



3002 East 30th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67502
(620)663-7411

Dillon Nature Center has provided quality outdoor education programs for school children for over 30 years. Our trained guides will involve your students in an engaging environmental learning experience. All group visits need to be arranged in advanced by calling (620)663-7411. The fee for programs for non-contract schools is \$5.00 per student for each program. Additionally, for non-contract schools, there is a minimum charge of \$50.00 per group and a mileage fee for “at school” presentations. Some programs may have additional fees.

For more information on these programs, please contact Stephanie Carlson at the above phone number or at: scarlson@hutchrec.com.

*In-class presentations are conducted only during late November, December, January, February, and early March.

Pre-Kindergarten – Kindergarten

Animals, Plants & Their Environment

This hike is designed to help children focus on the world around them and learn how plants and animals survive by investigating and observing them in their habitats. Young students will also learn about weather, severe weather, and what sunlight does for our earth.

Grade K Standards: LS1.C: (K-LS1-1), K-PS3.B: (K-PS3-1) & (K-PS3-2), ESS2.D: (K-ESS2-1), ESS2.E: (K-ESS2-2), ESS3.A: (K-ESS3-1), ESS3.B: (K-ESS3-2), ESS3.C: (K-ESS3-3), ETS1:A (K-ESS3-3)

Sensory Hike

The Sensory Hike is a wonderful way to get students use to using their five senses to observe objects in nature. While learning about habitats, they will see, hear, smell, touch and taste items along the trail.

Grade K Standards: LS1.C: (K-LS1-1), K-PS3.B: (K-PS3-1), ESS2.D (K-ESS2-1), ESS2.E: (K-ESS2-2), ESS3.A: (K-ESS3-1), ESS3.C: (K-ESS3-3), ETS1:A

Spider Web Wonders (fall only)

Students will delight in observing a variety of spiders and spider webs in the outdoors. The spiders can then be classified by their webs and hunting techniques.

Grade K & 1 Standards: LS1.A (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1.2), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS3.A (1-LS3-1), LS3.B (1-LS3-1)

*Kansas Day (January only)

Learn about the animals that live in Kansas, the State animals of Kansas, what makes them special and why they live here. Program will feature a Powerpoint presentation, a living animal or two and animal skins.

First Grade

Plant Adaptations

This hike will help students understand the importance of plants and how they are like them. Students will know what plants need to grow, the external parts and functions of plant parts and how they help them survive and grow.

Grade 1 Standards: LS1.A: (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1-2), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS3.A (1-LS3-1), ESS1.A (1-ESS1-1), ESS1.B (1-ESS1-2)

Animal Adaptations

This hike is designed to help children be more aware of the animals around them and give a general overview of how animals survive. Students will know how different animals survive by behaviors and through using their senses, external parts and other factors.

Grade 1 Standards: LS1.A (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1-2), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS3.A (1-LS3-1), LS3.B (1-LS3-1), ESS1.A (1-ESS1-1), ESS1.B (1-ESS1-2)

Seasonal Hike

During this field trip, students will take a nature walk through several habitats and look how living things differ in each habitat and how the habitat might change with the season.

Grade K & 1 Standards: LS1.A: (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1.2), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS3.A (1-LS3-1), PS3.B (K-PS3-1), ESS1.A (1-ESS1-1), ESS1.B (1-ESS1-2), ESS2.D (K-ESS2-1)

Spider Web Wonders (fall only)

Students will delight in observing a variety of spiders and spider webs in the outdoors. The spiders can then be classified by their webs and hunting techniques.

Grade K & 1 Standards: LS1.A (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1-2), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS3.A (1-LS3-1), LS3.B (1-LS3-1), ESS2.E (K-ESS2-2), ESS3.A & ESS3.C (K-ESS3-1)

***Animal Adaptations - In Class**

Students compare animal skins and skulls to learn about their traits and learn how different animals are adapted to survive. Students will rotate to numerous stations to practice “eating” like different birds. Students will compare how birds eat and what they eat based on their beak design.

Grade 1 Standards: LS1.A, LS1.C, LS1.D (1-LS1-1), LS3.A & LS3.B (1-LS3-1)

***Plant & Animal Adaptations – In Class (NEW)**

Students will learn that plants and animals have needs in order to survive. They also make new living things like themselves. Students will learn about the adaptations of various plants and animals that help them survive. They will play a matching game with a product that humans have invented to the plant or animal it mimics.

Grade 1 Standards: LS1.A: (1-LS1-1), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1-2), LS3.A (1-LS3-1)

***Plant Investigation – In Class**

This classroom presentation is designed to help students learn about the structure, needs, and life cycle of plants through hands-on activities. This activity involves simple experiments with living plants started from seeds.

Grade 1 & 2 Standards: **LS2.A (2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2)**, LS4.D (2-LS4-1) LS1.A: (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1.2), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS3.A (1-LS3-1), LS3.B (1-LS3-2)

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Learn about the animals that live in Kansas, the State animals of Kansas, what makes them special and why they live here. Program will feature a Powerpoint presentation, a living animal or two and animal skins.

Second Grade

Water, Wind and Soil Erosion

Soil and water is important to all living things on earth. Students will examine where water and ice are found on earth and how heating and cooling can change water. Students will learn that some earth processes can occur quickly or slowly. Students will make observations how wind and water can affect the land through erosion.

Grade 2 Standards: ESS1.C (2-ESS1-1), ESS2.A (2-ESS2-1), ESS2.B (2-ESS2-2), ESS2.C (2-ESS2-3), PS1.A (2-PS1-1), PS1.B (2-PS1-4)

Insect Safari

This hike captivates the students by using nets to collect live insects for close examination. Students will be able to view properties and classify some insect orders. A great hands-on field trip, which meets these standards:

Grade 2 & 3 Standards: LS4.D (2-LS4.1), LS1.B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1), LS3.A (3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2), LS4.B (3-LS4-2), LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS4.D (3-LS4-4)

Introductory Habitat Hike

Students will make hands-on observations of the diversity of plants and animals that live in a pond, prairie and forest habitat. Students will examine a freshwater ecosystem by collecting macroinvertebrates and learning about their role in the pond. Then students will take a short hike in the forest to make observations about what creatures are found there. Finally, students will use insect nets to determine what kinds of creatures live in a prairie, why they live there and their roles in the habitat.

Grade 2 Standards: LS4.D (2-LS4-1)

Grade 3 Standards: LS1.B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1) LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS4.D (3-LS4-4), ESS2.D (3-ESS2-1 & 3-ESS2-2)

Pond Study

Students will collect and observe close up small invertebrate creatures that live in the pond. Once collected, students will look at the creatures under magnification for identification and learn the role that each creature plays in the food chain. Great hands-on, investigative program.

Grade 2 Standards: LS4.D (2-LS4-1), ESS2.C (2-ESS2-3)

Grade 3 Standards: LS1.B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1), LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS4.D (3-LS4-4)

Grade 4 Standards: LS1.A (4-LS1-1), LS1.D (4-LS1-2)

Seasonal Hike

During this field trip, students will take a nature walk through several habitats and look how living things differ in each habitat, and how the habitat might change with the season.

Grade K & 1 Standards: LS1.A: (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1.2), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS3.A (1-LS3-1), PS3.B (K-PS3-1), ESS1.A (1-ESS1-1), ESS1.B (1-ESS1-2), ESS2.D (K-ESS2-1)

Grade 2 Standards: LS4.D (2-LS4-1)

Soils and Water Conservation

This is a very interactive program where students learn about the importance of soil, how it is formed, and how to protect soil. Students will look at living and non-living components of soil, learn about soil erosion, and conservation. Students love this hands-on program!

Grade 2 & 3 Standards: ESS1.C (2-ESS1-1), ESS2.A (2-ESS2-1), ESS3.B (3-ESS3-1)

Grade 4 & 5 Standards: ESS1.C (4-ESS1-1), ESS2.A, ESS2.E (4-ESS2-1), ESS2.B (4-ESS2-2), ESS3.B (4-ESS3-2), ESS2.C (5-ESS2-2), ESS3.C (5-ESS3-1), LS2.A & LS2.B (5-LS2-1)

Spider Web Wonders (fall only)

Students will delight in observing a variety of spiders and spider webs in the outdoors. The spiders can then be classified by their webs and hunting techniques.

Grade K & 1 Standards: LS1.A (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1-2), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS3.A (1-LS3-1), LS3.B (1-LS3-1), ESS2.E (K-ESS2-2), ESS3.A & ESS3.C (K-ESS3-1)

***Plant Investigation – In Class**

This classroom presentation is designed to help students learn about the structure, needs, and life cycle of plants through hands-on activities. This activity involves simple experiments with living plants started from seeds.

Grade 1 & 2 Standards: **LS2.A (2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2)**, LS4.D (2-LS4-1) LS1.A: (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1.2), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS3.A (1-LS3-1), LS3.B (1-LS3-2)

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Learn about the animals that live in Kansas, the State animals of Kansas, what makes them special and why they live here. Program will feature a Powerpoint presentation, a living animal or two and animal skins.

Third Grade

Animal Life Cycles & Adaptations

Students learn about the traits of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Students will see how different adaptations help animals survive.

Grade 3 Standards: LS1.B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1), LS3.A & LS3.B (3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2), LS4.B (3-LS4-2), LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS2.D, LS4.D (3-LS4-4), ESS2.D (3-ESS2-1, ESS2-2)

Habitat Hike

The Habitat Hike is one of our most popular hikes because it takes students through different environments and allows them to compare different organisms that live in each. Great for comparing needs of life, food chains and life cycles.

Grades 3 & 4 Standards: LS1.A (4-LS1-1), LS1.B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1), LS4.B (3-LS4-2), LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS4.D (3-LS4-4)

Insect Safari

This hike captivates the students by using nets to collect live insects for close examination. Students will be able to view properties and classify some insect orders. A great hands-on field trip, which meets these standards:

Grade 2 & 3 Standards: LS4.D (2-LS4.1), LS1.B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1), LS3.A (3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2), LS4.B (3-LS4-2), LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS4.D (3-LS4-4)

Introductory Habitat Hike

Students will make hands-on observations of the diversity of plants and animals that live in a pond, prairie and forest habitat. Students will examine a freshwater ecosystem by collecting macroinvertebrates and learning about their role in the pond. Then students will take a short hike in the forest to make observations about what creatures are found there. Finally, students will use insect nets to determine what kinds of creatures live in a prairie, why they live there and their roles in the habitat.

Grade 2 Standards: LS4.D (2-LS4-1)

Grade 3 Standards: LS1.B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1) LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS4.D (3-LS4-4), ESS2.D (3-ESS2-1 & 3-ESS2-2)

Pond Study

Students will collect and observe close up small invertebrate creatures that live in the pond. Once collected, students will look at the creatures under magnification for identification and learn the role that each creature plays in the food chain. Great hands-on, investigative program.

Grade 2 Standards: LS4.D (2-LS4-1), ESS2.C (2-ESS2-3)

Grade 3 Standards: LS1.B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1), LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS4.D (3-LS4-4)

Grade 4 Standards: LS1.A (4-LS1-1), LS1.D (4-LS1-2)

Seasonal Hike

During this field trip, students will take a nature walk through several habitats and look how living things differ in each habitat, and how the habitat might change with the season.

Grade K & 1 Standards: LS1.A: (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1.2), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS3.A (1-LS3-1), PS3.B (K-PS3-1), ESS1.A (1-ESS1-1), ESS1.B (1-ESS1-2), ESS2.D (K-ESS2-1)

Grade 2 & 3 Standards: LS4.D (2-LS4-1), LS1B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1), LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS4.D (3-LS4-4), ESS2.D (3-ESS2-1)

Soils and Water Conservation

This is a very interactive program where students learn about the importance of soil, how it is formed, and how to protect soil. Students will look at living and non-living components of soil, learn about soil erosion, and conservation. Students love this hands-on program!

Grade 2 & 3 Standards: ESS1.C (2-ESS1-1), ESS2.A (2-ESS2-1), ESS3.B (3-ESS3-1)

Grade 4 & 5 Standards: ESS1.C (4-ESS1-1), ESS2.A, ESS2.E (4-ESS2-1), ESS2.B (4-ESS2-2), ESS3.B (4-ESS3-2), ESS2.C (5-ESS2-2), ESS3.C (5-ESS3-1), LS2.A & LS2.B (5-LS2-1)

***Plant Investigation – In Class**

This classroom presentation is designed to help students learn about the structure and life cycle of plants through hands-on activities. This activity involves simple experiments with living plants started from seeds.

Grade 1 & 2 Standards: **LS2.A (2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2)**, LS4.D (2-LS4-1) LS1.A: (1-LS1-1), LS1.B (1-LS1.2), LS1.C (K-LS1-1), LS1.D: (1-LS1-1), LS3.A (1-LS3-1), LS3.B (1-LS3-2)

***Rocks & Minerals – In Class**

Students will be introduced to rocks and minerals, the rock cycle, and the forces of nature that shape our land. They will learn through experimentation how using techniques such as testing for hardness, streak, luster, taste, and chemical reaction identifies rocks and minerals.

Grade 4 Standards: ESS1.C (4-ESS1-1), ESS2.A (4-ESS2-1), ESS2.B (4-ESS2-2), ESS2.B (4-ESS3-2)

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Fourth Grade - Sixth Grade

Animal Life Cycles & Adaptations

Students learn about the traits of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Students will see how different adaptations help animals survive.

Grade 3 Standards: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4

Grade 4 Standards: 4-LS1-1

Habitat Hike

The Habitat Hike is one of our most popular hikes because it takes students through different environments and allows them to compare different organisms that live in each. Great for comparing needs of life, food chains and life cycles.

Grades 3 & 4 Standards: LS1.A (4-LS1-1), LS1.B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1), LS4.B (3-LS4-2), LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS4.D (3-LS4-4)

Grade 5 Standards: PS3.D (5-PS3-1), LS1.C (5-PS3-1 & 5-LS1-1), LS2.A & LS2.B (5-LS2-1), ESS2.A (5-ESS2-1), ESS3.C (5-ESS3-1)

Insect Safari – Fall

This hike captivates the students by using nets to collect live insects for close examination. Students will be able to view properties and classify some insect orders. A great hands-on field trip, which meets these standards:

Grade 2 & 3 Standards: LS4.D (2-LS4.1), LS1.B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1), LS3.A (3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2), LS4.B (3-LS4-2), LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS4.D (3-LS4-4)

Grade 4 Standards: LS1.A (4-LS1-1), LS1.D (4-LS1-2)

Pond Study

Students will collect and observe close up small invertebrate creatures that live in the pond. Once collected, students will look at the creatures under magnification for identification and learn the role that each creature plays in the food chain. Great hands-on, investigative program.

Grade 4 Standards: LS1.A (4-LS1-1), LS1.D (4-LS1-2)

Grade 5 – 8 Standards: LS1.C (5-LS1-1), LS1.B (MS-LS1-4), LS1.C (MS-LS1-6), LS2.A & LS2.B (5-LS2-1), LS2.A (MS-LS2-1), LS2.B (MS-LS2-3), LS2.C (MS-LS2-4), LS2.B (MS-LS2-3), PS3.D (5-PS3-1), ESS2.C (5-ESS2-2), ESS3.C (5-ESS3-1), ESS3.C (MS-ESS3-3)

Seasonal Hike

During this field trip, students will take a nature walk through several habitats and look how living things differ in each habitat, and how the habitat might change with the season.

Grade 3 Standards: LS1B (3-LS1-1), LS2.D (3-LS2-1), LS4.C (3-LS4-3), LS4.D (3-LS4-4), ESS2.D (3-ESS2-1)

Grade 4 & 5 Standards: LS1.A (4-LS1-1), LS1.D (4-LS1-2), PS3.D & LS1.C (5-PS3-1), LS2.A & LS2.B (5-LS2-1), ESS2.A (5-ESS2-1), ESS3.C (5-ESS3-1)

Soils and Water Conservation

This is a very interactive program where students learn about the importance of soil, how it is formed, and how to protect soil. Students will look at living and non-living components of soil, learn about soil erosion, and conservation. Students love this hands-on program!

Grade 4 & 5 Standards: ESS1.C (4-ESS1-1), ESS2.A, ESS2.E (4-ESS2-1), ESS2.B (4-ESS2-2), ESS3.B (4-ESS3-2), ESS2.C (5-ESS2-2), ESS3.C (5-ESS3-1), LS2.A & LS2.B (5-LS2-1)

The World of Plants

The plant hike is a great hike for showing students ways plants can be classified. On the hike they are able to see both seed producing and non-seed producing plants. They will compare many plants and look at plant structure, plant needs, and life cycles of plants.

Grade 4 Standards: LS1.A (4-LS1-1)

Grade 5-8 Standards: PS3.D & LS1.C (5-PS3-1), LS1.C (5-LS1.1), LS1.B (MS-LS1-4 & MS-LS1-5), LS1.C (MS-LS1-6)

***Rocks & Minerals – In Class**

Students will be introduced to rocks and minerals, the rock cycle, and the forces of nature that shape our land. They will learn through experimentation how using techniques such as testing for hardness, streak, luster, taste, and chemical reaction identifies rocks and minerals.

Grade 4 & 5 Standards: ESS1.C (4-ESS1-1), ESS2.A (4-ESS2-1), ESS2.B (4-ESS2-2), ESS2.B (4-ESS3-2), ESS2.C (5-ESS2-2), ESS3.C (5-ESS3-1)

***CSI – Environmental Forensics – In Class, winter months only (5th grade and above)**

(Additional charges may apply)

This classroom activity involves students investigating the death of an animal. Evidence is collected, reports are taken from eyewitnesses, research is conducted and as a team, and students will conduct a scientific investigation to determine probable cause. Great team work activity that makes students use the processes of science inquiry. This program has two parts, a pre-investigation visit and the investigation itself.

Grade 5-8 Standards: ETS1.A (3-5-ETS1-1), ETS1.B (3-5-ETS1-2), ETS1.C (3-5-ETS1-3), LS2.C (MS-LS2-4, MS-LS2-5)

***Cargo For Conservation – In Class**

The Cargo for Conservation is a kit put together by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It contains parts of endangered species that were confiscated by U.S. Customs. The discussion will include how an animal gets placed on a rare, threatened, or endangered species list, and why it is illegal to own animals or animal products made from animals on the list. An activity is also included that teaches students understand how easily it is for a species to become extinct.

Grade 5-8 Standards: LS2.A, LS2.B (5-LS2-1), ESS3.C (5-ESS3-1), LS1.B (MS-LS1-4 & MS-LS1-5), LS2.A (MS-LS2-1 & MS-LS2-2), LS2.C & ETS1.B (MS-LS2-5), ESS3.C (MS-ESS3-3 & MS-ESS3-4)

***Animal Adaptations (Skins & Skulls) – In Class**

Students will use animal skins and skulls to compare how different animals are adapted to survive. Students will be placed in groups and given an unknown skull. They will determine what animal they have by observing and comparing size, teeth, and eye placement.

Grade 5-8 Standards: LS1.A (4-LS1-1), LS1.D (4-LS1-2), LS2.A (5-LS2-1), LS1.B (MS-LS1-4)

OTHER PROGRAMS OFFERED FOR 4TH GRADE & ABOVE:

- Canoeing
- Games
- Geocaching
- Team building & challenge activities

STEM PROGRAMS FOR 5th GRADE AND ABOVE:

(Additional program fees may apply)

Invasion of the Aliens (September and October only)

Build a Better Mousetrap (Winter months)

Build a Wind Turbine (Winter months)