

Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary, Inc.
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Curriculum Coordinated Programs for Elementary Classes

Programs Adaptable for All Ages (Pre-School (4) - Fifth Grade)

Autumn Nature Adventure: (October; All Ages) Enjoy a hayride, develop observation skills on a guided hike with a focus on seasonal adaptations of plants and animals, then choose a pumpkin from our pumpkin patch. This program may include an age appropriate story. Weekdays, October 9-October 31, 10-11:30 AM or 12:00-1:30 PM. Cost: \$7/person, \$70.00 minimum/ class. Limit 3 classes or 75 students per visit. Pre-Paid reservations required.

Interpretive Hike: (August-May, All Ages) Trained guides lead your group on an interpretive hike through varied habitats where students can develop an awareness of the natural environment. They can look for signs of herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. examples of forest succession, animal homes, and Tennessee State symbols. Autumn hikes abound with fruit, seeds, spiders and insects, winter provides burrows, fossils and tracks, and spring offers nesting birds, mating amphibians, and paths of wildflowers. Designed to encourage observation, stimulate curiosity and increase sensory awareness as well as impart information about our local plants and animals. Cost: \$4/person, \$40.00 minimum/class.

Kindergarten through Third Grade Programs

Animals in Winter: (January – March; Pre-K, Kindergarten, First & Second Grades) Combine science and math skills while looking for Groundhog burrows and discovering winter adaptations of Groundhogs and other plants and animals. Learn to check and compare weather predictions and end with an age appropriate Smithsonian Backyard story in the Owl's Hill "people burrow." Cost: \$5/person, \$40 minimum/class.

Bees and Things That Fly: (August, September, March, April, May; Kindergarten, First & Second Grades) A great spring program focusing on pollination and the contributions of insects to our world. Learn about honeybees through an introduction to our observation beehive. A guided hike, looking for pollinators and signs of their work, is included. Cost: \$5/person, \$50.00 minimum/class. Limit 3 classes per visit.

Butterflies, Butterflies: (August through September, May; Second & Third Grades) Compare caterpillars and their parents, study the butterfly lifecycle, identify common local butterflies. Learn how different kinds of butterflies deal with winter. The program may include a short slide show. Cost: \$5/person, \$50 minimum/class.

Fall Adventures with Squirrel Nutkin: (August, & September; Kindergarten, First & Second Grades) This classic Beatrix Potter tale is an introduction to food chain concepts and winter adaptations of native animals. Beatrix Potter Society member, Jan Rinker, will present the classic tale, followed by an autumn orchard exploration and visit with Mr. Brown's relatives in our non-releasable live owl exhibits. Cost: \$5/person, \$50.00 minimum/class.

Feather Your Nest: (March & April; Kindergarten, First & Second Grades) An introduction to birds for younger children. Learn about birds and their nesting habits, examine the Owl's Hill nest and feather collection and meet our resident Blue Jay and Owls. Look for wild birds and their nests on a guided birding hike. Cost: \$5/person, \$40 minimum/class. Limit 2 classes per visit.

Meet an Owl: (August-May; Kindergarten, First, Second & Third Grades) Meet the non-releasable live owls in the Sanctuary's exhibits and learn about their different habits and the place of each in the ecosystem. Take a guided hike through owl territory and learn about the Owl's Hill Hacking program – a release program for rehabilitated birds of prey. Cost: \$5/person, \$50.00 minimum/class. Limit 2 classes per visit.

Native American Program: (November; First, Second & Third Grades) Learn simple Native American symbols then experiment with picture language to design a "power shield". Natural trail signs lead to a forest platform to hear Native American stories. The Owl's Hill collection of artifacts provide an archaeological window on past inhabitants of Middle Tennessee and the Americas. Cost: \$5/person, \$40 minimum/class. Limit 3 classes per visit.

Native Trees in Autumn: (September & November; Third Grade) Students learn what makes a forest, why forests are valuable and what kind of forest we have here in Middle Tennessee on a hike through the autumn forest using leaves and bark to identify native trees. Each student makes a simple leaf press and begins a leaf collection. Cost: \$5/person, \$40.00 minimum/class. Limit 3 classes per visit.

Pond Ecology: (Through October 3 and after April 13; Second & Third Grade) Students participate in a "feet-wet" study of an aquatic habitat - an excellent opportunity to study the life cycles of amphibians and insects. This is also an opportunity to learn about watersheds and get a taste of water chemistry. Cost: \$5/student, \$50.00 minimum. Limit 1 class per visit.

Spring Happenings with Mr. Jeremy Fisher: (April & May; Kindergarten, First & Second Grades) Schedule a spring day to introduce your class to an awakening pond through this classic tale. Beatrix Potter society member, Jan Rinker, will present Jeremy and his exciting adventures, and then you will enjoy a feet-dry pond exploration, and hunt for Mr. Jeremy and his fishing pole! Space is limited, so register early. Cost: \$5/person, \$50.00 minimum/class.

Fourth and Fifth Grade Programs

Fossil Hunt (Fridays, Dec-March) Students examine fossils from the Owl's Hill collection, learn about common fossils in Middle Tennessee, consider what it means to be extinct, and then hike Owl's Hill trails in search of the remains of ancient creatures. Cost: \$5/person, \$50 minimum/class. Limit 2 classes per visit.

Native Trees in Autumn: (September & November) Hike through the autumn forest learning to use leaves and bark to identify native trees. Students will be introduced to a field guide, make a simple leaf press and begin a leaf collection. Cost: \$5/person, \$40.00 minimum/class. Limit 3 classes per visit.

Owls: Top of the Food Chain: (August-May) Meet our live, non-releasable program owls and see first hand how each is adapted to its habitat. Hike through owl territory and 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 per visit.

Pond Ecology: (Through October 3 and after April 13) Students enjoy a feet-wet study of an aquatic habitat, wading into the pond and collecting specimens for identification - an excellent opportunity to study life cycles of amphibians and insects and learn basic insect classification. Cost: \$5/student, \$50.00 minimum. Limit 1 class per visit.

What Do Bees Make? (August, September, April & May) Find out how honey from a beehive ends up on your biscuits. An observation bee hive, displays and discussion help students understand the **life cycle of honeybees** and the products we get from these social insects. Enjoy a taste of honey then hike the trails in search of other pollinators. Cost: \$5/person, \$50 minimum/class.

Additional Information

Picnics: You may schedule a picnic in our orchard picnic area before or after your program at no additional cost. For scheduling purposes, picnic time is limited to 30 minutes. Owl's Hill does not have trash removal service; in order to continue offering a free picnic area, we ask that you collect your own trash and take it away with you. If this is not possible, the trash removal fee is \$30. Trash bags are available in the Visitor Center for \$2 each or you may bring your own. For the protection of the wildlife, please do not bring drinks with straws. The cellophane wrappers are an attractive but fatal snack to many birds and animals. Thank you for your help in maintaining a healthy environment for the Sanctuary's residents.

Curriculum Links: All Owl's Hill programs supplement the current Tennessee State Science and Ecology curriculum standards with hands on nature experience. Specialized programs also support the Tennessee State Social Studies, Math, English, Art and Physical Education curriculum standards. Check the grade level listings on-line for a chart showing the links between the programs and the Curriculum Standards.

Reservations: Our website, www.owlshill.org, offers more detailed 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. Where possible, we are happy to tailor programs to your needs, if you request it at the time of your reservation.

Chaperones: Adult chaperones are always 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 and time. 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.