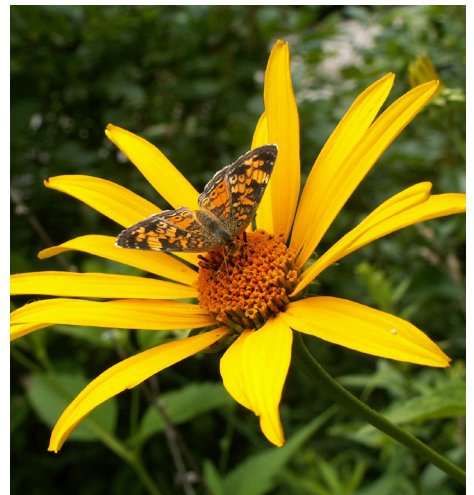




Pine River Nature Center



FIELD TRIP GUIDE



2585 Castor Road, Goodells, Michigan 48027 | Adjacent to Goodells County Park
(810) 364-5477 | www.sccresa.org



Field Trip Guide for Elementary Teachers

Give your students exciting new learning opportunities

Our mission at the Pine River Nature Center is to introduce your students to the natural world through hands-on science investigations. By working together, we can ensure your classroom has a powerful learning experience—and one that's fun, too.

Who we are

The Pine River Nature Center is at 2585 Castor Road, Goodells. The nature center is owned and operated by the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA). RESA provides enhanced learning opportunities to students and staff at all county schools.

What we offer

The Pine River Nature Center provides programs to enhance local schools' science, mathematics, ecology, and environmental education studies. We offer outdoor-based field studies correlated with state standards. Beyond the classroom, the nature center is open to the public. We provide outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities for all ages.

How we help you meet your goals

All content meets Next Generation Science Standards. Specific content is correlated with each program and is listed in the program descriptions. We also offer individualized programs. We are happy to work with you to tailor a program to fit your specific curriculum needs. Get more information from Sarah Nelson, the nature center's operations coordinator, at (810) 364-5477 or Nelson.Sarah@sccresa.org.

A typical field trip day

Full-day field trip times are generally from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Half-day field trips run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Field trip times can be adjusted to accommodate your school's transportation schedule. Let us know the timing that works best for you and we will work to modify the schedule as needed.

Cost of a nature center field trip

Field trips are offered at no charge to public schools in St. Clair County. The cost for private schools and schools outside of St. Clair County is \$5 per student or \$100 per classroom. Transportation costs are the school's responsibility, regardless if the school is public or private.

How to schedule your field trip

- 1 Contact the nature center to reserve a date and time at (810) 364-5477 or e-mail Sarah Nelson at Nelson.Sarah@sccresa.org.
- 2 Fill out the online School Program Reservation Form, which is available from Sarah Nelson.
- 3 Save or print a copy of the confirmation email for your records.





What you need to manage your field trip

Our facilities

Two classrooms and a wet lab are used for field trips. These are inside, at the main building. The building also offers interpretive displays on local wildlife. Students can view live turtles and fish. The main building also displays a variety of natural items, including turtle shells, animal skulls, furs and taxidermy examples. Displays may be viewed during lunch with chaperones.

Restrooms

Restrooms are in the nature center building on the first and second floors. There are no restrooms outside the main building.

Bring your lunch

Classes are encouraged to bring a lunch. Students may eat lunch in the basement classroom or outside. There are picnic tables on the back deck as well as in front of the main building.

How to dress and what to bring

This is an outdoor experience, so plan for the weather. Because much of our teaching and learning is done outdoors, students and chaperones must dress for the weather. Programs are outdoors even in the rain, although alternative activities indoors will be arranged in case of threatening weather. Some reminders:

- If rain is in the forecast, remember an umbrella, raincoat, and rain boots.
- Wear old shoes or boots as trails can be muddy or snowy depending on the season. Open-toe shoes are not recommended at any time.
- Insect repellent is a great idea at certain times of the year, but its use is at the discretion of the school.
- If you're taking your students on an aquatic field trip, students need to bring an extra pair of waterproof shoes or rubber boots.



Please help protect our trails. Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Chaperones are a necessity

Students must have adult supervision at all times. Because we have limited classroom space and limited parking, please plan to have only 6 chaperones attend with each class. Chaperones also should expect to participate in the field trip by helping with activities and enforcing nature center rules. Please review the following nature center rules with chaperones before your trip.

Rules for going on a field trip

Please review the rules for the nature center with your students and chaperones before your visit. Here are the basics:

- Stay on the trails unless otherwise directed. This helps to protect plant and animal life at the nature center. It also avoids chance encounters with poison ivy and ticks.
- Students must stay behind the leader during hikes.
- Listening is important. Students must pay attention to lessons and directions.
- Take nothing from nature. Unless otherwise directed, all flowers, leaves, rocks, and animals are protected and must remain where they are found. Some items may be collected during activities, but everything collected during an activity will be returned to nature at the end of the trip.





The programs we offer

Preschool

AUTUMN ADVENTURE

Preschoolers celebrate autumn through this interactive program. Activities include: reading the story, Squirrel's Fall Search; taking a leaf hunt in the woods; exploring leaf shapes; and making a craft they can take home.



Fall



2 hours, with outdoor hike

EYES ON OWLS

Screech, Saw-whet and Great Horned are all names of Michigan owls. From tall to small, preschoolers will explore and learn facts about owls. Activities include: learning the different sounds owls make; seeing how owls eat; making a craft to take home; and taking a hike in the woods.



Fall, Winter, and Spring



2 hours, with outdoor hike

BIG BLACK BEAR

Preschoolers will learn about bears and what they eat in this hands-on program. Activities include: reading a story, Bear Snores On; learning what bears eat; scavenging like a bear; making a craft to take home; and taking a hike in the woods.



Spring



2 hours, with outdoor hike

INTERESTING INSECTS

Preschoolers will learn about insects through this interactive program. Activities include; learning insect characteristics; exploring bug life at centers; and finding insects while taking a hike in the woods.



Spring



2 hours, with outdoor hike

Preschool, cont'd

WOODLAND WONDERS

Preschoolers will explore the world of Jan Brett, American illustrator and writer of children's picture books, through her book, The Mitten. Activities include: using fine motor skills to lace a paper mitten; sequencing animals; and looking for animal tracks during a wintery woodland hike.



Winter



2 hours with outdoor hike

Kindergarten

BASIC NEEDS OF ANIMALS

Kindergartners will be engaged in differentiating wants vs. needs of an animal, learning what animals need in their habitat, and engineering a nest as if they are a bird.



Fall and Spring



NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-2-ETS1-2.

1st Grade

ANIMAL FEATURES

First graders will learn about the structures and functions of animals during this hands-on program. Students will learn about animals' feet. They also will explore the fur and other body coverings of animals, and how their body covering helps them survive.



Fall and Spring



NGSS: 1-LS1-1.







The programs we offer

2nd Grade

PLANT AND SEED INVESTIGATIONS

Second graders will be actively engaged in this pollination activity. They will also learn different ways seeds are dispersed in nature. Students will collect data to examine the diversity of plant life and natural habitats.

  Fall and Spring

 NGSS: 2-LS2-2., 2-LS4-1.

3rd Grade

STREAM STUDY

Third graders will get a hands-on look at the Pine River ecosystem. Students will learn how to identify and classify benthic macro-invertebrates. They also will learn about life cycles and invasive species. Waterproof boots are recommended. An extra pair of shoes is required.



 Spring

 NGSS: 3-LS1-1., 3-LS4-3.

4th Grade

PLANT AND ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

Fourth graders will examine the nature center's bird and mammal taxidermy models to identify external physical structures and how they help animals survive. Students will also engineer a creature with an adaptation of their choosing. Students will explore plant parts and functions and discuss plant adaptations. They will go outdoors to see why maple trees produce so many seeds.

  Fall and Spring

 NGSS: 4-LS1-1.





The nature center property covers 80-acres and includes more than 3 miles of trails.

5th GRADE

ECOSYSTEM EXPLORATION

Fifth graders will explore the woods in this hands-on field trip. They will search for different ecosystems in the nature center's 80 acres of diverse habitats. Students, working in teams, will decipher 10 clues about the different ecosystems at the nature center.

  Fall and Spring

 NGSS: 5-LS2-1., 5-PS3-1.

