

Environmental Educator

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Fall 2009



Welcome Back

The SWCD will again be offering environmental programs to the schools and most everything is staying the same this year. So please look through the newsletter and remember it only takes one person to set up program dates for your school, but someone does have to call or email. Have a great year and I look forward to another exciting and fun year of environmental education.

NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE September 25, 2009

Humans, especially the young ones are spending less and less time outside and are losing touch with nature. This is not good. If we do not understand the outside world, we all lose, period

Last year was the first time for No Child Left Inside in St. Joseph County and it was a great success. My goal is for every student to spend at least 30 minutes outside (recess does not count). Read, do a math assignment, write a poem or story. I will have a list of activities if you are looking for something to do. Contact me for a list of activities and or check out our website.

Register your school by calling or emailing me and all participating schools will receive conservation trees to plant on school grounds (you will have to plant the trees with your students) for Arbor Day.

*******CALENDAR IS OPEN FOR SCHEDULING PROGRAMS ON AUGUST 10TH*******

Remember you must call or email to schedule my visit.

SENSE OF WONDER, A FIELD TRIP IN THE CLASSROOM Grades 3 - 6

This is a single classroom presentation and it must be scheduled separately for its own day. Students will travel between stations of soil, wetlands, owl pellets and fur/pelts. Each station will last about 10 minutes and students will be required to read, draw or write during each station. **I will need a room for this program and students will come to me.** The presentation will last 1 hour. Basically, after a brief introduction, students will round robin each station and I will float between them.

Due to time limitations, I am asking each teacher to have the students write a small story about the "field trip" after I leave. **Cost-- \$1 per student.**



****Poster contest****

Posters due April 9, 2010

Check out website for complete details

stjoseph.iaswcd.org/environmental

****Educational trunks for loan****

Water Quality - Bats - Mammals

These trunks are packed

with hands on activities and supplies.



Program fees (unless stated otherwise)

\$0.50 per student

Maximum of \$50 per presentation

Maximum of \$250 per day per school

Grants are available on a limited basis

PROGRAM TOPICS --2009

HANDS ON

Sense of wonder - 60 min. Brings the field trip to the classroom, soil, wetlands, owl pellets and furs. Not to be schedule with normal program day. As noted above, this is a single classroom presentation and it must be scheduled separately for its own day. Grade 3-6
Cost \$1 per student.

Earthworm - 30 - 45 min. Talks about the importance of worms and lets kids touch, look at and “eat” a worm.

Amphibians & Reptiles - 45 min. Meet some of our common frogs, toads, salamanders & snakes.

SLIDE SHOWS

45 minutes

Animals of Indiana - Talks about a variety of mammals, birds, insects, herpes and more.

Bats - Learn the importance of these fascinating and misunderstood mammals.

Mammals of Indiana

Birds of Indiana

Insects of Indiana

Owl of Indiana

Indiana Endangered Species

Who's in the Hollowtree - Talks about the life cycle of a tree, how it becomes hollow and the animals that use it.

DISCUSSION

Jethro the Scarecrow - 30 min. GRADES K, 1 & 2. Jethro discusses food chains and how everything goes back to plants and the soil.

Wetland Life - 45 min. GRADE 3 & UP. Discusses types & importance of wetlands and then I'll bring some aquatic life in to study.

Soils of Indiana - 45 min. GRADE 3 & UP. What is soil and how it is formed.

Groundwater - 45 min. Grade 3 & UP. What is groundwater and how it is affected by pollution?

Recycling - 45 min. Discusses the 4 R's, Recycle, Reuse, Reduce and Rethink.

Nature Games - 45 - 60 min. Have fun while learning about nature. **WE WILL NEED A LARGE PLAY AREA.**

Legends and Folktales - 45 min. One of my favorites. Animal stories for all ages.

Tree I.D. - 45 min. GRADES 3 & UP. Inside or out, with or without trees. We will need some room to run.

Environmental concerns - 45 min. GRADES 4 & UP. Discusses some of the common environmental problems and solutions

Wildlife Dynamics - 45 min. GRADES 4 & UP. Discusses the factors that affect a wildlife population.

Spirit of the earth - 45min Grades 4 & up. Discusses how everything is connected and some “interesting” Indiana History

FIELD TRIPS

Madison lab - Mature 8 acre woods, picnic shelter. Each trip last 1 1/2 hours. Bring a lunch and eat under the shelter. Cost – \$10 per trip

Prairie Vista lab - 10 acre prairie, small forest, three ponds, great for insect study. Each trip last -1/2 hours.

Cost--\$10 per trip.

Swamp Stomp - GRADES 4 & UP. Come “immerse” the students in the importance for wetlands. This is an all-day field trip at Kingsbury Fish & Wildlife area in LaPorte. We will visit a fish hatchery, do aquatic study, stop at the Kankakee River and walk right through a marsh. An excellent field trip. Cost \$1.00 per student

Owl Prowl – This is an evening program. It is a night hike in search of owls. It can be a family picnic or just the hike. It is normally held at Meadow's Edge Elementary school. Contact me for more details. No Cost.

ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS

Mr. Nature - GRADES 3 & UP. 1 hour. Bats, Life on this planet, or most slide shows and discussions.

The St. Joseph County SWCD agrees with and supports the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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