

DICKINSON COUNTY NATURE CENTER

GRADE K — NATURE CENTER FIELD TRIP OVERVIEW

What students should bring:

- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots
- Water bottle for drinking water
- Lunch
- Rinsed out milk carton (one per student)

What teachers should bring:

- Sunscreen/bug spray for class
- First aid kit

Contact

Environmental
education coordinator
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Field Trip Overview

Activity 1: Recycled Art

Led By: Dickinson County Conservation staff

Core Expectations: K-ESS3-3

Duration: 30 minutes

Description: In this activity, students will use creative thinking to brainstorm ways they can reuse trash items they may otherwise throw away. Students will participate in a hands-on craft where they will get to transform a used milk carton into a beautiful bird feeder. This activity will emphasize the importance of practicing the 3Rs and being mindful of the impact we have on the world.

Activity 2: Habitracks

Led by: Dickinson County Conservation staff

Core Expectations: K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, K-ESS3-1

Duration: 30 minutes

Description: Students will get the opportunity to learn about the needs of different Iowa animals through an interactive activity that will teach them the basics of teamwork, following maps, and the basic needs of all animals. Students will get the opportunity to learn what different animals need to survive in Iowa.

Activity 3: Prairie Life

Led by: Dickinson County Conservation staff

Core Expectations: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1

Duration: 30 minutes

Description: Students will be able to explore the tall, tall grass of a native prairie. During this exploration, students will be able to see up close the plants and animals that make up our beautiful prairies. Your young explorers will be encouraged to look through the tall grass to find evidence of animal life and make observations about plants.

Activity 4: Scavenger Hunt

Led by: District teacher or chaperone, if group is between 40-100 students

Core Expectations: 21.K-2.HL.2, 21.K-2.HL.5, 21.K-2.ES.1

Duration: 30 minutes

Description: In this activity students will work together to investigate the natural world around them. Through searching for various objects in nature, students will further develop their curiosity and imagination while being active in the outdoors.



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SIDE 2

Suggested Field Trip Itinerary

10 a.m. Arrive at the Dickinson County Nature Center

10-10:15 a.m. Introduction, break into groups

10:20-10:50 a.m. Activity 1

10:55-11:25 a.m. Activity 2

11:30 a.m.-noon Lunch

12:05-12:15 p.m. Clean up from lunch, bathrooms, get back into groups

12:20-12:50 p.m. Activity 3

12:55-1:25 p.m. Activity 4

1:25-1:50 p.m. Playscape time

In order to give each student the opportunity to learn in our outdoor classroom, we try to keep our group numbers small. Your field trip may look different depending on your class size.

10-24 students: Students will participate as one group and rotate through the stations with one or more naturalist.

25-40 students : Students will be broken into two groups and rotate through stations with one of our naturalists at each station.

40-100 students: Students will be broken into four groups and rotate through stations. With this option, teachers should be prepared to lead one activity on the property. Materials and lesson plan will be provided by the nature center.