

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Live Animal Programs

Myth Crackers: Common Animal Myths (all ages) ^ O

Are owls really wise? Can a porcupine shoot its quills? Do turtles come out of their shells? You'll find the answers to these questions and more in this new live animal presentation. This program addresses common animal myths and together with the audience's help we'll find out if they are "correct" or "cracked."

Wild Super Powers (all ages) ^ O

What do Batman, Spiderman, and Cat Woman have in common? They base their powers on amazing animal abilities. In this mixed animal show we look at each animal's "super power" that help them survive in the wild.

Birds of Prey (2nd grade and up) ^ O

See a variety of species of live birds of prey in this program as we explore the differences between the types of birds of prey, their characteristics, habitat, diet and importance to the environment.

Lords of the Sky Jr. (30-40 minutes) (ages 3-7) ^ O

This new interactive birds of prey show is customized for our younger audiences. Learn about the similarities and differences between three types of birds of prey: an owl, a hawk, and a falcon.

Owls (6th grade and up) ^ O

A specialized program looking at these infamous nocturnal birds of prey and the similarities and differences they share. See some of the owl species found here in Michigan up close.

Michigan Mammals (all ages) ^ O

Mammals come in all shapes and sizes. Learn about the characteristics mammals share and meet some of the marvelous mammals found in our Great Lakes State.

Creatures of the night (all ages) ^ O

Meet the creatures that come out at night! Meet some of the wild animals you may not otherwise see during the day. See nocturnal birds and mammals and learn about their adaptations for living in the dark.

Furred and Feathered Friends (all ages) ^ O

See live birds and mammals from our Wild Wonders Wildlife Park up close. Learn about the habitat, behavior and characteristics of many animals that live in Michigan, maybe even in your back yard.

Wild Wonders Tour (1 hour) (all ages)

Learn about some of the mammals and birds housed at the Nature Center in a guided tour. A short discussion of each animal will be held regarding their habits and why they are at the center. Also, learn more about our role as an animal rehabilitation center and what you can do to help.

Wild Wonders Tour (2 hours) (grade 3-adult)

Learn about the many different mammals and birds housed at the Nature Center in a guided tour. A short discussion of each animal will be held regarding their habits and why they are at the center. Also, learn more about our role as an Animal Rehabilitation center and what you can do to help.

Environmental Education Programs

Adaptations (grade 4-8) Λ

Learn how animals survive in challenging environments, then design and name your own animal “discovery.”

Wildlife Rehab (grade 2-12) Λ

Learn what happens behind the scenes in the Howell Nature Center Animal Rehabilitation program through demonstrations, activities and games. Gain an understanding of what to do if you find an injured animal.

Animal Tracks (grade K-6)

Finding and identifying animal tracks may sound easy, but it takes patience and knowledge. Learn the tips and tricks to identifying tracks with a fun activity.

All About Bats (grade 4-adult) Λ

Bats are fascinating creatures. Learn about their adaptations, as well as their special role in the environment through a media presentation, demonstrations and some fun & games.

Endangered Species (grade 4-8) Λ

Participate in an in-depth discussion about animals and plants that are protected, endangered, extirpated and extinct. Learn how and why some species survive or adapt better than others and what can be done to prevent further destruction.

Food Chain (grade 2-6)

Explore basic concepts in ecology, including food chains and food webs, with fun games and activities.

Pond Study (grade K-12)

Experience the wondrous world of the pond ecosystem. With a dip net and a partner, find pond creatures and learn about their strange habits.

Predator/Prey (grade 2-8)

Play fun and active games and learn important concepts in predator/prey relationships along the way.

Skins & Skulls (grade 4-7) Λ

See real animal skins and skulls up close! Learn about the adaptations of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores, as well as the winter habits of Michigan mammals.

Edible Plants (grade 4-adult)

Take a hike along a beautiful stretch of trail and learn to identify some edible plants, and some to avoid. Get a real taste of nature.

Nature Activity Hike (preschool-adult)

Experience nature using all your senses. Take a guided hike and meet a tree, or maybe see, feel and smell something new.

Environmental Education Programs - Continued

Nature in Winter (grade 4-8)

Find out how creatures handle the cold winter months through activities and a guided hike.

Nature Scavenger Hunt (preschool-adult)

Experience nature by working with a group to find as many items as possible. Someone may even get a Nature Scavenger Hunt Bingo.

Tree ID (grade 1-adult)

Take a nature hike to see and feel leaves, bark and twigs. Amaze your family and friends by learning to identify many Michigan trees.

Social Studies

Native American with Games (grade 3-8)

Learn about everyday life for Michigan Native Americans of the past through artifacts and demonstrations. Learn the role of games in Native American culture and play games played by Native American children long ago. A great hands-on addition to a Michigan History curriculum.

Native American with Drumming (grade 3-8)

Learn about everyday life for Michigan Native Americans of the past through artifacts and demonstrations. Learn the uses of drums in Native American culture and play authentic drums in games and activities. A fun hands-on addition to a Michigan History curriculum.

Drumming (preschool – grade 5)

Learn about drumming in past and present day settings. Play educational and fun drumming games and activities.

Exploring Maps (grade 3-6)

Discover and explore the joy of reading maps. Learn about a variety of maps and their uses, then use map skills in a fun outdoor activity.

Global Tour (2 hours) (grade 4-adult) \$

Tour the Heifer Global Village at the Howell Nature Center. Learn what life is like for children and families around the world.

Cultural Connections (4 hour) (grade 5-adult) \$

Tour the Heifer Global Village at the Howell Nature Center. Learn what life is like for children and families around the world, including the challenges people face, like poverty and hunger. Then prepare a traditional meal over campfires and stoves. Experience a unique culture while developing a better understanding of how culture and community influences daily life.

Global Gateway (8 hours or overnight) (grade 6-adult) \$

Learn about world populations, consumption of goods, poverty and hunger in this overnight experience. Experience a unique culture while developing a better understanding of how culture and community influence daily life. Emerge with an understanding of the effects nutrition has on our daily lives and a deeper empathy for the world.

Outdoor Education

Orienteering I (grade 3-adult)

Learn to use a compass. Follow the directions to find the next clue in a fun beginner orienteering course. A great addition to a Math curriculum.

Orienteering II (2 hours) (grade 4-adult)

Put your on walking shoes! Use compass skills and read a map to find all the clues in this fun and challenging course, which ranges over much of the Howell Nature Center property.

Survival with Shelter Building (grade 3-8)

Learn outdoor survival strategies using hands-on activities. Then work with a small group to build your own debris hut.

Survival with Fire Building (grade 3-8)

Learn outdoor survival strategies using hands-on activities. Learn about fire safety and building techniques, then work with a small group to build one of your own.

Survival with Fire and Shelters (2 hours) (grade 3-8)

Learn outdoor survival strategies using hands-on activities. Work with a small group to build a debris hut and a fire.

Archery (grade 2-adult)

Learn basic archery techniques under the guidance of our trained instructors. Learn safety rules, then attempt to hit a bull's eye with a simple recurve bow and target arrows.

Canoeing (grade 2-adult)

Learn canoeing safety and techniques, then secure your life jacket and develop your skills canoeing on beautiful Pleasant Lake.

Fishing (grade 2-8)

Learn safety techniques and fishing fundamentals, then enjoy your time fishing on Pleasant Lake.

Other Camp Activities

Capture the Flag (grade 4-adult)

Play this fun game under the guidance of our staff during the day or evening.

Arts & Crafts (preschool-8th grade) Λ

Age appropriate crafts with nature themes are available for your group. Contact us for a current list.

Skits (grade 4-9) Λ

Prepare for a night of fun and hilarity by working with a small group to act out a skit. Learn the tricks and tips to make your skit a success. This program is the first part of the Skit Night evening program and occurs during the day.

Juggling (grade 3-adult) Λ

Enjoy a juggling show and learn the tricks and tips for juggling on your own.

Games Galore (preschool-adult)

Learn new group games, expend some extra energy and have loads of recreational fun. This program can be chosen as a daytime activity or an evening program.

Camp Store & Games (preschool-adult)

Visit our camp store to find that special memento. Play fun games or visit the Nature Zone when shopping is done.

Snowshoeing (grade 5-adult)

Learn the history and technique of snowshoeing as you shoe our beautiful trails. Rent our snowshoes or bring your own. Rental fee applies if not being taught by our instructors.

Cross Country Skiing (grade 5-adult)

Let our trained instructors take you on a journey along our beautiful trails. Rent our equipment or bring your own. Rental fee applies if not being taught by our instructors.

Sledding (preschool-adult)

Bring your own or use ours during free time.

Teambuilding and Challenge Courses

Ground & Low Elements

Adventure Play (preschool- 2nd grade)

Play fun, interactive games to encourage cooperation and communication skills. Learn to work with others to achieve a common goal.

Obstacle (grade 2-5)

Learn to cooperate, communicate and support each other while encountering challenging obstacles. Learn what it takes to challenge yourself and support other team members.

Team Challenge (2 hours) (grade 4-adult)

Work with your team to get over, under, around or through the challenges set by our trained facilitators. Challenge yourself and support your team.

Team Adventure (2-8 hours) (grade 6-adult) \$

Learn what it takes to be a high performance team. Make decisions, solve problems and support team members as a group. This program is intended for groups in the process of improving group performance and is customized to the needs and goals of your group. Contact us for more information.

High Elements & Rock Climbing

Pond Zip Line (kindergarten-adult) \$

Experience the thrill of a ride through the trees on our 500 foot freestanding zip line. Trained instructors and safety equipment provided.

High Ropes (3 hour minimum) (grade 5-adult or grade 7-adult) \$

Experience one of two high ropes courses under the direction of our trained facilitators. Traverse obstacles suspended between trees 25-30 feet above the ground. Choose your own path with the help of a partner on the ground. Exit the course via a ladder or a 250 foot zip line.

Climbing Tower (2 hour minimum) (grade 2-adult) \$

Test your rock climbing skills on our rock climbing tower, the tallest outdoor tower in Michigan. Trained belayers and safety equipment provided.

Evening Programs

Dance (2 hours) (grade 4-8) ^

Put on your dancing shoes! Learn classic dance moves and modern group dances in this fun evening.

Skit Night (2 hours) (grade 4-9) ^

Enjoy a night of fun and hilarity seeing skits performed by your group. This is the second part of the Skit Night evening program. The first part is the preparation of skits during the day.

Songfest (2 hours) (grade 5-12) ^

Work with your team to think of songs from a given topic and perform them to earn points in this exciting activity. Points are given for creativity, group effort and fun factor.

Adventure Scrabble (2 hours) (grade 5-8)

Race against time and other teams to get scrabble pieces for your team's "thinkers." Then use your creativity, imagination and word skills to turn the scrabble pieces into words for points.

Action Auction (2 hours) (grade 4-8) ^

Exercise your creativity and imagination by using common things to create items and gain points for your team in this fast paced activity.

Campfire (preschool-adult)

Sit back and relax under the stars while enjoying the warmth of the fire. Let us get the fire started for you. We can lead songs and stories or we can leave it up to you.

Night Hike (grade 2-adult)

Experience the sights and sounds of the evening on a nature walk in the dark. Activities vary with number of participants, season and length of evening hours.

Capture the Flag (grade 3-adult)

Play this fun game under the guidance of our staff as an evening activity.

World Wide Games (grade 2-adult) ^

Play board games from around the world. Try your hand at a game of skittles or challenge a partner to a sockey duel.

Wolf (grade 2-adult)

Practice your wolf howl to get ready to play this adventurous game of hide and seek. Range over most of the Howell Nature Center property to find where the other team has hidden.

^ = Indoors

\$ = extra charge

O = offsite (we can bring this program to you)

Unless otherwise indicated, programs occur year round, are one hour in duration and take place outdoors, rain or shine

Appropriate age range is indicated; however, most programs can be adapted for any age with advanced notice

All program selections need to be received 8 weeks prior to your visit to ensure we have the staff available to meet your needs.

Programs are subject to availability and may be changed at our discretion

Howell Conference & Nature Center Environmental Education Sample Schedule

Whether you choose one night or a whole week, our professional staff will design a program to meet your schools individual needs. You will have fun choosing from any of our 60 programs. Then just sit back and relax as our staff creates a schedule like the example below.

“We had a wonderful visit. Your teachers were knowledgeable, patient, and worked very well with my students. Activities were highly appropriate and interesting...and gave the students an opportunity to learn a lot about their environment.”

- Hartland Village Elementary School

Day One			
	host	5th grade	45 students
	Group A	Group B	Group C
10:00 - 11:00	arrive unpack and orientation		
11:00 - 12:00	catered lunch		
12:00 - 1:00	global village	low ropes	high ropes orientation
1:00 - 1:05	travel to next program		
1:05 - 2:05	global village	low ropes	high ropes
2:05 - 2:10	travel to next program		
2:10 - 3:10	orienteering I	global village	high ropes
3:10 - 3:15	travel to next program		
3:15 - 4:15	wild wonders	global village	low ropes
4:15 - 4:20	travel to next program		
4:20 - 5:20	wild wonders	orienteering I	low ropes
5:20 - 5:45	free time		
5:45 - 6:00	hopper to dining hall		
6:00 - 7:00	dinner		
7:00 - 7:40	campfire	hayride	campfire
7:40 - 8:20	campfire	campfire	hayride
8:20 - 9:00	hayride	campfire	campfire