

# School & Youth Nature Programs

Presented at the  
Stage Nature Center



**All school field trips and group visits  
presented in this brochure take place at:**

**Stage Nature Center Interpretive Building**  
6685 Coolidge Highway  
Troy, MI 48098-1943

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**Presented by:**  
The Troy Nature Society  
P.O. Box 99302 | Troy, MI 48099  
Ph: 248.688.9703  
[www.stagenaturecenter.org](http://www.stagenaturecenter.org)



## ABOUT THE NATURE CENTER

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 to Adult:

\$4.50 per student or adult

\$5.00 per student or adult for the All About Owls program and other live animal programs.

\*\*Teachers or group leaders are free of charge\*\*

Minimum charge is equivalent to the cost of 15 people. Chaperones will be charged \$4.50 or \$5.00 each.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- If you want a special program developed there may be an additional 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.

### CUSTOMIZE YOUR PROGRAM

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.

### DIRECTIONS

Stage Nature Center  
6685 Coolidge Highway | Troy, MI 48098  
Off of Coolidge Highway  
between Square Lake Road & South Blvd.

#### From I-75 North

Exit at Crooks Road and travel north on Crooks to Square Lake Road. Go west on Square Lake Road to Coolidge Highway. Go north on Coolidge Highway to the Stage Nature Center

#### From I-75 South

Exit at Adams Road, and travel east on Square Lake Road. Go north on Coolidge Highway to the Stage Nature Center.



# NATURE

## Season Key:

F: Fall | W: Winter (not March)

M: March | S: Spring & Summer

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### **NEW!** Live Owl Program

#### All About Owls

**F W S | All Ages | 1.5 Hours**

Students will discover the nighttime world of the owl as they meet native Michigan owls up close and personal! We will investigate the mysterious lives of owls and their adaptations for survival. On the trail, we will explore the habitat of these nocturnal raptors and learn what humans can do to help them. The program will include 2 or 3 live owls. This program can be tailored for audiences of all ages. Fee is \$5.00 per student or chaperone.

#### 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!

#### Ready for Winter

**F | K-2nd | 1.5 Hours**

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

#### 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 trailside demonstrations.

**SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS, YOUTH GROUP OUTINGS,  
PRESCHOOL ENRICHMENT, CIVIC GROUPS**

# PROGRAMS



## Animal Homes & Habitats

F W S | 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.** Suggested: maximum of two classes.

## What's the Weather?

F W S | 1st-2nd | 1.5 Hours

How does weather help determine our daily activities and the clothes we wear? What ingredients are needed to make weather happen? How do animals and plants adapt to weather? These are a few of the questions we will explore as we discover fascinating facts about weather.

## 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!

## Animal Adaptations

F W S | 1st-3rd | 1.5 Hours

Each animal has unique built-in tools or adaptations to help it survive. These adaptations allow wildlife to thrive in their niche or "get the job done." We will compare some of their adaptations with tools people have invented to help them survive. On the trail, we will look for animals and plants using their built-in adaptations. **For an extra \$50 per person**, a live owl and one other animal from the nature center's collection will be introduced to the group.



## 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 | 3rd-5th | 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.

**BOOK YOUR NATURE INSPIRED OUTING**

**BY CALLING 248.688.9703**

# EXPLORE

## 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.



## 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.

## Ecosystem Field Study

**F S | 3rd-5th | 2.5 Hours**

Students will receive a brief introduction to the ecosystems found at the nature center. They will discuss tools that can be used to study and record data in ecosystems. Then, small groups will plan and conduct biodiversity comparisons of two communities at the nature center – the lawn and the meadow. **Available only until October 15 or after April 15.**

## Frozen World

**W | 3rd-5th | 1.5 Hours**

How do wild animals and plants survive the cold winter months? Does snow help or harm wildlife? Are there different types of snow? These are a few of the questions we will answer as we explore the winter season. This program is available with or without snow and includes an outdoor hike.

## 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 trailside demonstrations while learning about the basics of sugar bush operation and forest ecology.



## 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.

**“The sun does not shine for a few trees and flowers,  
but for the wide world’s joy.”**

**HENRY WARD BEECHE**

# OUTDOORS

## CONNECTIONS TO SCIENCE STANDARDS

Found in Stage Nature Center Programs

PROGRAM	Science Practices	Physical Sciences	Life Sciences	Earth and Space Sciences
All About Owls			X	
Animal Adaptations (2-3)	X		X	
Animal Homes & Habitats (K-3)			X	
Animal Tracks & signs (K-2)	X		X	
Ecosystem Field Study (3-5)	X	X	X	
Frozen World (3-5)			X	X
Geology: Can you dig it!? (3-5)		X	X	X
Going Buggy (1-2)	X		X	
Harvest Time (P-2)	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
Outdoors & You (1-3)			X	X
Ready for Winter (K-2)		X	X	
Seizing Sunshine (3-5)		X	X	
Sunshine to Syrup (3-5)		X	X	
The Power of Water (1-3)			X	X
What's the Weather? (1-2)	X		X	X
Whether the Weather (3-5)	X			X
Wildlife Wonders (K-2)			X	

Updated Aug 2023

**BOOK YOUR NATURE INSPIRED OUTING BY VISITING:  
WWW.STAGENATURECENTER.ORG**



# Get Into Nature



For information on  
upcoming programs and events:

Stage Nature Center  
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