



Backus Heritage Conservation Area - Conservation Education Centre List of School Programs

All outdoor education programming is delivered at Backus Heritage Conservation Area, where students get the chance to explore outdoor areas such as the pond and hiking trails, as well as our newly renovated, fully accessible conservation education centre. All programs are typically offered as full day (5 hour) programs, but can be altered to half day (2.5 hours) on request.

Grade	Program Name	Description	Program Type	Curriculum Links	When Offered
2	Amazing Adaptations – Growth and Change in Animals	Discover the birds that call southwestern Ontario home and their friends who come to visit when the weather is warm. Students will also talk about animal adaptations found in migrating and hibernating species.	Grade 2 Core Science and Technology Program	B. Life Systems – Growth and Change in Animals B1. Relating Science and Technology to Our Changing World - Assess ways in which animals have an impact on society and the environment, and ways in which human activities have an impact on animals and the places where they live B2. Exploring and Understanding Concepts - Demonstrate an understanding that animals grow and change and have distinct characteristics	October – December / March - June
4	Habitats and Communities – Wetland Adventures	This program focuses on the wetland habitat at Backus Heritage Conservation Area but touches on the forest and meadow habitats as well. Students will gain an understanding of the relationship between plants and animals and how changes to habitat affect all living things within it.	Grade 4 Core Science and Technology Program	B. Life Systems – Habitats and Communities B1. Relating Science and Technology to Our Changing World - Assess impacts of human activities on habitats and communities, and analyze actions for minimizing negative impacts and enhancing positive ones B2. Exploring and Understanding Concepts - Demonstrate an understanding of habitats and communities and of interrelationships among the organisms that live in them	October – December / March - June

6	Biodiversity – Exploring Habitats	Backus Heritage Conservation Area is lucky to have multiple types of habitat that foster biodiversity in our park. Students will get the chance to explore some of these environments and learn what can be used to measure the health of a habitat. There will also be an investigation of species at risk, taking a look at what went wrong and what can be done to protect and preserve said species in the future.	Grade 6 Core Science and Technology Program	B. Life Systems – Biodiversity B1. Relating Science and Technology to our Changing World - Assess the importance of biodiversity, and describe ways of protecting biodiversity B2. Exploring and Understanding Concepts - Demonstrate an understanding of biodiversity, its contributions to the stability of natural systems, and its benefits to humans	October – December / March - June
4-7	Orienteering and Survival	In this program students will work in teams to complete challenges of survival and learn new skills in an outdoor setting. These activities include fire starting, hiking, knot tying, shelter building, orienteering, and more. This extremely hands-on program allows students to immerse themselves in nature and learn team-building skills they can use in their daily lives. During the winter months, weather permitting, snowshoeing is available as an add-on to this program. Our Orienteering & Survival program is recommended for Grades 4-7.	Grade 4-7 Alternate Social Studies / Physical Education Program	Social Studies and Physical Education Health & Physical Education: A1.6 Critical and Creative Thinking Skills - apply skills that help them think critically and creatively as they participate in learning experiences in health and physical education, in order to support making connections, analysing, evaluating, problem solving, and decision making Health & Physical Education: B1.1 Active Participation - actively participate in a wide variety of program activities according to their capabilities, while applying behaviours that enhance their readiness and ability to take part Social Studies: B2.3 Balancing Human Needs and Environmental Stewardship - analyse and construct print and/or digital maps, including thematic maps, as part of their investigations into balancing human needs/wants and activities with environmental stewardship in Canada Health and Physical Education: B3 Safety - demonstrate responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others as they participate in physical activities	October – December / March - June

****Please Note - Our pond dipping activity is available as an add-on to any program upon request****