

Lowry Nature Center

Group Program Menu



Programs offered in FALL, WINTER or SPRING



Topic/Grade	Kindergarten	1st-2nd Grade	3rd-5th Grade
Winter Ecology			
Insect Ecology			
Pond Ecology			
Birds			
Plants			
Wilderness Skills			
Maple Syrup ^{*March Only}			

Preschool | Preschool groups can take our Nature Through the Seasons class, which highlights seasonal changes through experiential learning.

6th Grade and up | We can cater any of our listed topics to older students.

Lowry Nature Center

Group Program Descriptions



Lowry Nature Center is an environmental education facility based in Carver Park Reserve of the Three Rivers Park District. Located near Victoria, MN, our park is situated on 3,600 acres of restored habitat featuring a diverse array of flora and fauna from three primary ecosystems: maple/basswood forest, tallgrass prairie and cattail marsh wetlands. Our team of professional naturalists specializes in outdoor, experiential learning with the mission to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system.

For more information, or if you'd like to book a program with us, please contact us at 763-694-7650 or LowryNC@threeriversparks.org.

- Classes are 1.5 to 2 hours (Groups coming for 3.5 hours or more can choose two classes)
- \$4.80 per student per class/Minimum is \$72 or 15 kids (rates will change July 1, 2022)
- Group ratios are typically 15 participants : 1 naturalist
- Curriculum is science inquiry based
- Additional topics can be added to your trip to fit your group's needs
- Participants who require accessibility adaptations have options. Inquire for more information
- We can adapt any program to suit older student and adult audiences
- Financial assistance is available upon request

Preschool

NATURE THROUGH THE SEASONS

Fall | Winter | Spring   

Explore habitats around Lowry Nature Center and see what nature is up to! Every class will be different because the content changes with the landscape, but groups can expect hands-on activities and sensory exploration meant to spark curiosity and build connection with outdoor spaces. Some of the seasonal changes we highlight include:

- Seeds
- Fall/Spring Migration
- Preparing for Winter
- Winter Tracks and Trails
- Making Maple Syrup
- Waking up for Spring

Kindergarten

PLANTS: SEEDS AND SPROUTS

Fall | Spring  

Meet a new green friend during this class about plants! Observe the colors, shapes, sizes (and even smells!) plants come in. Learn what these living things need to grow and how plants help creatures like you grow too.

WINTER ECOLOGY: LIFE IN WINTER

Winter 


Does it feel colder today? Why does it get dark so early? What is snow? Explore the frozen world and find answers to these questions (and more!) in this class all about winter. Discover what the animals do to survive the cold and how YOU can prepare for winter weather.

BIRDS: BIRD BASICS

Fall | Winter | Spring   

A bird is a bird is a bird...or is it? See some of the wild birds who call Lowry home and observe what makes them similar or different. Learn what all birds have in common and what kind of habitat they need to survive.

MAPLE SYRUP: A MINNESOTA TRADITION

Spring 

Experience the Minnesota tradition of making maple syrup! Activities can include learning to identify a sugar maple, exploring tools for tapping trees and the process of boiling sap, and tasting some of Lowry's award-winning maple syrup.

1st-2nd Grade

INSECTS: NOT JUST BUGS

Fall | Spring  

What makes an insect? Explore the life cycle of an insect and the features that make them unique. Class includes (gentle) hands-on learning opportunities for students to study Minnesota's largest group of animals up close.

POND: LIFE IN THE POND

Fall | Spring  

Life in the pond is never dull. Learn about aquatic life cycles for creatures who live both under water and on land. See what the living things in a pond need to survive.

**This class can include meeting one of Lowry's live reptiles or amphibians.*

PLANTS: SEEDS AND CYCLES

Fall | Spring  

All plants have structures that help them survive. Learn the parts of a plant and how to identify those parts on different species. Discover seeds and how plants make more plants. This class is all about what plants need to grow and how WE can help them.

BIRDS: A BIRD'S LIFE

Fall | Winter | Spring   

The egg came first... Explore a bird's journey from egg to adulthood and identify what makes birds different from any other animal. Look for signs of birds in nature.

**This class can include meeting one of Lowry's live raptors.*


1st-2nd Grade

WINTER ECOLOGY: STAYING WARM

Winter 

Plants and animals use different features to conserve energy and stay warm in winter. Learn how fur, feathers and other forms of insulation protect living things (including humans!) from the cold.

MAPLE SYRUP: A MINNESOTA TRADITION

Spring 

Experience the Minnesota tradition of making maple syrup! Activities can include learning to identify a sugar maple, exploring tools for tapping trees and the process of boiling sap, and tasting some of Lowry's award-winning maple syrup.

3rd-5th Grade

INSECTS: COLLECTION AND CLASSIFICATION

Fall | Spring  

What's the difference between a dragonfly and a damselfly? Collect insects and observe the unique traits they have developed to survive in their environments. Students will also learn how humans use these traits to classify different insect groups.

POND: POND STUDY

Fall | Spring  

Is a pond an ecosystem? Visit a wetland and identify the living things that call it home. Study relationships between the plants and animals and decide if this environment is its own system.

PLANTS: SEEDS

Fall | Spring  

Explore the Lowry trails as Minnesota's plants drop their seeds before winter. Collect seeds in a variety of habitats and learn unique strategies for when and how they're dispersed.

PLANTS: TREE ID AND ADAPTATIONS

Fall | Winter | Spring   

Plants use adaptations to survive in different environments. Learn to use a dichotomous key and identify different tree species from their inherited traits. Compare and contrast how those traits help the trees survive. (This class is for 4th grade and up)

BIRDS: BANDING AND MIGRATION

Fall | Spring  

As seasons change a wondrous event occurs! Learn how birds prepare for migration and what the long journey entails. Observe bird banding (Lowry's longest ongoing citizen science project) and find out how YOU can support migrating birds.

3rd-5th Grade

BIRDS: RAPTORS

Fall | Winter | Spring   

Few in the bird world can call themselves a raptor. Learn three key traits all raptors have in common and how different bodies and behaviors help birds survive. This class includes meeting one of Lowry's live birds.

WILDERNESS SKILLS: FORTS AND FIRES

Fall | Winter | Spring   

Set up a wilderness encampment with your peers. Activities can include the Rule of 3s for basic human needs, essentials for constructing a shelter, and how to build a fire. This is an excellent course for team-building, problem-solving and engineering.

**The BASIC class is 2 hours and includes forts OR fires*

**The EXTENDED class is 3+ hours and includes forts AND fires*

WINTER ECOLOGY: TRACKS AND TRAILS

Winter 

There is a constant battle being fought in nature: eat or be eaten. Learn how energy cycles through food webs and how to follow tracks to read the story of the landscape.

WINTER ECOLOGY: LIFE ON THE ICE

Winter 

There are only so many places you can walk across a lake. Use tools to study the ice. Learn what lives under the ice. Discover how living things adapt to survive and thrive through Minnesota's coldest months.

MAPLE SYRUP: A MINNESOTA TRADITION

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