



Middle 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 Trunk

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.

History of Horicon

Through a PowerPoint of historic photographs, learn the fascinating story of how, over time, Horicon Marsh was completely destroyed & then painstakingly re-built to its present condition. Through this program, students will study the impacts of people and their developments on an ecosystem both past, and present.

Time: 30 – 45 minutes

Academic Standards Addressed:

Science: E.8.6, G.8.3

Environmental Education: B1.8.5, B2.8.5, B2.8.6

Tracking in Wisconsin

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 and track patterns of some common Wisconsin animals. Examination of the footprints of these animals will reveal how different feet help different animals navigate the winter snow or survive in their everyday environment. 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



Pond Investigation

Using key charts, learn to identify organisms caught in our ponds using dip nets. Learn about the adaptations & interactions between these amazing organisms and how they depend on the plants and other animals present in aquatic ecosystems. Gauge the health of our study area.

Time: 1 ½ - 2 hours

Academic Standards Addressed:

Science: F.8.2, F.8.8;

Environmental Education: B2.8.10



Animal Habitats and their Management

How is it possible for a large number of animals to co-exist in a small space? After a quick review of what components need to be present for quality habitat, our Naturalists will take you on a hike around Bachuber Impoundment to find out what animals reside in Horicon Marsh. Through discussion, your class will learn how Wildlife Managers work with the land so everyone can co-exist together in this relatively small place.

Time: 1 – 1 ½ hours.

Academic Standards Addressed:

Environmental Education: B1.8.5, B1.8.8, B1.8.10, B2.8.11



Snowshoe Programs

Exploring the World of Ice & Snow



Take a guided interpretive hike on the frozen marsh on snowshoes. Learn the history of snowshoeing in Wisconsin. Gain an understanding of the value many cultures placed on snowshoes to survive harsh winters. Discover walking techniques and the structure of snowshoes and how to dress appropriately for any winter outdoor activity.

Snowshoes were generously provided by a Wisconsin Environmental Education Board grant.

Horicon Marsh Amateur Tracker

Hike into the ice-covered marsh by foot or snowshoe (snow permitting). Investigate how different plants and animals use adaptations to survive winter in an icy marsh. Search through the cattails for tracks and other signs or clues left by winter wildlife. Make a plaster cast in the classroom to take home.

Birding Basics

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 they can practice what they learned on the area's residents and migrants.

Time: 1 ½ - 2 hours



Insect Biodiversity

Insects are amazing and are great examples of biodiversity. Take an exciting look into the basic morphology of insects. Use insect nets & compare the presence of different insect populations living in various transects. Study different specimens to compare their adaptations, survival needs, and day-to-day interactions.

Time: 1 – 1 ½ hours

Academic Standards:

Science: F.8.2, F.8.8

E.E.: B1.8.3



Avian Adaptations

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 – 1 ½ hours

Academic Standards Addressed:

Science: F.8.2, F.8.7

Environmental Education: B1.8.8

Wisconsin Mammals

Explore the exciting world of mammals as your class learns the identities of some Wisconsin native residents. Students will learn about these animals' life histories, as well as how they are equipped to survive in a very competitive world. This program can be conducted at Horicon Marsh, or right

in your own classroom.

Time: 30 minutes.

Academic Standards

Addressed:

Science: F.8.2

