

Scheduling Your Field Trip

Call (319)362-0664 or email NatureCenter@indiancreeknaturecenter.org to schedule. Plan your study trip early, as our calendar fills quickly. You will receive a confirmation, map and driving directions. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 9 AM-4 PM.

Special Needs

Please call in advance to notify us if you have a student who requires special assistance. We can provide accommodations with advance notice.

Medical Emergencies

The ICNC staff is First Aid/CPR certified. Teachers are responsible for any medications or bee sting kits students may require.

Weather Accommodations

Most programs take place outdoors. If severe weather threatens, the ICNC staff is prepared with alternative indoor activities for your program topic. Only in cases of extreme weather will ICNC cancel a scheduled program.

Deposits and Cancellations

Please give the Center one week's notice if you must cancel. You will be billed for a minimum program fee of \$40 if you fail to follow this guideline.

Lunch

Please inform us if you plan to lunch at the Center. Picnic tables are available. Please bring a trash bag to carry out your trash.



Elementary & Middle School Study Trip Programs



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A Special Place for Wildlife, Plants and People

Environmental Education

Indian Creek Nature Center's professional staff and trained volunteer teacher-naturalists provide environmental education programs for over 17,000 students each year. Our learning experiences are hands-on opportunities for children and adults to connect with nature in a unique, outdoor classroom.

Programs fulfill national standards and benchmarks and enhance traditional classroom lessons. All programs are age-appropriate and allow for a small student to naturalist ratio. The Nature Center staff will design a custom environmental education experience that complements your particular curriculum. Discuss your needs with our naturalist. Some programs can also be taken into the classroom or done at a natural area at your facility.

Indian Creek Nature Center




Indian Creek Nature Center is a 210-acre preserve bordered by Indian Creek and the Cedar River. The land provides a refuge for wildlife and offers a unique glimpse into Iowa's past and present landscapes. Experience Iowa's pre-settlement habitats of oak-hickory savanna and tallgrass prairie. A diverse community of wildlife lives in the forest, prairie, wetland and pond habitats.

Indian Creek Nature Center was founded in 1973. The Interpretive Center is a renovated 1932 dairy barn. The original silo has been converted into an observation tower. Visit our indoor observation honeybee hive, Vermont-style maple sugarhouse, butterfly garden and photovoltaic exhibit. The Interpretive Center is a working exhibit of energy conservation, efficiency and sustainability.

Wild in the Classroom

Wild in the Classroom Treasure Chests are filled with resources and curriculum materials for teachers to use in the classroom. See our website for details on each Treasure Chest. Topics include honeybees, backyard wildlife, and tallgrass prairies.

Indian Creek Nature Center's purpose is to promote a sustainable future by

-  nurturing individuals through environmental education,
-  providing leadership in land protection and restoration, *and*
-  encouraging responsible interaction with nature.

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY TRIPS AT THE INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER

<u>Program Topics</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Season*</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Main Concepts</u>	<u>Fee/Student[#]</u>
Honeybees	K-6	F, W, Sp	1 hr	Life cycles, pollination, adaptations, beekeeping, products	\$2.50
Maple Syruping	K-6	March	1 hr	Tree anatomy and physiology, seasonal changes, Native American culture	\$3.00 [#]
Monarch Tagging	K-6	September	1½ hrs	Life cycle, metamorphosis, migration, adaptations	\$2.50
Insects	K-3	F, Sp	1¼ hrs	Life cycles, metamorphosis, adaptations, collection	\$2.50
Reptiles & Amphibians	K-3	F, Sp	1¼ hrs	Animal classification, metamorphosis, adaptations, life cycles	\$2.50
Mammals	K-3	F, W, Sp	1½ hrs	Classification, adaptations, skulls, tracks, predator/prey, food chains	\$2.50
Plants & Seeds	K-3	F	1½ hrs	Anatomy, plant communities, seed dispersal, how animals use seeds	\$2.50
Birds	K-3	F, W, Sp	1½ hrs	Characteristics, adaptations, migration, identification, bird watching	\$2.50
Habitat Exploration	K-6	F, Sp	2 hrs	Creek, floodplain, prairie & woodland habitats, communities, adaptations, food chains	\$3.00
Ponds & Wetlands	1-3	F, Sp	1½ hrs	Habitat, adaptations, dip netting, classification, life cycles	\$3.00
Snowshoeing	4-6	W	2 hrs	History, winter ecology, seasonal change, recreation	\$3.00
Geology	4-6	F, W, Sp	2 hrs	Rock types, layers of the earth, geological forces, Iowa's geologic products	\$3.00
Fossils	4-6	F, W, Sp	2 hrs	Fossil formation, Iowa's fossil history, simulated fossil dig	\$3.00
Outdoor Skills	4-8	F, W, Sp	TBA	Knots, fire building, knife safety, shelters, compass, maps, hiking safety – other topics TBA	TBA
Prairie and Woodland Field Study	4-8	F, Sp	2 hrs	History, plant and animal communities, adaptations, food chains, data collection, layers of the forest, identification key	\$3.00
Pond & Wetland Field Study	4-8	F, Sp	2 hrs	Communities, food chains, adaptations, dip netting, water quality monitoring, biodiversity	\$3.00
Map & Compass	4-8	F, W, Sp	2 hrs	Map reading, compass skills, orienteering, teamwork	\$3.00
Fun with GPS	4-8	F, W, Sp	1½ hrs	History of Global Position System, hands-on experience, geocaching, practical applications	\$3.00
Projected Based Learning	4-8	F, W, Sp	TBA	Projects vary depending on season. Possible projects: prairie seed collection or removing invasive species. Arrangements made with ICNC's land steward.	TBA

Please select a program for your class from the above list. Contact ICNC if you would like to arrange a field trip on a topic not listed. If you are studying specific concepts in the classroom and would like us to include them in your Nature Center field experience, please discuss your needs with an ICNC naturalist.

***Seasons: F=Fall, W=Winter, Sp=Spring**

[#]All teachers and chaperones are complimentary with the exception of maple syruping programs.