



## OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS

### West Shores Interpretive Center • Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve

The West Shores Interpretive Center has a variety of programs designed to help fill the environmental needs and requirements for the Brown County area schools and organizations. These programs are intended to allow the participants to explore and discover the natural world while gaining an understanding of the people, places and resources of Northeastern Wisconsin. Unless noted otherwise, all programs are half-day sessions and approximately 2 to 2 ½ hours long. When arranging a full day session, please select two programs from the list.

### Spring and Autumn Sessions

- **Nature Trek I** - This program introduces the students to the natural world around them. Included is a Naturalist-led hike, a hand lens discovery session, and a group activity period utilizing hands-on activities. (*Grades K-2*)
- **Nature Trek II** - This program offers an extended study of the natural world for those students who have participated in Nature Trek I. The session includes an exploratory hike and a variety of hands-on activities to further develop an awareness and appreciation of the environment. (*Grades K-2*)
- **World of the Pond** - Working in small groups, students are introduced to the aquatic life in the pond. Using nets, hand lenses and pails, organisms are collected and examined in the field and classroom. Emphasis is placed upon how the animal lives and its relationship in the pond environment. (*Grades K-2*)
- **Recycling** - This fascinating program stresses the importance of recycling and which “waste” products can be recycled. Students also learn composting principles and explore “nature’s recyclers” in decomposing logs on the forest floor. (*Grades 3-6*)
- **Marsh Trek** - An exploratory program on the marsh environment. Aquatic invertebrates, plants, food webs, nutrient cycles, and wetland values are explored through a variety of activities conducted in the marsh. This program is recommended for early autumn or late spring and participants are required to bring a change of shoes, stockings, and pants. (*Grades 3-12*)
- **Forest Trek** - An exploratory program on the forest environment focusing upon food webs, wildlife, plants, nutrient cycles, and soil formation in the forest. (*Grades 3-12*)
- **Pond Life II** - This activity session focuses upon the pond environment. Students work in teams to collect organisms and data from the pond for later classroom discussion and use. Emphasis upon adaptations of aquatic organisms, food webs, aquatic plants and use of identification keys. (*Grades 3-12*)
- **West Shore Wetlands** - Focusing on the wetlands along the West Shore of Green Bay, this program emphasizes the geological formation of the area and its use by early man. Artifacts taken from archeological sites along the West Shore are examined along with their construction and methods of use. Students participate in an activity session in which a Native American craft is completed using natural materials found in the West

Shore area. The program concludes with a discovery hike focusing upon the various plants and wildlife utilized by these early people. *(Grades 3-12)*

- **Orienteering** - Through a progression of increasingly more difficult activities, students become more familiar with the history of the compass, its use in orienteering, and alternate ways to determine direction. The session concludes with a trial run through an orienteering course. A change of shoes and socks is recommended, especially in wet weather. Emphasis upon compass and pacing techniques, and methods to find direction when lost. *(Grades 4-12)*
- **Resource Management** - A Naturalist-guided discussion and tour of the Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve and the management techniques, tools, and methods used in wildlife management on site. Special emphasis on waterfowl management at the Preserve. *(Grades 6-12)*
- **Exploring the Bay** - Conducted in the marsh on the west shore of Green Bay, this program explores the intricacies and biological diversity of the wetland environment. Special emphasis is placed upon wetland values, nutrient cycles, food webs, changing water levels, and environmental problems of this fragile ecosystem. This program is recommended for late spring or early autumn and participants are required to bring a change of shoes, stockings, and pants. *(Grades 6-12)*

## Winter Sessions

- **Winter in the Forest I** - This fast-paced nature discovery program for young children focuses upon the adaptations that plant and animals must make to survive the Wisconsin winter. Special emphasis is placed upon hands-on activities. The major portion of this program is conducted indoors with the length of time spent outdoors determined by weather conditions. *(Grades K-2)*
- **Snowshoeing** - This program takes the students through the prehistoric development and use of snowshoes by the Great Lakes Indian people to their use today for recreational and emergency purposes. Construction techniques and designs are examined and discussed along with proper care and use. Students are taught snowshoeing techniques, and the program concludes with a fun-filled hike, including snowshoe races and games. Limited to groups of 30 students or less. *(Grades 1-5)*
- **Early Wisconsin** - This program explores life in Wisconsin circa 1800. Students will learn about fur trapping/trading by visiting our fur trader's cabin and will also learn about Indian life in the winter at our recreated wigwam. *(Grades 2-6)*
- **Winter in the Forest II** - A comprehensive program on the winter environment including plant and wildlife adaptations, tracks and sign, and predator-prey relationships. *(Grades 3-12)*
- **Wilderness Survival** - Through a hands-on approach, students learn basic survival skills. Working in small groups, participants build snow shelters and survival fires. Included is a discussion session on winter hazards and first aid, preparation of a survival kit, and dressing for the outdoors. *(Grades 3-12)*
- **Tracks and Sign** - This fascinating program teaches students how to identify Wisconsin wildlife through tracks and sign. Students examine owl pellet contents, look at examples of wildlife sign, and learn tracking skills and techniques. Included is a tracking session through the winter forest and marsh. *(Grades 3-12)*