as important information about how to dress, what to pack and how to have fun and keep safe during winter wilderness adventures. *Instructor: Bill Humphrey*

March 31, 2017

K-3rd Grade

Program 1 –Butterflies of the Kickapoo: Hands on activities will help participants appreciate these amazing pollinators! *Instructor: Julie Hoel*

Program 2 –Galls: Small Homes for Tiny Creatures: Some insect species spend part of their life cycle inside a gall, a growth on plants that provides food and shelter for a young insect. Come learn all about these tiny insect homes! *Instructor: Mary Szepi*

4th Grade and Up

Program 1 –Wolf Ecology: The wolf was once the most widespread mammal on the planet. What happened to these animals? They're back! Learn about the history of wolves in Wisconsin, wolf ecology and the importance of a keystone species. Can they really be related to our pets? *Instructor: Cathy Chykowski*

Program 2 –Wilderness Navigation: Do you know the navigational directions around you right now? Could you orient yourself if it clouded up on a long walk? Come out to play and learn how to keep on track by observing directional signs in the outdoors, all without the use of a compass. *Instructor: Nicholas Gale*