First Grade Field Trip Topics

Forest Ecology

Uncover the mysterious methods plants have for growing and making their own food. Find out just what is really going on inside a tree and discover how forest plants and animals are interconnected. Older students will be challenged to estimate tree height and ages without cutting down a tree and using simple field equipment.

Meets standard: 3L.1.2.1.2

Forest Wildlife

Become a forest detective to discover what animals are living nearby in the trees! Identify animals by the tracks, trails, scat, bite marks, and homes they leave behind and uncover the stories they tell us. Learn how the smallest of the forest creatures are connected with the biggest. Participants will explore a nearby forest area using all their senses as they search for our neighbors in the trees!

Insects & Other Things That Bug Us

Discover the amazing variety in the insect world and learn what makes an insect an insect. We'll go on an insect safari to capture these awesome creatures, see them at different life stages, and learn to classify them into family groups while studying their unique characteristics.

Meets standards: 1L.1.1.1.1

Reptiles and Amphibians

Meet our popular animal ambassadors and learn what makes them unique. Younger groups will learn about each species and what traits they have that allow them to survive in Minnesota. Older groups will get additional information on animal behavior and training. Our ambassador team includes: native turtles, an invasive turtle and a tiger salamander.

Seed Science

How do the smallest seeds grow into the tallest trees? Students will dissect a seed to see its different parts and learn about dispersal methods before designing their own seed to disperse. *Meets standard: 2L.3.2.2.1*

What's in an Ecosystem?

Ecosystems are communities of living and non-living parts. Some ecosystems are perfect for a species- like a beaver in a wetland but others aren't right. Students will learn specifically about the wetland ecosystem and how the water there helps the species present thrive. Students will then evaluate the ecosystem they are standing in and decide what lives there. *Meets standards: 2L.4.1.1.1, 2E.4.2.1.1*

Prairie Ecology

Participants will explore prairie plants using various senses to better understand their unique adaptations. Searching for and identifying prairie animals and their signs will help students determine how both plants and animals have adapted to this hot, dry environment. Walking shoes and long pants are strongly recommended for this class.

*** Note: This program is best conducted in the summer or fall as these two seasons are optimal when working with prairie plants.*