



## Field Trip Activity List - pre-K to grade 3

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 *(Outdoor)*

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 Life\*\**

### Pond Life *(Outdoor)*

Did you know that many insects begin their life in the water? Come have a gander in our pond as we explore what lives beneath the surface, learn about life cycles, 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\*\**

### Watershed Wonders *(Outdoor)*

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.

### Art of Indigenous Plants *(Indoor)*

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 art. *This is best for those in Grades 2+. Pairs well with the Grassland Trail station.*

### Become a Map-Maker! *(Outdoor)*

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 (Indoor)**

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.

*\*\*Cannot be paired with Predators and Prey Station\*\**

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

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 examine our furs, feathers, and snake skins!

*\*\*Cannot be paired with Slither, Hop, Crawl station\*\**

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

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, participating in scavenger hunts or learning about the dangers birds face in their annual migrations!

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

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.

*\*\*Cannot be paired with Okanagan Habitats and wildlife Station\*\**

### **Nature Journaling (Outdoor)**

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. *This station is best suited to grade 3 and above.*

### **Birding for Beginners (Outdoor)**

Join us on a guided birding adventure in the grasslands! Students will learn how to use binoculars (depending on age), 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** *(Indoor)*

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.

### **Soundscape Investigation** *(Outdoor)*

What are soundscapes? How does noise pollution affect them and how are they used as tools to gauge ecosystem health? Learn all about the importance of natural sounds through discussion and hands-on soundscape creation!

### **Honey Bees & Pollination** *(Indoor)*

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!

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

### **Down-N-Dirty Decomposers** *(Indoor)*

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** *(Indoor)*

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 in grades 2 and older.*

### **Owl Pellet Investigation** *(Indoor)*

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 surcharge of \$1.00 per student.***