



Parents: On December 15, 2011 Sil Pembelton will be making a presentation on how to create a sense of place and fun for your children in the Minnesota outdoors. There will be FREE gifts for each family. So join us during the regularly scheduled home school program and *Get Out* and have fun with your kids. This is provided to you by the Jeffer's Foundation and the Freshwater Society.

Professional Naturalists work with home schoolers to provide quality environmental, recreational and natural history programming. Join us the third Thursday of each month from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or 2:00- 4:00 p.m. The price per session is: \$4/child (plus tax) Pre-registration is required.



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2011-2012 Wargo Nature Center Home School Programs



Here are the great things parents are sharing about our programs...

- "My kids learn a ton here!"
- "I love the hands-on activities, getting outside and learning to explore..."
- "There are other programs out there, but this is the best we've experienced in eight years of home schooling."
- "Wargo programs are more science based than other programs."



Grades 1-2

Students will be using their senses to explore the natural world. We will look for similarities and differences in animals, plants and nature to view the world and all its wonders.

October 20 - Seeds

Seeds are starting to disperse – that means they are moving around looking for that special spot to land and plant themselves before the cold winter. We will look at seeds of all sorts and find out what makes them grow.

November 17 - Winter Homes

Winter homes provide protection from the cold, wintry season. We will look at animal habitats and discover how they adapt and survive the cold months ahead.

December 15 - Weather

What is the weather forecast for today? We'll look at clouds and other conditions that help us know what this day brings. By the way, what is climate and how is it different than weather?

January 19 - Kicksledding and Animal Tracking

Animals leave us signs that they have been around all winter. We will look for those signs and leave our own marks while we hike and kiksled down the hill!

February 16 - Food Chain

We are all part of the food chain. Who eats what and how we (and animals) rely on each other in a food web is a fascinating part of the life cycle.

March 15 - Birds

The birds are coming back! We will look for new arrivals and figure out ways to identify birds by looking at their various characteristics.

April 19 - Recycling Naturally

The snow has melted and we can see all the dead leaves and decomposing logs that are left behind. How does nature recycle itself? We will find out as we explore the new spring forest.

May 17 - Insects

How many parts does an insect have? How many legs? We will look at all aspects of an insect's life and see the many, many differences of each of them.

Grades 3-5

Students will be using hands-on activities to study a variety of subjects in the science, natural history, and recreation fields. We will spend most of our time outside, so please dress appropriately.

October 20 - When the Tamaracks are Smoky Gold

We will be using our senses to “feel” autumn and play a variety of fun and interactive games to welcome our new classmates.

November 17 - Weather vs. Climate

The words weather and climate are used almost interchangeably. We will learn the differences between them and study today's weather and Minnesota's climate.

December 15 - Endangered Species

We will examine some of the rarest creatures in Minnesota and learn what we can do to help them survive.

January 19 - Tracking Animals

January observation can be as simple and peaceful as the fallen snow. As we explore on snowshoes we will not only see who has done what, but also speculate why.

February 16 - The Science of Winter

We all know a lot about winter, but do we know all of its secrets? We will study the snow, down to the tiniest flake to unlock the mysteries of winter.

March 15 - The Good Oak

Trees provide us firewood and houses. But, trees also can tell stories about what was going on in the past. We will look at tree rings to determine the events of their lifetime.

April 19 - The Return of the Migrating Birds

Migratory birds flock the sky. We will look at where birds are coming from and the places they nest. Come have some fun, because spring has really sprung!

May 17 - Reptiles & Amphibians

These curious creatures have special adaptations for surviving Minnesota's changing weather. We will learn about these animals, search for them, and meet some very interesting reptiles of our own.

**Please pre-register your homeschoolers
online at www.anokacountyparks.com**

Grades 6-12

Students will be learning about Minnesota's wildlife through experiments, observations and hands-on outdoor activities. Students will record data and observations in a provided journal each month.

October 20 - Trees

We will study the trees of Wargo by learning identification skills as well as techniques managers use to keep our forests healthy.

November 17- Birds

Birds have specific adaptations that enable them to fly. We will investigate flight adaptations, how they navigate during migration and the challenges birds face.

December 15- MN Biomes

Home to 4 distinct biomes. We will explore what makes each biome distinct by looking at the climate, vegetation and animals found in each.

January 19 – Snowshoeing and Winter Ecology

We will learn about the winter residents of Wargo while we go on a snowshoe hike.

February 16 – Winter Survival

Are you ready to survive a Minnesota winter? Join us as we learn shelter building, fire building and other survival skills.

March 15 – Water

Water is vital to life. Come learn about the ecology, biology and properties of water that make aquatic systems so unique.

April 19 - Plants

We will study plants by learning about some of the amazing adaptations plants have to survive the climate of Minnesota.

May 17 - Soil

Dirt. It seems so basic but its characteristics are very important in shaping what grows and lives in certain areas. We will study the characteristics of the soil at Wargo.

