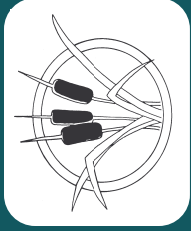


WESTWOOD
HILLS
NATURE CENTER



School
Programs

Educator's Planning Guide
2012-13



Experience LIFE in the Park

8300 West Franklin Avenue St. Louis Park, MN 55426
952.924.2544 phone 952.797.9691 fax
www.stlouispark.org

Fall Program Descriptions



Autumn Trees and Apples *

Grades K-2

1½ hours

This unit uses apple trees as an example to help students learn about pollination and tree life cycles. Students study leaf shapes and help prepare and taste apple cider with an old style cider press.

Who & What Lives Here? *

Grades K-2

1½ hours

Discover all the amazing animals that call Westwood home and learn what animals need to survive: food, water, shelter, and space. Then go on a hike and look for these animals and the signs they have left behind. *Also offered during the winter and spring.*

Seeds & Seed Dispersal

Grades K-4

1½ or 2 hours

Discover the different ways that seeds travel by hiking through and observing different habitats: prairie, forest and wetlands. Learn why plants make so many seeds by playing “Maple Seed Mix-up.”

Tree Identification

Grades 4 & up

2 hours

This program introduces students to the use of scientific keys. Students use Westwood’s Tree Key to identify common Minnesota trees and learn about their unique traits.

Food Webs: Go With The Flow

Grades 5 & up

2 hours

Students will reinforce the terms producers, consumers and decomposers by taking part in an interactive program that shows the interconnectedness of the flow of matter and energy through biological systems.

Watershed

Grades 6 & up

4 hours

Is Westwood Lake healthy? Learn about watersheds and form a hypothesis regarding the health of Westwood’s part of the watershed. Students collect aquatic plants and animals and complete chemical and physical tests of Westwood Lake to test their hypothesis. *Also offered during the spring.*

Honeybees & Beekeeping

All Grades

1½ or 2 hours

This unique class introduces students to the natural history of honeybees, the science of beekeeping and the important role bees play in pollination. Students observe the nature center’s beehives, participate in extraction and sample honey.

*** These programs include a puppet show for grades K—1**

Winter Program Descriptions



Winter birds *

1½ hours

All Grades

Why do some birds leave and some birds stay? It’s not because it’s too cold! Learn the answer to this question and become familiar with some of Minnesota’s winter birds by learning what they look like and what they sound like. We’ll take a close up look at a winter bird by visiting with Westwood’s Red-tailed Hawk.

Who & What Lives Here? *

1½ hours

Grades K-2

Discover all the amazing animals that call Westwood home and learn what animals need to survive: food, water, shelter, and space. Then go on a hike and look for these animals and the signs they left behind. *Also offered during the fall and spring.*

Animal Signs and Tracks*

1½ hours

Grades 1-4

Become an animal detective! Students are introduced to track patterns and the animals that make them. Outside they search for animal “clues”—tracks, homes and other animal signs.

Winter Ecology

1½ or 2 hours

Grades 2 & up

This program focuses on how the cold, snow and ice affects animals. Peer into the lake, measure ice thickness and water temperature to find out what life is like under the ice. Learn about the insulating properties of snow inside a quinzee or snow hut—*snow conditions permitting.*

Winter Survival

2 hours

Grades 4 & up

Would you know what to do if you were stranded and unable to get help? Students learn some basic skills that can apply to any survival situation by receiving hands-on experience in building a fire, practicing rescue techniques and testing their winter first-aid knowledge.

Snowshoeing

1½ or 2 hours

Grades 4 & up

People have been snowshoeing for thousands of years. Learn the history of snowshoeing and find out about different types of snowshoes. Then strap on a pair and go looking for signs of animals active in winter. *Snow conditions permitting.*

*** These programs include a puppet show for grades K—1**

Spring Program Descriptions



Forest Treasures

1½ hours
Grades K & 1

Westwood's puppets help students learn about common Minnesota animals and what time of day they are active. Using a simple map, they find special "treasures" in the forest and receive a treasure of their own to take home.

Spring Plants *

1½ hours
Grades K-2

In this class, students will learn about the importance of plants and what plants need to survive. Each hike group will go on a scavenger hunt for different types of plants and help Westwood's forest by planting a tree

Pond Study

1½ or 2 hours
Grades K-6

Students learn about common pond invertebrates and their importance in the pond habitat. Using a simple sampling technique, students collect and observe these small critters from the pond. Some of the invertebrates will be brought back inside for closer observation by using our magnifying slides.

Who & What Lives Here? *

1½ hours
Grades K-2

Discover all the amazing animals that call Westwood home and learn what animals need to survive: food, water, shelter, and space. Then go on a hike and look for these animals and the signs they left behind. *Also offered during the fall and winter.*

Maple Syruping

2 hours
Grades 4 & up

This unique program gets students involved in the springtime event of making maple syrup. Learn how to identify maple trees, help tap a tree, collect sap and discover how syrup is made. End the day with a tasty treat!

Bird Adaptations

2 hours
Grades 4 & up

Students will learn about the many ways birds are adapted to their environment and how their populations have changed over time by participating in one of the most popular outdoor sports: birdwatching!

Watershed

4 hours
Grades 6 & up

Is Westwood Lake healthy? Learn about watersheds and form a hypothesis regarding the health of Westwood's part of the watershed. Students collect aquatic plants and animals and complete chemical and physical tests of Westwood Lake to test their hypothesis. *Also offered during the fall.*

***These programs include a puppet show for grades K—1**

Signing Up For a Program

To sign up for a program, please contact Greg Feinberg at 952.924.2621 or gfeinberg@stlouispark.org. A confirmation letter or email will be sent to you with the date(s) and time(s) of the program(s) you selected. Payment is due at the time of the program unless other arrangements are made prior to the

Fees For 2012 - 2013 School Year

There is no charge for teachers, support staff and up to two adults per class. Additional adults are charged at the student rate.

1½ Hour Programs

St. Louis Park Resident

\$4.00 per student /\$40.00 Minimum

Non-St. Louis Park Resident

\$4.50 per student/\$45.00 Mini-

2 Hour Programs

St. Louis Park Resident

\$5.00 per student/\$50.00 Minimum

Non-St. Louis Park Resident

\$5.50 per student/\$55.00 Minimum

The Site

Westwood Hills Nature Center is a 160-acre natural area operated by the City of St. Louis Park. The forest, restored prairie and marsh are unique outdoor classrooms in the middle of the city. Professionally-trained naturalists lead a wide variety of fun, informative, hands-on environmental education and outdoor recreation programs. The programs are designed to accompany what is being taught at school and the staff have suggestions for pre-trip and post-trip activities to reinforce what the students learn at the nature center. Students, teachers and other supervising adults should be dressed to be outside

Outreach Programs

Can't make it to Westwood Hills Nature Center? Have a naturalist from the nature center come to your classroom! We bring the lesson plan and all materials. Please contact us for additional information.

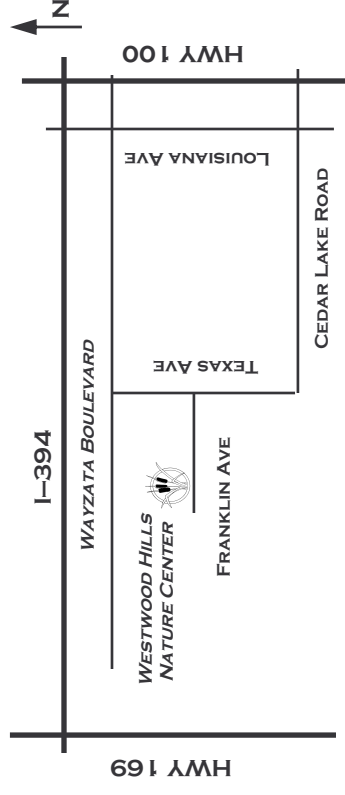
Custom Programs

Do you have a specific topic in mind that is not listed? Please contact us to discuss possible lessons for your class. A customized program may be developed.

Teacher Resources

Background information for any of Westwood Hills Nature Center's programs can be found by visiting the City of St Louis Park website or can be requested from the contact information listed.

Location



From Highway 169: Take I-394 East to the General Mills Boulevard exit (exits to the right). At the bottom of the exit at the stoplight, take a left onto General Mills Boulevard. At the stop sign, take a left onto Wayzata Boulevard. Go about a half of a mile and take a right onto Texas Avenue. At the stop sign, take a right onto Franklin Avenue. The nature center will be about four blocks down on the right.

From Highway 100: Take I-394 West to the Louisiana Avenue exit. Take a left onto Louisiana Avenue. Take your first right onto Wayzata Boulevard. Go about a half of a mile and take a left onto Texas Avenue. At the stop sign, take a right onto Franklin Avenue. The nature center will be about four blocks down on the right.

From 394 Westbound: See directions from Highway 100.

From 394 Eastbound: See directions from Highway 169.

Contact Information

Westwood Hills Nature Center
Attn: Greg Feinberg
8300 W Franklin Avenue
St Louis Park, MN 55413

Phone: 952-924-2621
Fax: 952-797-9691
Email: gfeinberg@stlouispark.org
Website: http://www.stlouispark.org/westwood_school_programs.htm