



Nature Discovery

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SPRING BREAK 2010 **DAY CAMPS & DAY TRIPS**

Spring Day Camp

Mon-Tues, April 5-6, 9am-3pm.
For K thru 4th grade.

Students can sign-up for one or two days of nature and outdoor-oriented activities. Each of the two days will encompass feeding, caring for, and handling our huge captive collection of Michigan snakes, turtles, frogs, salamanders and lizards. Each day will also offer a variety outside explorations and activities dependent on the weather, like...

...learning to identify three highly invasive alien plants – a bush, a vine and a biennial plant, each highly damaging to our local forest ecosystems. Students will then help pick, clear and burn them in our fire pit, then toast marshmallows as a reward.

...exploring our highly biologically productive vernal ponds. Spring's early-breeding frogs are calling and egg-laying now. Students who bring extra socks, shoes, and long pants can wade into it to check out the breeding action first-hand. Waders will catch and inspect a huge variety of invertebrate life that resides there. We'll take these to the classroom for magnified inspection under lights.



...watching and identifying spring bird life on and near our six acres. Students will keep checklists of permanent resident and a number of recently-arrived migrants. We'll also identify many of them "by ear," with the use of our "bird pod." We'll also use it to lure them closer for really great looks.

Cost: \$50/day. \$45/day for more than one day or more than one child. Hot lunch and snack are provided. Call or email to enroll in advance.



Spring Break Field Trips

Mon-Tues, April 5-6, 8:30am-3:30pm.

For 3th grade & older students.

Students can sign-up for one or two trips.

Monday, April 5: MAPLE RIVER FIELD DAY

This wild, yet close, game area offers wild sights, sounds and smells of spring. We'll visit the Bald Eagle nest and may locate the nests of Great-horned Owls and Red-tailed Hawks, too. Over 20 species of waterfowl are stopping by in the thousands for us to check out and identify with the spotting scope, too. On the roadsides and dikes, we'll also encounter a huge array of birds and other wildlife (like swallows, bluebirds, meadowlarks, leopard frogs, garter snakes, turtles, muskrats, ospreys, cranes, and more). Students will be given checklists to keep track of birds encountered on the trip.



Tuesday, April 6: KENSINGTON METROPARK DAY

Kensington Metropark, just east of Brighton, has a nature center, trails through fields and forests, and boardwalks around wetlands, all a short walk from the building. This habitat diversity makes for rich and memorable encounters with wildlife. We'll check out an active and noisy great blue heron rookery and the many lakes loaded with a variety of migratory ducks and geese, in addition to frogs, turtles, snakes and sandhill cranes, and nesting swans. On the trails, we'll hold out handfuls of seed to get chickadees, titmice and other birds to land on us. Students will be given checklists to keep track of birds encountered on the trip.

COST: \$55/day. \$50/day for more than one day or more than one student. Bring a bag lunch and binoculars. Dress warmly. With notice, a parent is welcome to attend at no extra charge. Arrangement can be made to drop off at home on some of the days. Call or email to enroll in advance.

Wednesday, April 7

HOFFMASTER STATE PARK FULL-DAY FIELD TRIP

8am-5:30pm. For 3rd grade & older students.

Michigan's most visited state park, just south of Muskegon, offers Lake Michigan beaches (but we won't be swimming), dunes to climb and backdune forests to hike. There are birds to see on the waterfront here that we definitely won't see on inland trips. We'll sift through the sand for predatory antlions, which students can take home and rear. We'll also visit the beautiful, state-of-the-art visitor center. Bring a bag lunch, pack binoculars, if you have some, and dress warmly. With notice, if space is available, a parent may attend at no extra charge.

\$75/student. Call or email to enroll in advance.