

School Curriculum Programs

Sensing Nature (Preschool - K)

Explore the marvels of nature through our senses. This program is designed to expand and encourage a child's sense of wonder with hands-on activities.

Seasonal Changes (Preschool - 1st)

Each season brings new discoveries to explore. Children will learn how seasonal changes affect all living things.

Habitats (K - 1st)

Children will learn that animals and plants all live in habitats that help them meet their specific needs and that all animals need food, water, shelter, and space in their habitat.

Cycles of Nature (K - 3rd)

Children will learn about the natural cycles of plants, animals, and ecosystems that occur in nature.

Form Fits Function (K - 3rd)

Children will learn that animals and plants look different because they are uniquely adapted to live in their environment. We will look at different animals and plants to discover how their special adaptations help them survive.

Indiana Rocks! (1st - 7th)

Geology gives us clues to the past, influences our present environment, and plays an important role in our daily lives. Children will discover the origin of our local rocks and fossils, and decipher how our environment was and still is being shaped by geological processes.

Wild Animal Survival (4th - 6th)

This program takes a look at how animals use their adaptations to survive in their habitats, how energy flows through the food chains and food webs, and how all living things are connected.

Ecosystem Ecology (7th - 8th)

This program will examine the interconnectedness of plants and animals throughout the local ecosystems through hands-on activities and outdoor exploration.

Programs for Any Age

Indiana Mammals

Through pelts, mounts, tracks and/or scat, learn about the diversity of mammals in Central Indiana now and in the past. Older students will examine environmental issues such as animal overpopulation, extinction, and habitat destruction.

Indiana's Reptiles and Amphibians

Explore the characteristics and adaptations that make these cold-blooded animals so unique. Examine similarities and differences between amphibians and reptiles and the threats to their survival. Live animals are part of this program.

Creature Features

Are you studying the mysteries of mammals? Do you want your group to know more about the power of pollinators? Do you want to shed some light on the subject of birds? We can introduce you to the amazing adaptations and characteristics of a group of animals or provide an entire program on one animal.

Sustainable Indiana

How can we help protect our planet? What can we do right now to reduce our own impact? This program will explore ways in which we can help protect the Earth and live sustainably.



Traveling Teacher Trunks



Providing hands-on experiences can have a profound effect on learning. By involving students in a total learning experience their ability to think critically is significantly enhanced. In addition, studies indicate that it increases the students' motivation to learn and enhances their perception, creativity, and logic.

Traveling Teacher Trunks provide your classroom access to quality natural resources, information and hands-on activities. These resources enrich the basic information and reference materials found in classroom textbooks.

Each Traveling Teacher Trunk emphasizes:

- Proven hands-on environmental education activities.
- Local Indiana habitats, animals, resources and conservation objectives.
- Quality resources, natural artifacts or replicas for students to handle and utilize.
- Field guides, magnifying glasses, binoculars, etc. for hands-on experimentation and learning.
- Activities aligned to new Indiana Science and Social Studies Standards.

Available Traveling Teacher Trunks:

- Senses and Seasons (Preschool - K)
- Habitats and Ecosystems (K, 1st, 4th, 6th)
- Animal Adaptations (K - 5th, 8th)
- Nature Cycles (K - 2nd, 5th, 6th, 8th)
- Indiana Rocks (1st - 5th, 7th)
- Sustainable Indiana (K, 4th - 8th)

Scheduling a Program



We offer a variety of programs that align with current Indiana Standards from Preschool - 8th grade. All Zion Nature Center programs utilize methods of inquiry and hands-on activities.

When you schedule, please have the following information:

- Date you are interested in, and an alternate date
- Time and alternate
- Location of the program
- Program topic
- Estimated number of participants and their ages
- Contact name and information

Things to consider for your program:

- During the school year there is no parking at the Zion Nature Center, however, there is on street parking available.
- We can schedule programs at the Zion Nature Center, one of our other Zionsville Parks or at your Zionsville location.
- Programs are designed for 25 - 30 participants.
- Programs are one hour in length, but can be customized to fit your time frame.
- Looking for something not in our program offerings, contact us to discuss options.

Group Program Fees

Program at the Zion Nature Center:

Zionsville Community Schools	\$2/student, \$50 minimum
Zionsville Area Private School	\$3/student, \$50 minimum
Zionsville Area Homeschool Group	\$3/student, \$50 minimum
Out of Area School	\$4/student, \$50 minimum
Out of Area Homeschool Group	\$4/student, \$50 minimum
Zionsville Afterschool Club Program	\$50/program
Zionsville Area Outreach Program	\$50/first program \$40/additional on same day

Traveling Teacher Trunks:

2-week rental	\$10/trunk
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Additional Information:

- Outreach involves traveling to a location not owned by Zionsville Parks and Recreation, but within Zionsville municipal limits.
- No outreach is available outside Zionsville.
- There are no costs for teachers and adult chaperones.
- Traveling Teacher Trunks must be picked up and returned during Zion Nature Center open hours.
- Limit of two trunks per teacher at one time.

Program fees are subject to change.

Please contact the Zion Nature Center for further information.



Zion Nature Center Education Program Guide 2018-2019

The Zion Nature Center encourages Zionsville and Central Indiana families to take an active role in their native environment through educational and inquiry-based programs and activities.



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