

Package Curriculum

at Hidden Oaks Nature Center

Package curriculum is a unique opportunity offered at Hidden Oaks to enrich your participants' lives, establish a routine connection to nature, and learn more in the process! These programs can be utilized by Special Recreation groups, group homes, senior care centers, memory care centers, schools, preschools, daycares, homeschools, or any other group who has a need!

Instead of paying per class, purchase a number of class hours that you can use however you wish when booking programs through Hidden Oaks. Choose from a number of series classes or other topics that interest your participants or compliment your curriculum. Each class you schedule may include hands on studies, science experiments, art experiences, and outdoor time.

SERIES TOPICS

Use your program hours to go in-depth into a topic over a number of different class periods. Choose from one of the provided topics below or work with the environmental education coordinator to design one of your own.

Colors in Nature

Your class will discover all the different colors in nature and the reasons behind them. Each program will focus on different aspects of how animals and plants use color.

Sample Classes:

- Camouflage
- Warning Colors
- Mimicry
- Colorful leaves
- Colors of attraction

Seasons

Kids will investigate the different seasons at Hidden Oaks! We'll talk about the changes plants and animals go through each season, and learn about topics like fall leaves, animal tracks and snow, flowers and pollinators, and much much more!

Sample Programs:

- Fantastic Fall
- Nuts for Squirrels
- Animals in Winter
- Snow Science
- Animal Tracks
- S is for Spring
- Flowers & Pollinators

Habitats*

Children will explore different habitats, starting with your own backyard! We'll learn what makes a habitat, investigate some of the animals that live there, and over the weeks compare the similarities and differences found in each! Habitats studied can include: suburban backyard, forest, savannah, prairie, lake, and/or wetland marsh

**Depending on habitats chosen, this class may not meet at Hidden Oaks Conservation area but another park district park.*

Trees

Learn all about the trees that are all around us! During your series of programs, your class will learn why trees are important to people, animals, and the environment. They will also learn about the parts of the tree, investigate tree cookies and leaves, and learn what foods come from trees!

Sample Programs:

- Tree Homes
- The Life of a tree
- Thousands of seeds
- Colorful leaves
- Apples, Rubber, & Syrup: Things From Trees

Insects & Arachnids

Step into the world of the creepy and crawlie! Investigate with your group the largest classification of animals on the planet through activities, experiments, and hands-on encounters! We can go as general or specific as you'd like. The possibilities with this one are endless!

Sample programs:

- Insect investigations
- Arachnids
- Butterflies & Moths
- Beetles
- Crickets & Grasshoppers
- Bees & Wasps
- Spiders
- Millipedes, Centipedes, & Pillbugs
- Slugs, Snails, and Worms

Herps

Participants will explore the world of Reptiles and Amphibians in this series of classes! Learn all about their similarities and differences through hands-on activities, live animal encounters, experiments, activities, and crafts!

Sample programs:

- Reptile Rampage
- Awesome Amphibians
- Turtle Tales
- Ssssssnakes!
- Frogs & Toads
- Salamanders & Caecillians

Animal Tracks & Signs

Teach your class to be detectives in their own backyard! In this series of programs they'll learn all about footprints, scat, bones, furs, other types of animal clues, and how animals stay hidden. The last program is reserved for your kids to test their skills and solve their very own Nature CSI whodunit mystery!

Sample programs:

- Scat
- Animal Tracks
- Bones & Fur
- Camouflage
- Animal Communication
- Nature: CSI

History of Earth: Dinosaurs & Minerals

The Earth was so different before humans were here! In this series, participants in your group will learn all about the creatures that lived on earth, what creatures used to call Illinois home, and all about the rocks and minerals!

Sample programs:

- Dinosaurs!
- Prehistoric Illinois
- Ice Age Illinois
- Fossils!
- Rocks & Minerals
- Earth's Natural Phenomena: Volcanoes, Earthquakes, & weathering

Native Americans

Explore the world of the first people who lived in America. Each class in this series gives participants a chance to delve into a different aspect of Native American culture. At the end, they will gain an appreciation and understanding for how Native Americans lived hundreds of years ago, and what they valued.

Sample programs:

- Native Peoples of Illinois
- Music and Stories of Native Americans
- Native American Games
- Life in the Fox Valley
- Food, furs, and Forbes: How Native People used their resources
- Native Americans across the country

Nature in Literature

Explore the ways that different authors use nature in the books they write. Each class in this series will focus on a different author or book. Participants will read passages from a book, discuss it, then put their skills to the test and work on their own written piece inspired by the author.

Non-fiction or fiction authors can be used. Children's authors, YA, or adult authors can be used. This class series can really be tailored to whatever you'd like to focus on. The possibilities are endless!

Sample Authors:

- John Muir
- Aldo Leopold
- Rachel Carson
- Henry David Thoreau
- Eric Carle
- Beatrix Potter
- J.R.R. Tolkien
- AND MANY MORE!

Nature in Art

So many artists find inspiration by looking to nature. Explore different artists and their works each class session. Participants will discuss the life of the artist, the methods they used to paint, examine a few of their paintings, and try to do their own!

Sample Artists:

- Claude Monet
- Van Gogh
- Winslow Homer
- Rembrandt
- George Seurat
- Charlie Harper
- John Constable
- AND MANY MORE!

Taking Care of the Earth

In this series, your participants will learn all about the 3 R's (recycle, reduce, reuse), how to "go green" in their home, how to help out the animals in the water and forests, and other practices that will help out the earth!

Sample Programs:

- The 3 R's
- Going Green!
- Litterbug
- Who Dirtied the water?
- Nature's recyclers: Decomposers

NON-SERIES CLASSES

Purchased class hours can also be used on single time topics of your choice. Pick and choose the classes and topics that interest your participants or complement curriculum throughout the year.

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!

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!

Thousands of Seeds

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

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.

Naturalist 101

Explore the writings of early naturalists like John Muir, Henry David Thoreau, and Aldo Leopold. Learn how they lived and how important they were to present day land preservation and conservation. Try your hand at your own nature writing by learning how to start a nature journal.

Nature Artists

Many artists have used nature as inspiration for some of their most beautiful works. Learn about some of these artists and their style, discuss some of their works, and try your own hand at some nature art!

PRICING

Purchasing package curriculum offers a discount to purchasing individual classes. Our base fee covers up to 10 children. Additional children cost according to the table below.

# of class hours	Base Fee (covers 10 children)	Price per additional child	Per hour price
4 class hours	\$160	\$16	\$4
6 class hours	\$230	\$23	\$3.80
8 class hours	\$300	\$30	\$3.75
12 class hours	\$430	\$43	\$3.50

Purchasing class hours

- Class hours can be purchased at any time throughout the year by contacting Kate Johns, Environmental Education Coordinator: kjohns@bolingbrookparks.org or (630) 910-2304
- A 50% deposit is required at the time of initial purchase*. Payment on the remaining hours will occur as they are scheduled.
- Hours must be used within a year of purchase. At that time, any extra hours will be lost a new package will need to be purchased.
- Additional class hours can be purchased anytime within the year at a discounted rate, with the total reflective of the new number of class hours purchased.

**call for details. Payment options are available depending on circumstances*



Where the fun is!

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

