

School Programming

at Hidden Oaks Nature Center
Perfect for schools, daycares, preschools, homeschools, day camps, etc

Programs are tailored to meet age and curriculum needs.
Customized programs are also available if you do not see a topic that interests you!



Buzzing Bees

Learn about honeybees and other pollinators and why they are so important. Take a hike to search for signs of pollinators. Taste some honey, and make a craft to take home.

Butterflies & Moths

Investigate these beautiful and mysterious insects! Learn about their life cycle and adaptations, and why they are so important. Depending on the season, program may include hike and/or a craft project.

Reptile Rampage

Turtles, snakes, and lizards, oh my! Learn about reptiles and their characteristics through hands on investigations with shells, skins, and real animals! Take a hike and search for reptiles or reptile homes in our forest and make a craft to take home!

Thousands of Seeds

Explore different types of seeds and learn the different methods of dispersal through hands-on investigations, games, and a hike!

Feathered Friends

Come learn all about what makes birds special from other types of animals! Investigate feathers, bird wings, and even some skulls! Learn how to identify some common backyard birds, practice using binoculars, go on a bird watching hike, and make a bird feeder to take home!

Animal Tracks & Signs

Learn to identify the tracks and scat of common Illinois animals through hands-on investigations, games, and stories. Talk about other signs animals might leave behind. Go on a hike to identify tracks and look for animal clues.

Dinos & Fossils

What did Illinois look like millions of years ago? The answer may surprise you! Learn about how bones turn into fossils, go on a dino dig, and learn about the fossils found in our own backyard!

Bug Escapade

Get up close and personal with insects! Explore the mouth parts, locomotion, and life cycles of insects and arachnids. Sweep the fields to discover the different bugs in your very own backyard!

Tree Homes

Many animals can live in a tree! Investigate every layer of a tree from roots to canopy and meet the diversity of animals that live there!

Discovering Fall

Explore how trees, plants, and animals prepare themselves for winter through hands-on activities, a hike, and a craft involving leaves!

Discovering Spring

Learn about the signs of spring that plants and animals give us. Explore life cycles, and take a hike through the conservation area in search of buds, flowers, and animals!

Native Americans

Explore the first people that lived in Illinois. Learn how they lived off the land and how they used various plants and animals. Play some games that Native American children would have played, and investigate customs which they still hold dear.

Fishing (ages 7 years & up)

Learn to identify common Illinois fish, the parts of a fishing pole, how to bait a hook, cast a pole, and take a fish off of a hook. Program includes permits, pole rentals, and bait.

Into the Woods

Investigate the plants and animals that live in the forest! Learn about the parts of a tree and what their important function is, explore tree stumps and leaves, and learn to ID some of Illinois' common trees by taking a hike in our woods.

Wetland Investigations

Explore a wetland habitat and the plants and animals that live there. Get up close and personal by using dip nets to catch water creatures and learn to identify them. Learn the important roll a wetland plays in water purification.

Prairie Prowl

Discover why Illinois is called the Prairie State by learning to identify some common prairie plants, exploring the animal and plant adaptations, and learning about the history and maintenance of the prairie.

Habitat Exploration

Uncover the three different habitats at Hidden Oaks Conservation Area: Forest, Lake/wetland, and Prairie. Learn about the adaptations the plants and animals have to help them live in this habitat through hands on investigations with furs, skulls, and feathers.

Senses

Explore the five senses using nature as a guide! Play some games that challenge your sense of touch. See how your sense of smell compares to other animals. Spend some quiet time in the forest to listen to nature. Explore color with your own eyes and learn how other animals see a little differently than you!

Letterboxing

Join in the fun with this puzzle and riddle driven treasure hunt! Learn about the sport of letterboxing, make your own stamp, and follow clues to find a letterbox right here at Hidden Oaks.

Programs

- Programs are taught by professional naturalists dedicated to bringing quality instruction to every topic.
- For most programs we require one chaperone for every 12 participants. For our fishing program we require one chaperone for every 5 students.
- Chaperones are free, however they are expected to be of assistance to our Naturalists during the program. If chaperones are disruptive they will be asked to leave.

Fees:*

1 hour program	\$6 / student	\$60 minimum (10 participants)
1.5 hour program	\$7 / student	\$70 minimum (10 participants)
2 hour program	\$8 / student	\$80 minimum (10 participants)

*payment/minimum options are available depending on circumstance.

Scheduling & Information

Please contact Kate Johns, Environmental Education Coordinator, to schedule a program or for more information:

P: (630) 910-2304

E: kjohns@bolingbrookparks.org



Where the fun is!

Hidden Oaks Conservation Area | 419 Trout Farm Road | 630.739.2600
A facility of Bolingbrook Park District | bolingbrookparks.org

