

HOME SCHOOL

Home School at ALNC is back for fall 2016! This year, we'll continue to offer separate programs for children ages 5-8 and 9-12 years old. The topics will be similar, but older and younger students will explore varying age appropriate aspects of each topic. See below for details on each week.

Register and save for the entire Fall/Winter Semester (Sept-December) and come every Tuesday or sign up individually for your favorite topics.

TEAM BUILDING

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Let's kick off the fall semester by building our collaboration, cooperation and group challenges. These games and challenges will build the foundation for a semester of creative thinking, problem solving and communication skills for a group. Some activities will be done in small age groups and we will do some activities that involve all students working as a large group. *9-12 Year Olds will have progressive difficult challenges presented to build trust and cooperation.*

INSECT HABITATS

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

This time of year many insects are making their final push to lay eggs, hibernate, or migrate to warmer climates! We'll examine insects in the prairie, pond, and forest, and discover how each insect is adapted to survive in its habitat. Join us to turnover logs and search the skies for these amazing critters!

9-12 Year olds will include classification, identification & collection

BEE ECOLOGY

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

What's the buzz about? Bees! We'll investigate the lives of bees, which include not only these insects, but also people, plants and other animals. Learn the social roles of each bee in a hive, discover how honey is made and extracted. We'll also learn about colony collapse and current threats to our bee populations.

9-12 Year Olds will include social structure of bees, types of hives and potential locations for future hives at ALNC and colony collapse.

FALL IN THE GARDEN

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

It's time to prepare the ALNC Pioneer Garden for winter! We'll learn all about gardening while we plant garlic, spinach and other cold-tolerant plants, compost old plants and prepare the beds for the long winter ahead. We'll also come up with a plan for spring planting for the garden!

9-12 Year Olds will include companion planting, spring planning for the ALNC garden, compost design.

PRAIRIE RESTORATION

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

The prairie is a community of plants and animals, each with a story to tell. Learn the history of Wisconsin's prairies, learn about prairie fires and collect and spread seeds for a future ALNC prairie.

9-12 Year olds will include seed collection & sorting, seed stratification plan and diversity studies.

APPLE CIDERING

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Let's make apple cider! We will press apples as we learn about the historical use of apples and hike the woods to feed deer and other critters with our leftover apples. Bring an apple to press! Younger students will also dissect apples to study parts of a fruit.

9-12 year olds will taste test various types of apples, research & discuss heirloom and heritage varieties in addition to pressing.

PIONEER LIVING

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Come celebrate the "Fall Harvest" season in full pioneer style! We'll play some traditional outdoor games like Blindman's Bluff, Drop the Handkerchief and Sack Races, as well as 'pioneer dress up'! We'll churn butter and warm ourselves by the fire in the Children's Shack as we learn about the history and lives of pioneers in Wisconsin.

(Butter made from heavy whipping cream will be served during this class on saltine crackers)

9-12 Year Olds will deviate slightly from the "living history component" and study immigration and history of various cultures' arrival in Wisconsin and the traditions they brought.

MATH IN NATURE

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

If you were a frog, how far could you leap? How can we estimate the height of a tree? Is there a way to tell how old a tree is without cutting it down and counting its rings? How much grass does a groundhog need to eat to store up enough energy for the long winter? These questions and more will be answered as naturalists lead students in a number of math-in-nature activities with the help of measuring tools, formulas, games, and observation skills.

9-12 Year Olds will delve into forestry and calculate board feet, tree height based on geometry and what various tree measurements can tell us.

RELATIONSHIPS 101

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

We'll explore the relationships between earth's life forms. We'll search for examples of these many relationships on how different species interact in nature throughout the ALNC grounds. *9-12 Year Olds will include discussion on parasitism, mutualism, symbiosis and commensalism.*

EDNA TAYLOR DISCOVERY DAY

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Adjacent to the Nature Center is the City of Madison's Edna Taylor Conservation Park. Rich with wetland habitats, Edna Taylor is a wonderful place to observe the fall migrations of birds, including Mallard ducks, Blue-winged teals, and Sandhill cranes! We'll also visit an oak savanna and an Effigy Mound during this afternoon of discovery.

9-12 Year olds will begin research comparison of their choice between ALNC and Edna Taylor Conservation Park.

MARVELOUS MUSHROOMS

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Lion's Mane, Chicken of the Woods, Puffballs, Fairy Rings and Inky Caps—it's such fun being fungus! Fungus is mysterious, grows by moonlight and is quite unlike any other organism.

We'll collect and identify fungus, learn how they grow and spread and make spore prints.

9-12 Year olds will include differentiation between edible and poisonous Wisconsin mushrooms and include making a wild mushroom dish to share.

WHITE-TAILED DEER ECOLOGY

Tuesday, November 22, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

We hear a lot about white-tailed deer in Wisconsin in November! It's no wonder--able to leap tall fences in a single bound, the white-tailed deer is an animal of incredible beauty and power.

We'll explore the lives of Wisconsin's official state wildlife animal and learn about their populations, biology, adaptations, and survival needs. We'll hike the ALNC grounds to search for signs of this iconic animal.

9-12 Year Olds will include ecology, populations, hunting and ethics discussions.

GOBBLE GOBBLE

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Calling all Jakes and Jennies—come join us for a very “fowl” afternoon of fun as we celebrate fall by learning all about turkeys. Learn how (and why) they gobble while practicing your best turkey call, explore the habit and habitats of wild turkeys and how to identify turkey scat, tracks, feathers and more through games, crafts and outdoor explorations!

9-12 Year Olds will expand on wildlife population knowledge gained in last week's session in addition to the above.

FAR OUT!

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

It's time for some out of this world exploration. Planets have fascinated scientists and humans for many years. What does it take to be a planet? We'll take a look at each of the planets in the solar system and what makes each unique. By learning about these amazing objects that orbit the same sun as Earth, we can learn more about our own planet.

9-12 Year olds will include dwarf planets, celestial objects and astrological phenomena as well as other explorations of the larger universe.

SNOWSHOE THE WINTER LANDSCAPE

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Some animals in nature have "built-in" snowshoes, but humans have had to invent their own! Learn the Native American history of snowshoeing and try out snowshoes for yourself in this winter exploration! We'll practice some snowshoe "calisthenics," have a snowshoe race, and take a hike by snowshoe to observe early winter animal activity. If no snow is present, we will hike to observe animal signs on foot. All snowshoes will be provided. If you have your own snowshoes, you are welcome to bring them along.

THIS ONE IS FOR EVERYONE!

FULL SEMESTER PACKAGE (includes all 15 sessions from September-December)

ALNC Members: \$120/child; Non-members: \$135/child

PRICING:

Cost: \$10/child/session. Members save 10%

For all sessions, registration deadline is 48 hours prior to the class. Please call to inquire about space if planning to drop in. Winter/Spring Semester begins January 5, 2016!

Package Price for all 14 sessions: \$126/child. ALNC Members save 10%.

Winter/Spring Home School sessions will resume January 5, 2016.