

ABCs of Trees- *Pre-K and Kindergarten***Available all year**

Children will help “build” a tree while learning about the parts of a tree and what a tree needs to live. On a walk to the cabin, they’ll discover how animals and insects use a tree as their home.

Meets the following Illinois Science Learning Standards:**K-LS1-1:** Make observations to determine what plants and animals need to survive**Caddie Woodlawn-** *Grades 3rd-5th***Available in Late Winter and Early Spring**

This special adaptation of the Early Settler Life and Sugar Bush programs is based on the book and is only offered to those classes that actually read it! There is ongoing discussion of the story as participants card wool, weave, make butter and parched corn, try their hand at tapping trees and more.

Meets the following Illinois Learning Standards:**History 16.A.1c and 16.A.2a:** Read a historical story and determine the events and settings which influenced their writing and describe how people living in different times viewed the world in different ways**Cycling Fall-** *Grades K-5th***Available in Fall**

Fall is a time of great activity in the natural world as plants and animals prepare for winter. Search for seasonal changes under logs, in holes, and just about everywhere!

Meets the following Illinois Science Learning Standards:**K-LS1-1 and 3-LS4-3:** Use observation skills to describe what plants and animals need to survive and understand that species live in different habitats based on their needs**Meets STEM Standards****Dancin’ at Grandpa’s-** *Grades Pre-K- K***Available in Fall and Winter**

This special program is only for the very young! Children ages 3 to 5 get the opportunity to walk to the cabin and experience a little of what Laura Ingalls Wilder writes about in this short story about pioneer life. Enjoy the warmth and smell of the fire, the dancing and a taste of freshly baked apple pie!

Meets the following Common Core standards:**K Lit.-10:** Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding**Early Settler Life-** *Grades 1st-6th***Available in Fall and Winter**

Early settlers were hard working people who relied on cooperation and their own skills to provide food, clothing and shelter from nature's resources. Try your hand at some of these same skills! Activities include weaving and candle-dipping for grades 4 to 6 and making cornbread, applesauce and butter for grades 1 to 3.

Meets the following Illinois State Learning Standards:

History 16.A.1c & 16.D.2b - Describe how people living in different times viewed the world in different ways than ourselves and describe the ways in which participation in westward settlement affected families and communities

Forest Explorers! *Grades K-5th*

Available Late Spring, Summer, and Fall

Explore one of the wooded areas at Spring Valley! Activities can be chosen from the following: a classroom leaf collection, tree identification, forest ecology, or trees as micro-habitats.

Green Thumbs- *Grades K- 5th*

Available in Spring, Summer, and Fall

Gardening is fun! It can also be delicious! Join us in our Kids' Education Garden and Greenhouse. Plant, transplant, weed, and even eat our vegetables and flowers. Activities follow the seasonal growing calendar.

Meets the following Illinois Science Learning Standards:

K-LS1-1 and 2-LS2-1: Make observations and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need water and sunlight to grow

Meets STEM Standards

Growing Times- *Grades K- 5th*

Available in Spring

Spring is a time of new awakening! Sunlight, food, water, and nutrients are in high demand throughout the natural world and life is bursting out all over! Explore various habitats looking for signs of spring and animal life. Younger students plant a seed to take home and older students explore plants and pollination.

Meets the following Illinois Science Learning Standards:

1-LS1-2 and 1-LS3-1: Examine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive and use observations to discover that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like their parents

Meets STEM Standards

Prairie Roots- *Grades 3rd-5th*

Available in Summer and Fall

Travel back in time while walking through our restored Illinois prairie! Experience its textures, sounds, sights, and smells! Participate in role playing activities and learn how plants and animals survive in the prairie.

Meets the following Illinois Science Learning Standards:

K-ESS3-1, 2-LS4-1, and 3-LS3-2: Explore the diversity of life in the prairie and compare how plants and animals are adapted to survive in the prairie ecosystem

Meets STEM standards

Night Hikes- *Grades K-5th*

Available all year

When was the last time you went for a walk at night? Experience nature without the benefit of sight and use the rest of your senses! This exploration always yields surprises. Come and see for yourself!

Meets the following Illinois Science Learning Standard:

3-LS3-2: Use evidence to support the idea that traits can be influenced by the environment

Meets STEM Standards

Sleeping Beauties- *Grades Pre-K-2nd*

Available in Winter

Winter is a challenging time for plants and animals. How do they survive? We'll focus on their adaptations and look for evidence that they're still active around Spring Valley!

Meets the following Illinois Science Learning Standards:

K-LS1-1 and 2-LS4-1: Compare the diversity of life in different habitats by making observations of plants and animals and use scientific tools to learn how the adaptations of these species help them meet their needs and survive.

Meets the STEM Standards

Spring Sing- *Grades Pre-K-K*

Available in Spring

Become an expert birder! Learn to recognize the chickadee, cardinal, robin, goose, and mallard by sight and sound through an interactive story, songs, fingerplay, and a hike.

Meets the following Illinois Science Learning Standards:

K-LS1-1: Make observations to determine what animals need to survive

Sugar Bush- *Grades Pre-K-5th*

Available in Late Winter and Early Spring

When nighttime temperatures are below freezing and daytime temperatures are above, the sap begins to flow and maples are ready to be tapped! Join us in this annual celebration of spring. Activities include a tapping demonstration, boildown, and a taste test.

Meets the following Illinois Learning Standard:

History 16.A.1: Use historic interpretation to describe how people in different times and places viewed the world in different ways

Wetlands- *Grades 1st-5th*

Available in Spring, Summer, and Fall

Marshes, streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds are precious habitats that provide homes for wildlife and purify our drinking water. Look for animals and experience an aquatic food web. Activities center around the diversity of animal and plant life within a wetland and how wetlands are formed and changed.

Meets the following Illinois Science Learning standards:

3-LS4-3 and 4-LS1-1: Use evidence to show that in a particular habitat some organisms have adaptations that allow them to survive well while other species without the adaptations survive less well or not at all

Meets STEM Standards