



Elementary School Programs

Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area

Contact Information

Wildlife Education Program
N7728 Hwy 28
Horicon, WI 53032
(920) 387-7893



Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Bureau of Wildlife Management
dnr.wi.gov keyword search "Horicon"

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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Program Information

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Horicon Marsh Wildlife Education Program offers a fun and exciting way for your class to explore the worlds of science and environmental education while meeting state academic standards.

All of the programs listed can be adapted to different age levels. We will also customize a program to your class's specific needs. Please notify us at least one month in advance.

Registration

Wildlife Educators are available for programs during regular office hours:
Monday-Friday:
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

If these hours don't suit your needs, please call us for alternatives.



Program Fees

All of our wildlife education programs are offered to you free of charge. Our salaries, supplies, and program services are paid by the license fees that DNR collects from Wisconsin's hunters and anglers. Donations are accepted and VERY MUCH appreciated!

Interpretive Trunks

You and your class can begin exploring the world of wildlife by checking out and opening up 3 wildlife education trunks:

- ❖ Wisconsin Mammals Trunk
- ❖ World of the Whitetail
- ❖ Whooping Crane Truck

Trunks come complete with skulls, bones, hides, tracks, and a complete curriculum. Developed by WDNR staff, these materials help students understand the biology, life histories, and management issues of some popular and less well-known Wisconsin animals. Call today to reserve your trunk for a two-week period with your class.

Horicon Marsh on DVD

The Friends of Horicon Marsh in collaboration with Wisconsin DNR have created "The Horicon Marsh Story." This 20-minute film highlights the history, wildlife, wildlife management and recreational opportunities at Horicon Marsh. This educational documentary is appropriate for any age. If you are interested in viewing the film during your field trip as an introduction to the marsh, please inform a wildlife educator. If you are interested in purchasing the DVD to show classes before your trip to the marsh please visit the Education Center gift shop. The Education Center is open to the public year round, 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mammals of Wisconsin

Grades: K - 4

Explore the exciting world of mammals as your class learns the identities of some Wisconsin native residents. By looking at their adaptations, students learn how they survive in a state with a wide array of temperatures and ecosystems. This program can be conducted at Horicon Marsh, or right in your own classroom.

Time: 30 minutes

Academic Standards Addressed:

Science: F.4.1



Pond Exploratory

Grades: K-4

Students use a hands-on approach to explore the world beneath the water. Examining the creatures they catch, your class will learn about the adaptations these animals have that allow them to survive in this harsh environment. They will also look at the interactions that occur between plant and animal below the surface of the pond.

Time: 1 - 1 ½ hours

Academic Standards Addressed:

Science: F.4.1, F.4.3

Intro to Insects

Grades: K - 4

What makes an insect? With sampling nets in hand, catch insects around the marsh.

Compare insect behaviors and adaptations, and discover how these creatures survive as well as play an important role in the food chain.

Time: 1 hour

Academic Standards

Addressed: Science: F.4.1, F.4.3



Tricky Tracks

Grades: 2 - 4

Mud and snow are fantastic places to find signs of those animals we don't always see. In this program, your class will learn how to identify the tracks of some common Wisconsin animals. Finish up the program by making a plaster cast of a track to take home.

In winter months, when snow is on the ground, your class can go on an adventure as they identify tracks and discover activity signs left behind by Horicon's resident wildlife.

Time: 1-2 hours



Web of Wonder

Grades: 3-4

Students learn how all living things in an ecosystem are connected in some way. By building their own "web" your class will be able to look at energy flow through the food web system and how environmental changes disrupt the system. This program can be conducted at Horicon Marsh, or right in your own classroom.

Time: 30 minutes

Academic Standards

Addressed:

Environmental Education: B1.4.1



Hunt for Habitats

Grades: 3-4

What is a habitat? After a quick review of what components make up a habitat, Wildlife Educators will take your class on a hike around Bachuber Impoundment to find out what animals live in the marsh. Learn how everyone co-exists in this relatively small place and still manage to raise a family.

Time: 1 - 1 ½ hours

Academic Standards Addressed:

Environmental Education: B1.4.4, B1.4.5, B1.4.6

Avian Adaptations

Grades: K - 4

When an owl eats its prey whole, where does it go? How does a hawk track rodents through tall grass? Learn the answer to these questions and more when your class examines the different ways birds deal with everyday life, whether through adaptation or behavior. This program is available at Horicon Marsh or in your own classroom.

Time: 1 hour

Academic Standards Addressed:

Science: F.4.1

Environmental Education: B1.4.6

Winter Adaptations

Grades: K - 4

Students will learn about the adaptations many animals have to help them survive harsh Wisconsin Winters. They will discover how and why animals make insulating shelters, store food, hibernate and migrate in order to live. Come experience winter education in a whole new way with this guided interpretive program.

Time: 1.5 hours

Birding Basics

Grade: 4

Your class can learn a great new skill while enjoying the great outdoors. The program begins with an introduction on how to identify birds by sight and sound. After a quick lesson on binocular use, they're off! This tour takes place in Horicon Marsh where your students can practice what they learned on the area's resident and migratory birds.

Time: 1 ½ - 2 hours

