

# Making the Grade: School Program Menu for 6th Grades 2018-2019



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The following is a list of presentations offered to sixth 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.
- Although descriptions are for in-class, all programs can be adapted for outdoor locations.
- Please call or email at least 2 weeks in advance to guarantee your desired day and time.
- Plan for 30-40 minutes per program.
- Have your students come up with a list of questions for the naturalists before the scheduled program time.

## Fall Programs

### ***Enviroscape***

The Enviroscape is a watershed model that demonstrates the effect of soil erosion, chemical and fertilizer use, and other water quality issues. Water quality problems will be identified on the Enviroscape and students will work together to solve those issues, using conservation practices to improve water quality. We will also discuss a little history of land-use in Iowa and prepare students for their Mariposa Park field trip (see below). Students will be expected to follow and fill in an outline provided by the naturalists.

**\*MS-ESS3-1, MS-ETS1-1, MS-ETS1-3**

### ***Watershed Investigations at Mariposa Park***

Upon arrival at Mariposa Park, students will take a bus ride around the watershed to identify conservation practices that are beneficial or harmful to the watershed. They will perform chemical water tests, go pond-netting to determine species diversity in the lake, and take an observational hike on the nature trail to identify problems and improvements in the watershed. At the end of the day, they will give the watershed an overall score and write a short report justifying their score.

**\*MS-ESS3-1, MS-ETS1-1, MS-ETS1-3**



## Fall-Winter Programs

### **Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge Field Trip**

Another local option for a fall field trip is to visit the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge, located just southwest of Prairie City. Here, students will learn about Iowa's natural history, geology, and the present work being done to protect and restore our natural resources. Students will take part in a stewardship activity, which can include but is not limited to, seed harvesting, seed cleaning, planting, and creating seed packets for pollinator garden distribution. Please notify Jasper County Naturalists when scheduling this field day, so we can make ourselves available to help with activities. The refuge can provide money for bus transportation, please ask about this when scheduling. Information can be found at [www.tallgrass.org](http://www.tallgrass.org).

**\*MS-ESS2-1, MS-ESS2-2, MS-ESS2-3, MS-ESS3-1, MS-ETS1-1**

### **Environmental Values**

This late fall/early winter program is a follow-up to the Mariposa Watershed Investigation or Neal Smith Refuge field trip. Students will address others' environmental values and explore their own. A simulation of community members deciding on land use can be played out in the classroom. An optional outdoor activity can involve a stewardship project in the community or creation of schoolyard habitat (see next).

**\*MS-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-2**

### **Schoolyard Habitat Project**

Your students can make a difference by providing local wildlife habitat on school grounds, no matter what size of space is available. Students will gain real life skills by exploring and researching the needs of local wildlife and developing a master plan to create a schoolyard habitat. Examples for habitat include but are not limited to:

- Pollinator Garden
- School Courtyard Planting
- Aquatic Habitat Construction
- Raised Produce Beds

Naturalists will be available throughout the planning and implementation process of the project.

**\*MS-ETS1-(1, 2, 3)**



## Spring Programs

### **Spring Field Days**

End-of-the-year spring field trips have been very popular with 6th grade classes. We save the last 2 weeks of May for programs such as these. Ideal locations for a day-long program include Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve, Mariposa Recreation Area, the Izaak Walton League grounds in Newton, or other county or city parks close to your school. Activities

we can provide include archery, global positioning systems (GPS), fishing, hiking, orienteering with a compass, canoeing, kayaking, teambuilding activities, and stewardship projects such as planting trees, picking up litter, clearing brush, etc. We also have a number of fun and educational games including The Food Chain Game, Invent An Animal camouflage game, and many more!

