

General Information

The Stage Nature Center (SNC) is a 100-acre educational facility composed of forest, meadow, marsh and streams. The interpretive center contains classrooms, a wildlife viewing area, natural history exhibits, a children's nature area, a library, and an American Mastodon Discovery Dig.

It is currently operated by the **Troy Nature Society**. Our mission is to provide resources and education to inspire the appreciation and preservation of nature. We do this by interpreting the natural world and acting as an educational resource in biology, ecology and natural history for all students, young and old! Our naturalists enjoy working with students to increase their knowledge and appreciation of the natural world.

We offer a variety of programs to meet your educational needs. Each program is designed to provide students with hands-on experience in nature. We utilize animal mounts, pelts, skulls, shells, and other bio-facts to ensure a first-class view of the world around us. Every program includes indoor instruction with outdoor activities and/or a hike. Please be sure to dress for the weather!

Fees/Charges - Any school or group

Preschool - Adult \$4/student or adult

Teachers or group leaders are free of charge

Minimum charge is equivalent to the cost of 15 people. Chaperones will be charged \$4 each.

Note: If you want a special program developed there may be an additional charge; fee to cover extra time spent designing the program.

Approximately 3 weeks prior to your visit, you will receive a reminder letter and pre-visit information.

All fees must be paid the day of the program. We accept **cash, credit card or check** (please make checks payable to: **Stage Nature Center**).

Middle & High School

The programs listed in this brochure for elementary age students should give an idea of the variety of subject areas that can be offered at the SNC. Our site houses several natural communities to explore. We are happy to work with you to provide programs to enhance your school curriculum.

CONNECTIONS TO SCIENCE STANDARDS Found in Stage Nature Center Programs

Programs	Science Practices	Physical Sciences	Life Sciences	Earth & Space Sciences
Animal Homes & Habitats (K-3)			X	
Animal Tracks & Signs (K-2)	X		X	
Geology: Can You Dig It?! (3-5)		X	X	X
Going Buggy (1-2)	X		X	
Harvest Time (P-2)	X		X	
Insect Insights (3-5)	X		X	
Log Life (K-2)	X		X	
Maple Syruping (K-2)		X	X	
Nature Newcomers (K-2)			X	X
Nature 101 (3-5)			X	X
No Bones About It (3-5)	X		X	
Outdoors & You (1-3)			X	X
Ready for Winter (K-2)		X	X	
Seizing Sunshine (4-5)		X	X	
Snow Snooping (3-5)	X	X	X	
Sunshine to Syrup (3-5)		X	X	
The Power of Water (1-3)			X	X
Water World (K-2)	X		X	
Wet & Wild (3-5)	X		X	
Whether the Weather (2-3)	X			X
Which Way is North? (4-5)		X	X	X
Wildlife Wonders (K-2)			X	



School/Group Programs 2016-17



Located At
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Troy, MI 48098-1943



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Programs

Seasons

Fall - F Winter (not March) - W
 March - M Spring & Summer - S

Trails and Tots F W M S 4-5 yrs. 1.25 Hours

A sensory approach introduces preschoolers to the out-of-doors. We investigate sights, sounds, and smells of the season, tame versus wild animals, different communities, and living versus nonliving.

Harvest Time F P-2nd 1.5 Hours

Come and enjoy harvest time as we make real apple cider using our cider press! We will learn about the fall harvest at farms and in nature. We will take a close look at apples, use the press, go on a beautiful fall hike, and sample some pasteurized cider. **Please note:** each class should bring 1/2 bushel of apples. Maximum: Two classes.

Nature Newcomers F W S K-2nd 1.5 Hours

This introduction to nature will familiarize your students with basic concepts of the natural world. We will explore the natural communities and many of the animals found here. We will observe both living and non-living components found in nature and take a look at specific seasonal happenings.

Wildlife Wonders F W S K-2nd 1.5 Hours

We will identify the five vertebrate groups and the differences between them. Students will learn what makes a bird a bird or a fish a fish! On the trail, we watch for animal signs and play an outdoor game.

Log Life F S K-2nd 1.5 Hours

Discover the life cycle of a tree. Peer into the hidden and mysterious life of a log and discover the wide variety of critters that live there. Insects, sow bugs and slugs are just a few of the many residents we will search for using bug boxes as we hike!

Animal Tracks & Signs W K-2nd 1.5 Hours

Can you identify an animal from its track? What do tracks and other signs tell you about its activity? Exploring signs, we will learn more about animals' winter activities. This program is available with or without snow and includes an outdoor hike.

Maple Syruping M K-2nd 1.5 Hours

Students learn where maple syrup comes from, how it is made and who made it first. Simple discussion of photosynthesis and the three states of water. On the trail, they discover how sap is collected, taste sap if it is flowing, and find out how it is made into syrup. Students will also participate in several trail side demonstrations.



Water World S K-2nd 1.5 Hours

Come and use the pond to enhance your students' understanding of aquatic life and their basic needs for survival. We will identify characteristics and look at the life cycles of the aquatic invertebrates. Then it's time to get our hands dirty as we go 'dipping' for critters in the pond. Old shoes and clothes are recommended as kids may get muddy or wet. Available starting April 1. Maximum: One class.

Ready for Winter F K-2nd 1.5 Hours

How does nature get ready for winter? We'll discover how hibernation, migration, food storage, feathers, fur and falling leaves provide clues. On the trails we'll search for signs of winter preparation.

Animal Homes & Habitats F K-3rd 1.5 Hours



All wild animals require food, water and shelter to survive. This program focuses on the importance of shelter for wildlife. Students will see many kinds of animal homes both indoors and on the trail.

Going Buggy F S 1st-2nd 1.5 Hours

Students will discover the importance of insects to other animals, plants and people. They will learn to identify an insect and how to distinguish it from other invertebrates. This fun, hands-on program will include observations with the use of sweep nets and bug boxes. Available only until October 15 or after April 15. Maximum: Two classes.

The Power of Water F S 1st-3rd 1.5 hours

A specially-designed introduction to earth sciences for the younger crowd. Instruction includes the water cycle, the three states of water, erosion, major land formations, what the earth is made of and the importance of the sun. We will connect these resources to our daily lives!

Outdoors and You F W S 1st-3rd 1.5 Hours

We will emphasize our connection with the natural world by exploring the natural resources that provide our food, clothing and shelter. Students will discover the roles, or niches, of plants and animals in their communities.

Whether the Weather F W S 2nd-3rd 1.5 Hours

Join us as we explore what makes weather happen. There will be lots of hands-on activities and demonstrations, including our Teaching Tornado. Students will use real scientific tools to measure weather data. They will observe current weather conditions and learn a bit about what makes weather change.



Nature 101 F W S 3rd-5th 1.5 Hours

This course is a great introductory tour for our first time visitors! Similar to the Nature Newcomers, this program introduces some more advanced ecological concepts in the study of natural communities, population, habitat, food chains and webs. The hike will include visiting and observing several of the nature center's natural communities with the plants and animals found there.

Insect Insights F S 3rd-5th 2 Hours

Come and discover some of the most remarkable and numerous animals around us - insects. Students will learn the basics of insect identification, and the roles insects play in their natural communities. They will do field observation, sweep net sampling and data analysis. Available only until October 15 or after April 15. Maximum: Two classes



Sunshine to Syrup M 3rd-5th 1.5 Hours

Follow the path from summer sunshine to sweet syrup and discover how nature's food factories (leaves) produce sugar through photosynthesis. Students will also participate in several trail side demonstrations while learning about the basics of sugar bush operation and forest ecology.

Geology: Can You Dig It?! F S 3rd-5th 2 Hours

In this interactive program we will examine rocks, minerals, fossils, sand, and soil, to learn how they are formed and what roles they play in our daily lives. The outdoor hike offers an opportunity to see natural forces at work. Maximum: Two classes.

No Bones About It F S 3rd-5th 2 Hours

This program focuses on the basic biology of invertebrates! By exploring their ecology, behavior and complex interrelationships, we learn about food webs and their "jobs" in natural communities. Outside, we will discover the many invertebrates that live at the nature center.

Snow Snooping W 3rd-5th 1.5 Hours

What is snow? How does it affect plants and animals? How many kinds of snow do you know? We will examine these and other secrets of snow. Outside, we'll gather and use evidence to unravel the mysteries of winter's beautiful blanket.

Wet and Wild S 3rd-5th 1.5 Hours

This hands-on exploration leads students into the fascinating world of pond life. We will collect and examine critters to see who eats whom in the underwater web of life. Old shoes and clothes are recommended; as kids may get muddy or wet. Available starting April 1. Maximum: One class.

Seizing Sunshine F S 4th-5th 2 Hours

Learn how the sun provides our energy as we examine the energy flow from the sun to plants, animals and people. We will see how each one utilizes energy and what their energy sources are. We'll trace the path of the sun's energy through the ecosystems with an outdoor activity and hike.

Which Way is North? F W S 4th-5th 2 Hrs.

Join us as we explore maps and how to use a compass. After instruction on compass use, the students will go outside and play some compass games to practice their new skill on our compass course. This program uses math as well as science. Maximum: One class.



For Your Information

If you are interested in a program offered for a grade other than your students' grade, talk to us. We may be able to simplify or upgrade the level of the program or suggest an existing program that would meet the needs of your class.