

Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary, Inc.

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Curriculum Coordinated Programs for Middle School Classes

Aquatic Ecology: (Through September 30 and after April 15) Students participate in a hands on study of an aquatic habitat, wading into pond or stream to collect specimens for identification. This is an excellent opportunity to study the life cycles of amphibians and insects. We do simple qualitative water chemistry; you may bring equipment for a quantitative study if you wish. Microscopes welcome. Cost: \$5/student, \$50.00 minimum. Limit 1 class.

Butterfly Study: (September, May) Review the butterfly lifecycle, learn about the adaptations of different species of Middle Tennessee butterflies and practice using a field guide to identify these flying jewels. Binoculars are helpful but not necessary. Cost: \$5/person, \$50 minimum/class.

Fossil Study: (December through March) Review fossil formation and what fossils are found in Middle, Tennessee. Examine specimens in the Owl's Hill collection, then search the, Owl's Hill trails for fossils, using a field guide to identify them., Limit: 2 classes. Cost: \$5/person, \$50.00 minimum/class.

Interpretive Habitat Hike: (August-May) Guides lead visitors through varied habitats. Autumn abounds with fruit, seeds, spiders and insects; winter provides a close look at burrows, fossils and tracks; spring offers nesting birds, mating amphibians, and an abundance of wildflowers. An interesting and non-threatening hike to introduce urban students to the real outdoors. Cost: \$5/person, \$50.00 minimum/class.

Owls: Top of the Food Chain: (August-May) Meet our live, non-releasable owls and see first hand how each is adapted to its habitat. Hike through owl territory to learn how owls affect and are affected by the food chain. The program includes a discussion of the concerns, both practical and legal, involved in caring for injured and orphaned animals. Cost: \$5/person, \$50.00 minimum/class. Limit 2 classes.

Ridge Line Hike: (August-May) Experience the eastern deciduous forest as it must have appeared to Tennessee's first settlers. Hike from a Locust-lined creek bed up the Beech/Maple forested hillside to the Oak/Hickory covered ridge top. Exposed ledges reveal limestone, shale, and chert layers. Classes studying wildflowers will enjoy a spring hike, when the forest floor is covered with early blooming species. Moderately strenuous. Cost: \$5.00/person, \$50.00 minimum/class. Limit 2 classes.

Additional Information

Picnics: You may schedule a picnic before or after your program at no additional cost except for a \$40 trash removal fee which is waived if you remove your own trash. For scheduling purposes, picnic time is limited to 30 minutes. For the protection of the wildlife, please do not bring drinks with straws since cellophane wrappers are an attractive but fatal snack to many birds and animals.

Curriculum Links: Owl's Hill programs supplement the current Tennessee State Curriculum Standards with hands on nature experience. Check grade level listings on-line for a chart showing these links.

Reservations: Our website, www.owlshill.org, offers descriptions of our programs and a link to an on-line Program Request Form. Reservations may also be made by e-mailing owlshill@bellsouth.net or by calling 615-370-4672. We are happy to tailor programs to your needs, if you request it at the time of your reservation.

Chaperones: Adult chaperones are welcome at Owl's Hill programs. The fee is the same as for the students. Teachers, aides and other school employees serving as chaperones are free. When choosing chaperones, keep in mind that our insurance does not allow tag-a-longs of any age, including babies.

Fees: Reservations are acknowledged with a teacher's package containing additional information. A non-refundable deposit equal to the minimum/class fee times the number of classes is necessary to hold your reservation; an invoice is provided in the packet. Please note the due date for the deposit since failure to send the deposit may result in the loss of your preferred date. The deposit is applied to the fee; the balance is due the day of the program.

Refunds: The deposit is only refundable in the event of severe weather or school closing. Should you need to cancel for other reasons, we will work with you to reschedule if we are notified in advance. Except for the Autumn Nature Adventure, deposits may be applied to another program later in the school year. Programs that have been rescheduled are not eligible for a refund although we will work with you to reschedule again. Cancellations without advance notification are not eligible for rescheduling or refund under any circumstances. Deposits cannot be carried over from one school year to the next. For accounting purposes, we consider the school year to run from August through May.