

Nature

EDUCATION

Burgess-Shadbush
Nature Center

HANDS-ON, ENGAGING EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS & SCOUTS

Our programs support your curriculum/badge requirements while getting kids active in the outdoors.

Encompassing more than 850 acres, River Bends Park is rich in plant and animal life. The Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center is nestled near the Clinton River at the head of two natural hiking trails. The nature center offers indoor classroom space, live animal ambassadors, a youth archery range, Teaching Gardens and an authentic Pioneer Cabin full of antiques.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

We run our programs rain or shine and will utilize our indoor space in the event of inclement weather. Programs may be altered slightly, but we will still have fun! The nature center will not cancel field trips unless dangerous weather conditions occur.

REFUND POLICY

All Field Trips, Scout and School programs require a "10 student/Scout" non-refundable deposit to reserve your requested program date. This deposit is included as part of your total program fee. If the class or field trip is canceled by the nature center, you will receive a full refund.



LIVE ANIMAL PROGRAMS

For the safety of our animals, all live animal programs are limited to 2 hours and must be indoors in a climate-controlled environment. Nature center staff closely monitor the stress levels and health of all animals and reserve the right to remove any animal from a program or end a program early to maintain their health and well-being. In the event of an animal medical emergency, we may need to cancel. If this happens, we will offer a full refund or opportunity to reschedule.


Field Trip Pricing

Come over and learn at the nature center

- 2 Hours of Programming - \$5 per participant
- Each additional hour of programming - \$1 per participant, per additional hour
- Must pay for minimum of 10 participants
- At least one adult leader/chaperone is required for every 8 youth attending

Outreach Pricing

Let us bring nature into your classroom

We are now offering a wide range of outreach programs, designated with a  symbol.

Max class size for one program is 30—additional students are accommodated as additional programming. There is a maximum of 4 programs per day. Venues must be within 20 miles of the nature center.

Shelby Township/Utica Schools

- \$90 for 1st Program (about 1 hour)
- \$40 per additional program (same day)

All Others

- \$110 for 1st Program (about 1 hour)
- \$50 per additional program (same day)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM – 2023/2024

Call us at 586-323-2478 to arrange your program!



Kernel, the corn snake



Denotes a program that can travel to your venue



Denotes live animals are included in the program



SOCIAL STUDIES

Maple Sugaring

All Ages (March Only) (1 hour)

Sweeten your curriculum by introducing your students to the science and history of maple sugaring! This program includes a tasting of real maple syrup and a nature hike where students will learn about the different parts of a tree and their function. Students will also have an opportunity to observe the pioneer method of turning sap into syrup while exploring the history of how Native Americans originally shared this knowledge with early settlers.

Pioneer Playground

PreK-2nd Grade (1 hour)

Children on the frontier did not have toy stores or cell phones—they only had simple toys and games made out of materials they could find around the house. Students will discover how past children entertained themselves through group games and a craft.

Great Lakes Fur Trade

3rd-4th Grade (2 hours)

Students will go back in time and step into the life of a French voyageur living in Michigan during the fur trade. Through an interactive role-playing game, students will have to earn “beaver pelts” to trade at the local trading post for items that will help them survive the winter. Finally, after all their hard work, they will relax with authentic voyageur games and food cooked over a campfire.

Colonial Kids

3rd-6th Grade (1 hour)

What was life like for children during the Colonial Era? Being pioneers in a new frontier was hard, and children were expected to contribute to the family at an early age. This hands-on program will explore the role children played in Colonial homes. Students will experience common chores and crafts for children their age in the late 1800s.

RECREATION / OUTDOOR SKILLS

Nature Hike

All Ages (1 hour)

Guided by a naturalist, participants will learn about native plants and wildlife while hiking on one of our beautiful trails.

Campfire

All Ages (1 hour)

A favorite outdoor activity, students will enjoy s'mores, riddles, and songs as we sit around a bonfire.

Signs of Animals

PreK-2nd Grade (1 hour)

Animals are all around us but like to stay hidden from view. This program begins with a story followed by your little explorers heading into the woods with our naturalist as they look for clues that animals left behind. Afterward, students will use animal track stamps to tell a story of their own imaginary animal.

Snowshoeing

2nd Grade & Up (1 hour)

Weather permitting. Students will explore a winter wonderland using snowshoes. After learning about the history of snowshoeing and how the Anishinaabe used this tool, participants will be fitted for snowshoes and then hit the trail for a snowy hike! (Limited number of snowshoes—students may rotate between activities. Minimum 3" of snow required for snowshoes.)

Outdoor Survival

3rd-6th Grade (2 hours)

In this hands-on program, students will learn basic outdoor survival skills such as properly packing for a hike, fire and shelter building, and knot tying. They will also explore essential tools and resources to take on any hike so that they are best prepared for an emergency.

Orienteering

3rd-6th Grade (2 hours)

Students will learn about the history of orienteering, how to use a compass, follow a bearing, and read a map. Teams will then be challenged to navigate an orienteering course.

Tracking Animals

3rd-6th Grade (1 hour)

Which animal friends are living in River Bends Park? First, students will learn how to identify various signs of wildlife visitors. Then we will hit the trails in search of clues left behind by critters of all shapes and sizes. Students will use these clues to infer what animals are around us and what they found.

Archery Basics

Ages 5-17 (1 hour)

Ready, aim, fire! After learning about the history of this ancient method of hunting and sport, students will practice shooting at targets.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM – 2023/2024



Surge, the crested gecko

We can come to you!



SCIENCE



Backyard Friends

All Ages (1 hour)

Who lives in your backyard? Students will learn about native Michigan animals through live and preserved animal specimens, as well as how they can be kind to their wildlife neighbors.



Creatures of the Night

All Ages (1 hour)

Some animals are active while we are fast asleep. Students will learn about the special adaptations that nocturnal animals have to move around at night by meeting live animal ambassadors and exploring preserved specimens.



Animals in Winter

All Ages (Nov-March) (1 hour)

Animals have special adaptations to survive in the winter. We will explore these adaptations through hands-on activities, animal artifacts, and a hike.

Bug Buddies

PreK-2nd Grade (1 hour)

Students will be introduced to the amazing world of arthropods. By exploring live and preserved specimens, participants will learn to differentiate between arachnids, insects, and crustaceans. Then we will go on a bug hunt outside to further explore the diversity of these fascinating animals.



Fur, Feathers & Scales

PreK-2nd Grade (1 hour)

Little learners will explore animals' different coverings through a story, touching real animal skins and pelts and meeting a couple of live animal ambassadors.



Dzilla, the African helmeted turtle



What's for Dinner?

PreK-2nd Grade (1 hour)

Why do some animals eat one thing but not another? Students will learn about the food chain and explore animal diets through a story and by meeting live animal ambassadors.



Clinton River Discovery

K-2nd Grade (1 hour)

Who lives in and near the Clinton River? Our littlest learners will explore macroinvertebrates found in the river under microscopes.

Clinton River Explorers

3rd-4th Grade (2 hours)

Older students are ready to explore the Clinton River through pond dipping. This program involves a hike to the river where students will use nets and waders to dip for macroinvertebrates. They will then identify their specimens using dichotomous keys and microscopes.

Eat or Be Eaten

3rd-6th Grade (2 hours)

Animals are connected in an ecosystem by the food web. Students will explore this food web with a hands-on activity, followed by meeting live animal ambassadors.



Insect Inquiry

3rd-6th Grade (2 hours)

Do all insects fly? How do insects eat? Why don't all insects look the same? This program is all about letting students follow their curiosity to learn. After an introduction to insect biology, we will develop relevant questions as a group. Participants will then pick which question they want to answer and receive tools to conduct their own investigation. Finally, we will end with students sharing their results with the rest of the group.



Skins & Skulls

3rd-6th Grade (1 hour)

Animals have many adaptations that help them survive and find food. Students will explore these adaptations through live animal meet-and-greets and touching skins and pelts.



Clinton River Investigators

5th-6th Grade (2 hours)

Students will conduct water quality testing in the Clinton River by dipping for macroinvertebrates and collecting samples from different parts of the river to compare. Then, using a dichotomous key, microscopes, and other tools, they will determine the river water quality. Finally, students will brainstorm ways they can help prevent stormwater pollution and take care of our watershed.

SCOUTING AT THE NATURE CENTER

\$5 PER SCOUT

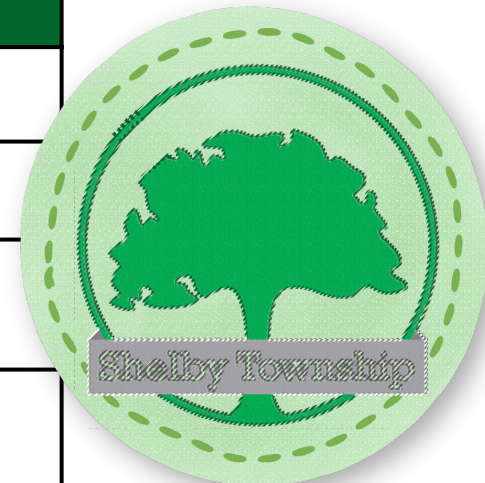
Let us help you meet your badge goal! Workshops designed to meet most or all requirements for badges run for 2-3 hours. See what we offer below:



Lily the Virginia opossum

Girl Scout Badge Workshops

Daisies	Brownies	Juniors	Cadettes
Trail Adventure	Bugs	Animal Habitats	Achery
Eco Learner	Eco Friend	Camper	Eco-Trekker
Snow or Climbing Adventure	Outdoor Adventure	Gardener	Trees
	Snow or Climbing Adventure	Flowers	



Boys Scout Badge Workshops

Tiger	Wolf	Bear	Webelos
Games Tigers Play	Call of the Wild	Bear Necessities	Into the Wild
My Tiger Jungle	Finding Your Way	Fur, Feathers and Ferns	Into the Woods
	Paws on the Path		Outdoor Adventurer
			Walkabout Adventure

Have a scout looking for an Eagle Project? Shelby Township Parks, Recreation, and Maintenance Department has many project ideas that will have a lasting impact on the community.

Email the Nature Center Coordinator at eschultz@shelbytw.org



Pancake the eastern box turtle