



## Menu of CLASSES in the LODGE at the MACKENZIE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

The MacKenzie Center's educational programs cover topics that deal with wildlife, forestry, the environment, aquatic and water issues, outdoor recreation and skills, team building, large group activities and special evening programs!  
Wow, check it out!

All classes are modified to best fit the age of the students and the needs of the group.

### CREATE A CLASS

Grades: all ages

Length: flexible

Working with group leaders we can customize your visit and build a lesson that is written to fit your needs, just provide us the topic!



### EDUCATORS CHOICE

Grades: all ages

Length: flexible

Let MEEC staff choose and design a program appropriate to the season and group needs.

### WILDLIFE

#### WILDLIFE EXHIBIT TOURS

Grades: all ages

Length: 1 hour

(Wildlife exhibit only)

Subjects: Wildlife biology and ecology, Wisconsin history

By seeing some native Wisconsin

animals up-close, visitors can study the animal's adaptations, habitats; learn about human interaction and more.



#### SECRETS OF THE SKULL

Grades:

Length: 1 hour

Through observations such as tooth size & shape, eye socket placement, nose & ear size students will characterize the animal whose skull they hold. These details will place skulls into groups such as carnivore, herbivore, omnivore as well as shed light on other details about an animal's life and adaptations.



### TRACKING & ANIMAL SIGNS

Grades: 5-8

Length: 1-1.5 hours



Students will learn about different animals, their tracks and signs they leave for us to find.

Activity can include making plaster track casts if requested.

### HOW BIRDS MAKE A LIVING

Grades: 5-8

Length: 1 hour

Birds have special adaptations that allow them to survive. This activity discusses the many types of specialized foot and beak structures that help birds exist in different habitats. Later, students try to "beak the clock" by securing food in different habitats using their own specialized "beaks".

### WOLF/DEER

Grades: 5-8

Length: 1 hour

After basic introduction to the physical characteristics of a timber wolf and pack interaction, students have a chance to become members of a wolf pack or deer herd. They will then take part in a simulated "hunt", the deer laying down a scent trail (scented sponges) and the wolves following it.

### PREDATOR/PREY

Grades: 5-8

Length: 1 hour

Subjects: Science

Students will understand principles of predation and predator-prey relationships by becoming predators themselves as they explore an artificial population of animals (caramel candies).

### AQUATIC

#### STREAM STUDY

Grades: 5-8

Length: 2.5 hours

Subjects: Fishery Science, Natural Resource Careers

With some classroom introduction to the German Brown Trout and its survival requirements; students will roll-play as fish managers and learn to use the tools necessary to collect data for measuring survival and habitat requirements. Students will study a section of Rowan Creek, collect data and determine whether or not the German Brown Trout can survive in Rowan Creek.

Key Concepts: water, limiting factors, natural resource careers

*Groups are responsible for transportation to and from the stream off site. Available in late Spring, Summer & early Fall*



#### POND LIFE

Grades: 5-7

Length: 1.5 hours

To acquaint the students with the pond as a natural community, and introduce them to the wide varieties of life found there and explore the connections among community members. *Available in Spring, Summer & early Fall*

## FISHING CLINIC

Grades: 4<sup>th</sup> and up

Length: 4 hours



Learn basic fishing skills like baiting and casting and then be able to practice the new skills while fishing at

Lake Wisconsin, just 12 miles from MEEC. *Over 16 years of age; valid WI fishing license required. Fishing poles and bait included. Groups are responsible for transportation to and from the lake, off site. Available year round...we ice fish too!*

## FOREST, FORESTRY AND PRAIRIES

### FORESTRY & WOODCUTTING

Grades: 5-8

Length: 1-1.5 hours

Subjects: Science, Math & Physical Ed

Develop an understanding of forest ecology, basic forestry and woodcutting skills. Explore WI history of the lumberjack and use a traditional "two-man saw" to cut your own slice of the log or a wood "cookie."

Key Concepts: forestry, WI history

### VISIT THE SUGAR BUSH (aka: Maple Program)

Grades: 4-8

Length: ~3 hours (morning or afternoon program)



Learn about how Native Americans traveled to the sugar bush and how they made maple sugar. Learn to identify a maple tree & the process of photosynthesis. Get some hands on experience tapping a tree & add in some history with how the Pioneers made maple syrup. Walk away with a taste of maple syrup made from the MacKenzie Center's sugar bush.

Key Concepts: forestry, WI history

*Available for visits in March only*

## The LORAX

Grades: 4-7

Length: 1 hour

Subjects: Recycling, Environmental Ed, Science

Video: To identify problems and potential solutions to resource exploitation.

## ENVIRONMENT

### INVASIVE SPECIES and PLANT SERVICE LEARNING

Grades: 6<sup>th</sup> and up

Length: flexible

Subjects:

Learn to identify some invasive species of plants and management techniques to control them.



### RECYCLING

### An unavoidable legacy; GARBAGE

Grades: 5-8

Length: 1 hour

To familiarize students with the problem of solid waste and introduce solutions to help change our behavior to the growing problem of garbage.

### MUSEUM TOURS

Grades: all ages

Length: flexible

Examine one or all of our three themed museums (conservation, logging, alien species and oddities of nature). Discuss some of the issues and themes found within.

## CHIEF SEATTLE

Grades: 4<sup>TH</sup> and up

Length: ½ hour

Video: Seattle was chief of several American Indian tribes who lived in what is now Washington State. He is famous for his speech he gave before signing a treaty to give up rights to his people's land. The speech in the video contains many ideas and images that people concerned about the environment today still believe in. The speech is still relevant today and is a great discussion tool for taking about the wonders and beauties of nature and the circle of life.

## TEAM BUILDING

### SENSORY AWARENESS

Grades: all ages

Length: flexible

A lesson disguised as activities and games which engage student's senses, playfulness, imagination, and curiosity to awaken a connection to the natural landscape around them. Four tracks to choose from, offering many adventures: attention contests, blindfolded challenges, sneaking and hiding, and introducing the language of the birds or "forest radar".

### SQUIRREL SCRAMBLE

Grades: all ages

Length: 1 hour

Test your skill by competing in our 345 yard long obstacle course trail.

Various skill sites along the trail challenge you over, under and thru different stations.



### TEAM BUILDING TRAIL

Grades: 4-8

Length: 1 hour

Through direct interaction students will cooperatively decide on a solution to a carefully designed problem and then carry out a plan of action, while working through a trail of activities.

## LARGE GROUP

### SOUTH TRAILS

Grades: all ages

Length: Variable

There are five self-guiding trails on the MacKenzie Center grounds. Please take some time to hike these with your students or use them with some of your own activities.



### SCAVENGER HUNT

Grades: all ages

Length: 1-1 ½ hours

Using a check-off sheet as a guide, students examine the surrounding area identifying things to see, hear, smell, feel and think about. Scavenger hunts are specific to each group and summaries other activities students are participating in.

### SOUND OFF

Grades: 5-8

Length: 1 hour

Key Concepts: predator/prey

After assuming a role of an organism, blindfolded students try to find their partner using only the sounds from musical instruments while avoiding an equally blindfolded predator using his own instrument.

## OUTDOOR SKILLS & RECREATION

### COMPASS SKILLS 101

Grades: 5-12

Length: 60-90 minutes

Subjects: Physical Education, Outdoor/Survival skills

Develop a basic compass knowledge and instill a sense of awareness of the environment. Enable students to meet challenges and make decisions, while navigating thru our orienteering course(s).



### SHOOTING SAFETY

Grades: 4<sup>th</sup> and up

Length: 2 hours

Learn a traditional skill among Wisconsin residents. Trained hunter safety instructors will lead the students to learn the basics of shooting safety and then spend some time learning how to aim and shoot an air-gun using our self contained shooting trailer.

### GEOCACHING 101

Grades: 5<sup>th</sup> and up

Length: 1.5-2 hours

Participate and learn the basics of this growing outdoor entertainment game. Use a GPS to find several treasures! Great all group activity, treasures and GPS units provided. *Students must bring their own trinket to place in a cache.*



## EVENING PROGRAMS

### NIGHT HIKE

Grades: all ages

Length: 30 minutes

Take a guided hike experiencing your senses in the dark. Learn about some nocturnal animals and their adaptations for survival in the night.

*Available evenings before 10 pm*

*Extra student fee required*



### GUEST SPEAKERS

Grades: all ages

Length: 1 ½ - 2 hours

Upon request we have had special presentations for groups in the evenings. Topics have included astronomy, Native American history and GPS treasure hunts and more. *Subject to availability, Extra student fee required.*