

Zionsville Parks and Recreation

# EDUCATION PROGRAM GUIDE

[www.zionsville-in.gov/naturecenter](http://www.zionsville-in.gov/naturecenter)



The Zionsville Parks & Recreation Department offers a variety of Environmental Education programs that align with current Indiana Science Standards from Preschool - 8th grade. Our programming utilizes methods of inquiry and hands-on activities. Our programs can be offered in-person at our parks, or at your school or facility. *Program topics are listed throughout this guide, but we can also customize any program to meet the needs of your group.*





# SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Zionsville Parks & Recreation is proud to offer field trips at all of our beautiful Zionsville parks or outreach programs at your school to engage students. Our programs are completely customizable to meet your specific needs and are aligned with Indiana State Science Standards. We utilize our collection of natural resources, including live animals, scientific tools, taxidermy, and natural artifacts in our programs. Our Naturalist staff are all highly-trained educators with years of experience working with kids of all ages. All programs listed below can be scheduled as a field trip or classroom outreach.

Not seeing your preferred topic? Reach out about scheduling a custom program!

## **SENSING NATURE (PRESCHOOL - K)**

Explore the marvels of nature through our senses and learn how animals sense the world around them. This program is designed to expand and encourage a child's sense of wonder with hands-on activities.

## **SEASONAL CHANGES (PRESCHOOL - 1ST)**

Each season brings new discoveries to explore. Children will learn how seasonal changes affect all living things.

## **HABITAT IS HOME (K - 1ST)**

All animals and plants live in habitats that help them meet their specific needs. Let's explore the ways living creatures find and make homes that are just right for them!

## **AMAZING ADAPTATIONS (K – 8TH)**

Living creatures have unique adaptations to help them survive within their habitats. In this program, students will learn how plants and animals physical and behavioral characteristics play a role in their lives.

## **INDIANA ROCKS! (1ST - 7TH)**

Geology gives us clues to the past, influences our present environment, and plays an important role in our daily lives. Children will discover the origin of our local rocks and fossils, and decipher how our environment was and still is being shaped by geological processes.

## **WILD ANIMAL SURVIVAL (4TH - 8TH)**

This program takes a detailed look at how animals use their adaptations to survive in their habitats, how energy flows through the food chains and food webs, and how all living things are interconnected.

## **WATERSHEDS & YOU! (2ND – 8TH)**

Clean water is so important for healthy environments and each of us plays a role in watershed health. This program dives into how humans can positively and negatively affect our aquatic ecosystems. If scheduled as a field trip, students will get wet and muddy!

## **INDIANA MAMMALS (ALL AGES)**

Through pelts, mounts and skulls, learn about the diversity of mammals in Central Indiana. Older students will examine environmental issues such as animal overpopulation, extinction, and habitat destruction.

## **INDIANA'S REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (ALL AGES)**

Explore the characteristics and adaptations that make these cold-blooded animals so unique. Examine similarities and differences between amphibians and reptiles and the threats to their survival.

## **BIRDS OF INDIANA (ALL AGES)**

Over 200 species of birds call Indiana home, from tiny hummingbirds to stealthy owls. Explore the different birds commonly found in our area using taxidermy and natural artifacts. Learn how different types of birds are uniquely designed to thrive in their habitat.





## SENIOR CENTERS & COMMUNITY GROUPS

Zionsville Parks & Recreation offers programs to a variety of community groups and organizations! Whether it is a live animal presentation at a senior center, a native plant walk for a garden club, or a guided hike for a local organization- we can help!



## HOMESCHOOL GROUPS

Interested in a nature program for homeschool? Any of our traditional school programs can be adapted to fit the needs of your group. We can also customize a program to meet your group's specific goals. Programs can be at the Zionsville Nature Center or in one of our Zionsville parks.



# TEACHER TRUNKS

Traveling Teacher Trunks provide your classroom access to quality natural resources, information and hands-on activities. These resources enrich the basic information and reference materials found in classroom textbooks. Each Traveling Teacher Trunk utilizes proven hands-on environmental education activities and emphasizes local Indiana habitats, animals, resources and conservation objectives. In each Traveling Teacher Trunk, you will find quality resources, natural artifacts or replicas, field guides, and scientific tools like magnifying glasses and binoculars for hands-on experimentation and learning.



**SENSES AND SEASONS**



**ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS**



**HABITATS & ECOSYSTEMS**



**SUSTAINABLE INDIANA**



**NATURE CYCLES**



**INDIANA ROCKS**





## PROGRAMS FOR SCOUT GROUPS

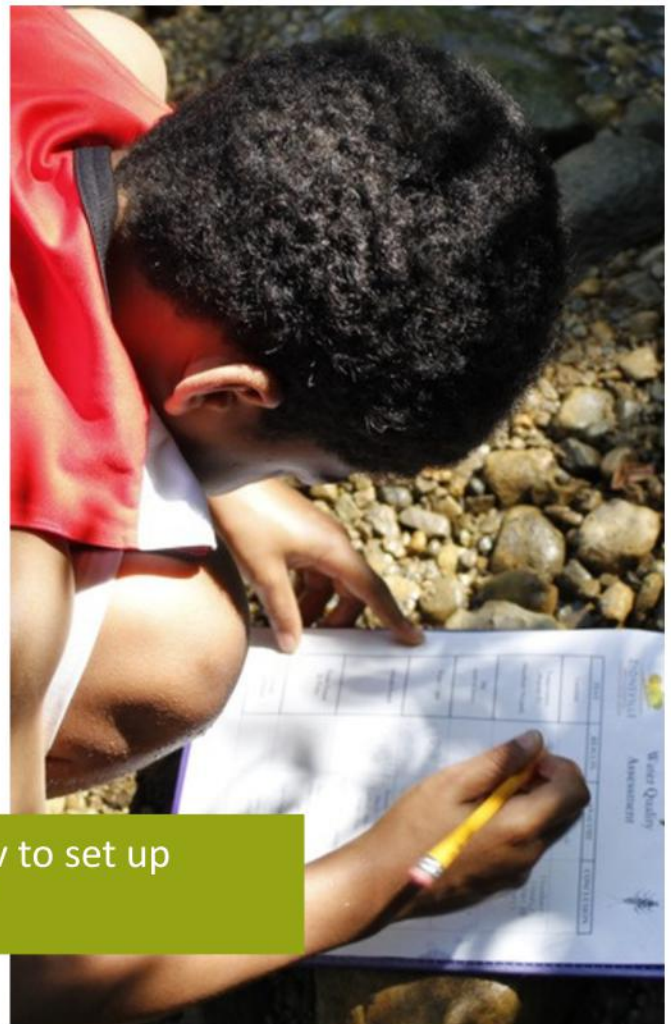
Calling all scouts! Join a Naturalist from the Zionsville Nature Center for a nature hike or complete requirements for a nature related badge or journey. The Zionsville Nature Center offers a variety of scout programs that utilize hands-on activities and exploration to help scout groups connect with nature. We utilize natural artifacts, live animals, and a variety of resources to make our programs interactive and engaging. Our programs can be customized to meet specific needs and interests of your group. Scout programs can be offered in-person at our parks or at the Zionsville Nature Center.

## MERIT BADGES

We currently have Naturalist staff who can help with your Merit Badge needs for the following:

- Environmental Science
- Fish & Wildlife Management
- Nature
- Bird Study
- Insect Study
- Mammal Study
- Reptile and Amphibian Study

Contact us at [naturecenter@zionsville-in.gov](mailto:naturecenter@zionsville-in.gov) to set up your meeting with a Merit Badge Counselor





# BADGE PROGRAMS

Looking to complete a nature related badge or journey? Naturalist staff can help troops meet badge requirements through hands-on activities. We can customize our programs to meet specific badge needs and troops interests. Staff has previously worked with scouts on the following badges:

## DAISIES



Trail Adventure



Eco Learner



Outdoor Art  
Maker



Numbers  
in Nature



Animal Observer

## BROWNIES



Trail Adventure



Hiker



Outdoor Art Creator



Bugs

## JUNIORS



Animal Habitats



Flowers



Detective

## CADETTES



Trees



Primitive Camper



Trailblazing



## CREEK WEEK FUN PATCH

Does your troop want to earn a limited-edition Creek Week fun patch? Join a Naturalist to explore the creek, learn about our watershed, and brainstorm different ways we can help keep Eagle Creek healthy. This program is open to all scouts. (Available May - August)



## COMMON SCOUT PROGRAMS

Have a scout group that is particularly interested in nature? Don't see a nature related badge you're interested in? Our Naturalist staff has experience educating a variety of ages on nature and environmental related topics. When scheduling your scout program, include what badge you are interested in. We can customize programs based on your scout group's wants and interests. Join a Naturalist for a hike, explore different nature topics, and participate in hands-on activities.

### COMMON SCOUT TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Habitats and Ecosystems
- Animal Adaptations
- Wetlands and Water
- Indiana Reptiles and Amphibians
- And more!



# SCHEDULING A PROGRAM

Please visit our website and fill out our program request form to schedule a program. If you have additional questions about our programs please email us at [naturecenter@zionsville-in.gov](mailto:naturecenter@zionsville-in.gov) or call us at 317-733-2273.

## WHEN SCHEDULING, PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

- Date you are interested in, and an alternate date
- Location of the program
- Program topic
- Estimated number of participants and their age/grade
- There is no fee for teachers or chaperones
- Program requests must be made a **minimum of 2-weeks** before your preferred date
- Offsite programs must be at a school or business (no private residence) and within a maximum 10 mile driving distance from Zionsville Nature Center.

## GROUP PROGRAM FEES

Visit our website for up to date program fees for all group programs.

To request a program visit  
[www.zionsville-in.gov/naturecenter](http://www.zionsville-in.gov/naturecenter)  
or scan the QR code







## CONTACT US

To request a program visit  
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