

# Jackson County Conservation Board

## Environmental Education

### Program List



#### Popular Classroom Naturalist led Programs:

Our classroom programs were developed for school curriculums we have seen. The noted grade levels for each program are not set in stone. If a program fits better at a different grade level in your school, let us know, as we can adapt our programs to the appropriate age level. Also, these are programs that we have “all ready to go.” We are always open to special request programs. If you have a need and we have the resources, we can develop it!

#### Kindergarten

- **Feathers, Fossils, and Fuzz**– Learn about textures in nature. We will touch and sort things that are rough, smooth, hard, and soft in nature.
- **Are We the Same?** Students will classify animals (reptile, mammal, bird, etc.) by sorting pictures. We include real artifacts so students can better observe the difference in animal groups.
- **Where’s Your Winter Coat?** This program will look at how animals survive the winter-migration, hibernation, and adaptation. Some real furs, stuffed animals, and pictures give the students a hands-on-experience.
- **The Pond Builder**– This program focuses on adaptations that help the beaver “do its job” in nature. Fur, tracks and other artifacts are included in the program.
- **Turkey’s Gift to the People**– After a story we will use “turkey stuff” to learn more about this creature of our Iowa woodlands. (A great Thanksgiving time tale!)



#### 1st Grade

- **The First Dog**– The Jan Brett book will be read and a tape of wolf howls, a wolf skin, and other materials help the students visualize this wild ancestor to our pet dogs. The program is designed to encourage reading to “learn more about it”.
- **Snake Sense**– How does an animal with no ears, no fingers, and not much of a nose use its senses to find out about the world around it? A real snake skin, skull, and other snake things will be included for passing around and touching. (When available, a real snake is used during the program.)
- **Bats**– Let’s correct the many misconceptions people have about bats. A real bat, bat things, and a game help bring about a change in attitude and illustrate how these amazing animals find their food and their way in the dark.
- **Build a Bird Feeder**– Students will make simple feeders to take home. An illustrated checklist will be provided to help them recognize common birds that may visit their feeders.
- **Animal Homes**– What do animals need to survive? Food, water, shelter and space are the four basic needs. We’ll focus on the need for shelter and look at a variety of animal homes from “apartments” to “mobile homes”. The students will take a tour of some animal homes.



Please contact us to schedule a program, a field trip or for more information!  
Jackson County Conservation- Hurstville Interpretive Center  
18670 63rd Street... Maquoketa, IA 52060  
563-652-3783... [jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com](mailto:jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com)  
(Monday thru Friday 8-4)



## 2nd Grade

- **Bison**- The class will learn why bison were so important to the Native Americans of the Great Plains. Students will examine bison bones, a bison hide, and other materials to learn about these great shaggy beasts. We will also discuss how the bison and other animals of the prairie benefited each other.
- **Endangered Species**- What causes animals and plants to become endangered species? Museum mounts and furs of some of Iowa's special animals will be used during the program.
- **Forests are More Than Trees**- A slide show and art activity will illustrate the many services and materials that forests provide for wildlife, water resources, and humans.
- **This is GREAT Water**- Students will use ground water models to illustrate sources of drinking water and investigate how water resources can be polluted.
- **The Lunch Box**- We will bring two 'picnic lunches' to your classroom and guide your students through a comparison of the amount of trash each one produces. The program encourages students to make wise choices when selecting foods for their lunches.
- **Swan by Chance**- At one time, wild trumpeter swans numbered only about 69 birds in all the lower 48 states. Feathers, eggs, and other hands on materials help students "see" just how big these birds are. They will also learn how these magnificent birds are making a comeback in Iowa, with a lot of help from volunteers just like your students!



## 3rd Grade

- **Nature Did It First**— Students will examine similar functions of some man-made tools, and animal and plant adaptations. Lots of natural artifacts are passed around during this program.
- **Monarchs**—SEPTEMBER ONLY. Students will investigate the migration of monarch butterflies to their winter home in Mexico. If specimens are available, they will help tag some fall migrants as part of a North American study of the migration.
- **How Grandmother Spider Stole the Sun**— This Native American tale explains how the sun was brought to all the creatures of the earth. After the story is told we'll learn more about one of the characters— the Turkey Vulture. We have a display featuring "nature's garbage man" and will discuss the importance of all creatures, no matter what their appearance.
- **Nature's Engineer**- This is an upper elementary version of "The Pond Builder". While we still look at adaptations, the program investigates how the beavers actually change the surrounding environment for other animals and humans.
- **Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!** Insect exoskeletons, chrysalides, insect homes, and other items are used to examine the natural history of our six-legged neighbors. Students will use a special lens to see the world through the eyes of an insect.
- **A Feather in Her Hat**- This program explains the reasons behind the law that says your students can't bring a cardinal feather back from a field trip. Using excerpts from a children's book we will also discuss how concerned, committed citizens can make a difference. Feathers from the JCCB collection and other items will be used during the program.



Contact our Naturalists to schedule a program, field trip, or for more information!

Phone:  
(563) 652-3783



Email:  
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## 4th Grade

- **A Country So Full of Game-** Why do we have white tail deer in Iowa, but not elk? What happened to cause the bison and black bear to disappear from the state? Learn the history of wildlife and wildlife management in Iowa. Furs, antlers, and other items will give the students a close up look at some of Iowa's wildlife from the past and present.
- **Who-o Goes There?** This program explains the relationship between owls and their prey. Students will identify the adaptations that enable owls to be nighttime hunters.
- **Oh Deer!** This "active" program will illustrate how availability of food, water, shelter and space in an animal's habitat affect the animal's population.
- **Predators-** A slide show and discussion will examine the role predators play in natural communities, as well as attitudes toward some of these predators. Some predator artifacts are used to help the students understand how adaptations help predators "do their jobs".
- **The Better to Eat With-** Pictures and actual museum mounts are used to explore how birds' beaks are adapted to enable them to feed on a variety of food sources. The students will also have a chance to try to "eat like a bird" to show what they have learned!



## 5th Grade

- **Pillbug Project—** (Available Spring & Fall) Would your students enjoy a chance to be scientists? Pillbugs make it easy! We'll bring in some pillbugs, some ideas for questions and materials to help the students explore the world of pillbugs. Along the way they will use their scientific skills of inquiring, observing, recording information and reporting their findings to share their newfound knowledge of pillbugs.
- **What is an Artifact?** Students will make observations and measurements of "artifacts" and use this information to determine the



"artifact's" uses. This activity will help the students understand the methods archaeologists use when conducting a dig. The students will also have the opportunity to observe some artifacts from native Iowa cultures and will learn the proper way to record found artifacts.

- **Make Your Own Paper—** Students will participate in the process of papermaking. At the conclusion of the activity, they will be able to state the importance of sorting and recycling paper products.
- **Wetland Wonders-** During this "audience participation" slide show, students will learn some of the sounds and sights to be found in wetlands. We will also discuss the services wetlands provide for wildlife and humans.

## 6th Grade

- **Deadly Links-** After playing this active game, students will be able to describe ways in which poisons enter food chains and suggest possible results of contaminated food chains.
- **The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs-** Your students will take a look at what happened to the three little pigs from the wolf's point of view. We will discuss how attitudes towards wolves have changed as scientists have learned more about their true role in nature. A real wolf skin and a recording of wolf howls make is an interactive program.
- **Skulls-** Students use real skulls to identify the parts of various mammal skulls and make observations about differences in structures. They will use this and other information to make inferences about the identity of skulls brought to the classroom by the JCCB staff.

Thank you for  
supporting our  
environmental  
education program!



## Outdoor Recreation Activities

\*JCCB has equipment available. These activities are done to learn about and interact with nature.



- Canoeing-** Upper Elementary & above. The sport of canoeing offers a means to many interests. Canoes provide access to great wildlife viewing, fishing, and an escape from machines. We can also go way beyond the basics to include strokes, packing light, etc. We offer canoeing at Green Island & on the Maquoketa River. Paddlers learn what team work and self reliance mean all in one activity.
- Fishing-** For All Ages! We have 20 rods & reels available so kids can try their luck at catching bluegill, bass & catfish. While most groups just want to fish, we can get more in-depth with techniques, tackle and a fun casting contest with prizes! Younger classes need a lot of adult supervision (adults that will handle worms and fish!).
- Snowshoeing-** Lower elementary & above. 30 sets of snowshoes available. We teach the history and use of the snowshoe by Native Americans, early pioneers, and people today. The highlight of the course is going outside to make our own tracks!
- Orienteering-** Map & Compass– Upper Elementary & above. Using compasses, students learn about directions, map reading, and finding their way.
- Archery-** Upper Elementary & above. Covers archery history, safety, technique, equipment, mental concentration, core strengthening, physical fitness, and self-improvement.



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## School Field Trips in Jackson County:

Below are options for school field trip locations with a variety of programs we can do at each location. If there is a location not on the list that you would like to go to, we are open to ideas. Our naturalists are available to assist in planning and conducting field trips to parks, wildlife areas, stream sides, prairies, forests, and more in Jackson County!

- A Visit to Millrock School**– A visit to this limestone one room schoolhouse would bring their Iowa history to life. Volunteers from the Jackson County Retired Teachers Association can join your class to provide lessons and other activities, or you can plan and carry out your own program.
- Andrew/Jackson Demonstration Farm**
- Hurstville Lime Kilns**
- Wildlife Areas throughout Jackson County**
  - Baldwin Marsh
  - Blackhawk Wildlife Area
  - Jackson County Recreational Trail
  - McNeil Nature Preserve
  - Ozark Wildlife Area
- Eden Valley**
- Maquoketa Caves State Park**
- Hurstville Interpretive Center:**
  - **Prairie Hike-** Explore the Prairie Ecosystem, a beautiful prairie, complete with a wide variety of prairie plants & animals.
  - **Wetland Ecosystem-** A great place to catch tadpoles, water bugs, watch the Canada geese and ducks and learn more about the critters that live in the wetland.
  - **Birding-** Bird blind, bird identification, etc.
  - **Marsh Study-Invertebrates**
  - **Team Building Activities**
  - **Nature Center Exhibit Tour**
    - Bee Hive
    - Wetland Diorama
    - Prairie Diorama
    - Waste Reduction Kiosk
    - Hurstville display & railroad model
    - Live Trumpeter Swans & Box turtles

