

# Making the Grade: School Program Menu for 9-12th Grades 2016-2017



Jasper County Conservation Board  
1030 W. 2nd St. S.  
Newton, IA 50208  
(641) 792-9780

Katie Cantu at [kcantu@co.jasper.ia.us](mailto:kcantu@co.jasper.ia.us) or Greg Oldsen at [goldsen@co.jasper.ia.us](mailto:goldsen@co.jasper.ia.us)

The following is a list of presentations offered to 9-12th grade classes in Jasper County. This is not a complete list, and for other options or questions about a program, please contact the naturalists. We work with teachers to fit our programming with their curriculum!

- All programs are free and materials will be provided unless otherwise noted.
- Please call or email at least 2 weeks in advance to guarantee your desired day and time.
- Plan for 40 minutes per program.
- Have your students come up with a list of questions for the naturalists before the scheduled program time.

## Ecological & Biological Explorations

**Migrating Monarchs** - Become a citizen scientist! Help us catch and "tag" monarchs that will contribute to research of migration patterns and population changes. We can tag classroom raised monarchs as well. If your monarch butterfly is found, you'll receive notice of where and how many miles it travelled!

**Careers in Conservation** - Students will learn about the wide variety of career options in the conservation field.

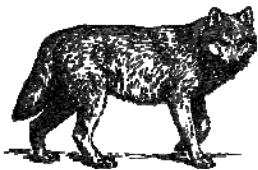
**Endangered Species in Iowa** - We've all heard about elephants and pandas, but what about the endangered species in Iowa? Students will learn which species in Iowa are endangered and why. We'll then explore recent research, discuss possible solutions, and discover recent efforts being undertaken to help.

**Vertebrates of Iowa** - From red fox to fox snakes, students will learn what types of vertebrates live in Iowa and how to identify them in this very "hands-on" and interactive session.

**Water Water Everywhere** - Iowa is continually faced with water quality issues. Students will learn the history of Iowa's waterways and the various human actions affecting them. Using a 3-dimensional landscape model, we'll discuss a variety of modern techniques currently being used to improve water quality in our state and others. If time permits, hands-on water quality testing can also be included in the program.

## Iowa History & Cultural Programs

**The People Vs Wildlife** - Which animals used to live in Iowa? What happened to them and where did they go? Students will find the answers to these questions as we discuss the history of Iowa's land use and how it has affected the wildlife.



**Landforms** - What's an ice age and what causes it? What's a glacier and where did it come from? Students will learn about natural processes such as erosion and glaciers, and how those forces sculpted Iowa's landscape.

**Native Americans** - Iowa is rich with Native American history. We'll discuss which tribes lived in Iowa and what life was like for them. We'll learn about how bison and other wildlife were necessary for survival and an integral part of everyday life.

## Outdoor Recreation & Field trips

**Fishing** - You bring the worms and we'll bring the poles. Students will learn basic fishing techniques and how to identify some common fish in Iowa's ponds and streams. We have 25 fishing poles.

**Ice Fishing** - Don't let the cold keep your students indoors all winter! Try ice fishing for part of a day, or part of a winter field trip. Equipment will be provided.

**Snowshoeing** - A little history and instruction will be provided and students can practice walking around the school yard. This would also be a great activity during a winter field trip to a park combined with tracking wildlife and other winter activities.

**Cross-Country Skiing** - The naturalists will provide the equipment and basic instruction. Skiing can be done at a local park or the school yard.



**Marsh Study** - Explore a murky wetland looking for animal life. Students will learn the importance of wetlands and water quality and how this unique area was formed.

**Orienteering** - Students will learn to find their way using a compass. Equipment and instruction will be provided--a longer course is set up at Krumm Preserve for a field trip.

**GPS** - Students will learn the basics of using a Global Positioning Systems (GPS) unit. Students will then practice their skills in a scavenger hunt.

**Pond Study** - Discover the macro life in a pond through water sampling. Students will also perform water quality tests and discuss issues affecting Iowa's waterways.

**Prairie Hike** - Students will learn about this disappearing habitat and the plants and animals that call it home. Several stewardship projects are available depending on time of year.

**Survival Skills** - Learn basic survival skills and other things to make you more comfortable in the outdoors, from how to identify poisonous plants, to how to dress for the outdoors. Students will then learn what one item is the most important in a survival situation.

**Woodland Hike** - Take a hike through an Iowa woodland habitat. Students will learn the history of Iowa's woodlands and the surrounding ecology. Tree identification can also be incorporated.

**Archery** - Students will practice their skills using recurve bows, compound bows, or both. Equipment will be provided.

**Canoeing and Kayaking** - Students learn boating safety and the basics of canoeing and kayaking on the lake at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided.



## Get Involved By Volunteering

Are your students looking for volunteer opportunities that will expose them to the "wild" side of conservation? Do you think they would like to guide Halloween hikers on the Mariposa trail, help younger students go fishing at the annual Fishing Derby or support runners at the annual *Off the Beaten Path* trail race?

Jasper County Conservation Board offers several fun ways to volunteer throughout the year. Students who enjoy working with the public, being outdoors, are

enthusiastic about wildlife, or like to preserve natural resources would benefit from the variety of opportunities we have to offer.

If you know of a student who is interested in the outdoors and would like to become involved through volunteerism, please have them contact a county naturalist.

