



*Here at the Allan Brooks Nature Centre we are pleased to offer a variety of activities for students to experience! For your upcoming trip please select four stations out of the following list, or let us know if you would like a customized activity.*

### **Grassland Trail Walk**

Our most popular station, join us on a short walk through our rare and delicate grassland ecosystem! Learn about grassland plants and animals, and how they interact. Touch, smell, feel and even taste as we explore the wilderness all around us! In the spring, watch the residents of Marmot City with wonder. (Hibernating in the fall, sorry!)

*\*\*Must be paired with Pond Life\*\**

### **Pond Life**

Did you know that many insects begin their life in the water? Come have a gander in our pond as we learn about life cycles, food webs and tons and tons of bugs! Take a hands-on approach as we grab some nets and find out for ourselves what beasties lurk in the deep.

*\*\*Must be paired with Grassland Trail Walk\*\**

### **Art of Indigenous Plants**

Come learn about the Indigenous uses of Okanagan plants through art. Create artwork that you can take back with you! Explore First Peoples principles of interconnectedness and knowledge of sustainable practices. Discover the local First Nation knowledge through stories and art. *This is available for Grades 2+.*

*Pairs well with the Grassland Trail station.*

### **Become a Map-Maker!**

What is a cartographer? How do you know which way a map faces? Discover the answers to these questions and learn about the local landscape as we create a map of our surroundings!

## **Okanagan Habitats and Wildlife**

Experience our 360 degree mural depicting the four major ecosystems of the Okanagan! How do plants and animals survive in the hot, dry grassland? Which ecosystem relies on fire to flourish? Learn about adaptations, habitats and survival strategies of plants and animals local to the Okanagan .

## **Predators & Prey (Food Web & Animal Anatomy)**

From the silently stalking cougar to the lightning-fast falcon, predators everywhere have to hunt and eat! Examine and touch real predator skulls, listen for the silent flapping of an owl surprising its prey and discuss the unique adaptations and hunting strategies used by different types predators.

## **Discovery Room (Free Time Exploration Station)**

Specimens abound! This station is great for giving students a chance to unwind and indulge in self-directed exploration as they examine our multitude of specimens and samples. Watch our live bee colony and look for the queen. Open up drawers and feel our furs, feathers, and snake skins!

## **Eco Games (Outdoor Play Station)**

Run, jump, hide! This station allows students to expel their extra energy while playing ecology-themed games and activities. Students will play games that may have them acting out predator/ prey relationships, learning about carrying capacities of habitats, or learning about the dangers birds face in their annual migrations!

## **Honey Bees & Pollination**

What's the buzz about pollination? Get up close and personal with our live bee colony and learn about honey bees, pollination, and how plants rely on different animals, or even wind, to be pollinated! Then, come outside for a game of Pollination Pursuit where you'll act as a bee in pursuit of nectar!

## Down-N-Dirty Decomposers

What animal has five hearts, breathes through its skin, and chews with stones? Would you believe it is the common earthworm? Explore the wonder that is the soil ecosystem, where thousands of tiny interactions shape the world we live in! Use magnifying glasses to get a close-up view and unveil the red, wriggling wonders of our worm bin.

## Bird Beak Adaptations

Why do ducks have flat beaks? What's the point of a hummingbird's long bill? Bird beaks are strongly shaped by the food they eat! But don't take our word for it, join us in a series of hands-on experiments where we will determine what beaks are best shaped for what job, and why. *This station is best suited to students grade 2 and older.*

## Owl Pellet Investigation

Discover the WHOOO and why behind owl pellets! Students are introduced to the ecology and life history of owls while acting as 'field biologists'. Using tools such as tweezers and magnifying lenses, students will dissect owl pellets and practice the skills of observation and classification by identifying and sorting the bones of the owls' rodent prey. *This station is best suited to grade 2 and above.*

*\*Additional \$0.75 surcharge per student\**

## Watershed Wonders

Everyone in the world lives in a watershed! Using our hands-on model, students will learn what a watershed is and how it can be affected by humans. Students will know what watershed they live in, and take part in an activity to highlight the importance of water for all creatures.

## Kokanee Salmon

Learn about the life cycle of kokanee salmon and the role they play in the ecosystem. Learn about the restoration of salmon habitat and spawning

channels. Play a game that demonstrates the hazards faced by spawning salmon. *\*Only offered in the Fall\**

*(At Coldstream Creek Park in collaboration with the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre)*