



## Field Trip Activity List - grades 4 - 7

Here at the Allan Brooks Nature Centre we are pleased to offer a variety of activities for students to experience! For your upcoming Field Trip to the Nature Centre please select four activities out of the following list. *(Some activities take place in the same space and so may not be available together).*

### 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, and feel 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 Study\*\**

### Pond Study

With dip nets in hand, students will get down 'n dirty investigating the Allan Brooks Nature Centre pond. Collect macrobenthic invertebrates and learn what these critters can tell us about the water quality of the pond. Use simple tests to measure dissolved oxygen content, pH, turbidity and water temperature.

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

### Watershed Wonders

Everyone in the world lives in a watershed! Using our hands-on model, students will understand what a watershed is and how it can be affected by humans. Students will learn what watershed they live in, how erosion affects our water quality and will participate in creating a water filter.

### 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.

*Pairs well with the Grassland Trail station.*

### Orienteering

Could you find your way if you were lost in the wild? Learn how to navigate using a compass! Grab your navigation tool and a clipboard as we split up and race to find hidden caches.

### **Soundscape Investigation**

Students will explore the concept of soundscapes, and how they relate to both the natural world and music. Investigate through discussion and hands-on musical creation.

### **Predators & Prey**

From the silently stalking cougar to the lightning-fast falcon, predators everywhere have to hunt and eat! Examine 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 of predators.

### **Nature Journaling**

Listen, feel, experience. Nature Journaling is a simple and creative way for students to improve their skills of observation and to learn to look closely at nature all around them. Students will learn how to start their own nature journal, and build skills and knowledge as a naturalist.

### **Birding for Beginners**

Join us on a guided birding adventure in the grasslands! Students will learn how to use binoculars, the basics of birding and help us spot common grassland species, such as the Tree Swallow, Western Meadowlark, Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds!

### **Slither, Hop, Crawl**

Discover the amazing world of reptiles and amphibians! Meet our resident reptiles and explore the unique adaptations that have allowed them to thrive for millions of years! Learn about species that call the Okanagan home.

### **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 the wind, to be pollinated!

*(Availability of this lesson is dependent on the arrival of our Live Bee Colony from their overwintering location - timing is dependent on seasonal conditions)*

### **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.

### **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. *(Available while quantities last).*