

Ojibway Nature Centre School Programs

Ojibway Park has long been a favourite destination for teachers and students. Located within the City of Windsor, its variety of habitats, *year round accessibility* and large nature centre make it an ideal place for class field trips.

Through *hands-on* activities, *investigative* hikes and presentations, students acquire an awareness and appreciation of our natural environment.

With accredited teachers on staff, the programs at Ojibway Nature Centre complement the objectives set out by the *Ministry of Education and Training and the Ontario Curriculum*.

We strive to create *meaningful* activities that help complete the education that is given in the classroom.



Ojibway Nature Centre

5200 Matchette Rd. Windsor, ON N9C 4E8 519-966-5852 www.ojibway.ca



Primary



White-tailed deer



Worksheets to reinforce hands-on learning



Green frog



Giant swallowtail feeding on tall ironweed

Seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring

Celebrate the uniqueness of our seasons at Ojibway! Highlights include: the brilliant leaf colours of fall, the busy bird activity in winter, and the awakening of insects and flowers in spring. Learn how animals meet their needs no matter what the season! Seeing, touching, smelling and listening will help students explore the wonders of Ojibway's natural environment. Attending all three sessions will illustrate the seasonal cycle of nature. Choose from a wildflower study, hands-on snake talk, scavenger hunt or leaf craft to complete your Ojibway exploration.

Fall Session: September to November

Winter Session: December to February

Spring Session: March to June

Polywogs & Frogs

Students become acquainted with the wetland dwellers of the Ojibway area through an interactive presentation, live exhibits and pond study. Sporting boots and buckets, students experience first hand the unique adaptations found within the water. Please note: a pond study can be added to any program as part of a full day at Ojibway!

Amazing Animals

This program highlights the lives of the amazing animals found at Ojibway Park. Their needs, characteristics and adaptations are discovered as the students are guided through Ojibway's forest, pond and prairie communities. An investigative hike, animal study and bird feeder watch are some of the activities designed to help the students develop a clear understanding of how animals have adapted to live in their natural environment. Choose from a scavenger hunt, hands-on snake talk, or stump study to complete your Ojibway exploration.

Wonderful Wildflowers

Students discover the variety of plants in Ojibway's three ecosystems: prairie, pond and forest. They investigate how plants provide food and shelter for wildlife as well as maintain the health of a habitat. The intriguing relationship between soil and plants is also revealed! Choose from a wildflower study, leaf challenge, or stump study to complete your Ojibway exploration.

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Junior – Intermediate - Senior

Ecosystem Exploration

Our most popular program! Learn about the three unique habitats at Ojibway. Hike under the canopy of the rare pin oak forest. Wander through the endangered tallgrass prairie and peer into our pond. Explore the biodiversity of these habitats and investigate their unique interactions, characteristics and challenges. This program includes worksheets and is tailored to grade level. Choose from a wildflower study, build-a-bird challenge, stump study or hands-on snake talk to complete your Ojibway exploration.

Tallgrass Prairie: an Endangered Space

Discover the incredible biodiversity of this endangered ecosystem right here in Windsor. Learn how humans have changed its landscape. Students will investigate the relationships that occur within this space, identify biotic and abiotic factors, and learn about its close relationship with fire. Program includes an interactive indoor presentation, extended prairie hike with worksheets and a hands-on snake talk.

Geocaching and GPS Technology (grade 9 and up)

Using a GPS has become a powerful tool in enhancing student understanding of geography, scientific inquiry, math concepts, physical education, and problem solving. Our Geocaching program will focus specifically on Earth Caches, such as unique features in the landscape, a type of habitat, a specific tree or even an animal home. In addition to geocaching, students will also conduct ecosystem monitoring with a GPS unit. They will document the occurrence of invasive species within the park (eg. garlic mustard, phragmites) and perform mapping.



Beautiful hiking trails



Black-capped chickadee



GPS technology



Endangered spaces and endangered species

Build Your Own Program



Eastern Screech-Owl



Hands-on snake talk



Pond and boardwalk

Build your own program!

Choose the activities that best suit your class.

Interactive Presentation (1/2 hour)

- General Ojibway** – An overview of life in Ojibway Park.
- Habitats of Ojibway** – Learn about the variety of habitats and creatures that call Ojibway home.
- Adaptations** – Discover the incredible ways that plants and animals have adapted to survive.
- Create your own unique presentation** – Contact Ojibway Nature Centre for details.

Guided Hike (1 hour)

- Prairie Hike** – Explore the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve.
- Pond Study** – Go scooping at our pond.
- Prairie, Pond and Forest Hike** – Hike through three unique habitats.
- Tree Hike** – Learn about the special trees in our Carolinian Forest.

Activity (1/2 hour)

- Snake Talk** – Get close to one of our resident snakes.
- Scavenger Hunt** – Learn a variety of plants and animals as you explore.
- Stump Study** – Get nose to nose with decomposers.
- Wildflower Study** – Use your observation and artistic skills.
- Bird or Leaf Identification** – Learn to identify at least 10 species.
- Build-a-Bird Challenge** – Your chance to be creative and inventive while designing an animal to suit a particular ecosystem.
- Dragonfly Pond** – Role-playing, decision-making and compromise are put to the test.
- Clean up** (min. 1 hour, grade 2 & up) – Help clean up our parks. Bags and gloves provided. Ask about free bussing.

Half day programs are \$5.50 per person. Full day programs are \$9.90 per person.
Fees apply to all persons (excluding staff). A minimum fee applies to groups of less than 20.

All funds support Ojibway Nature Centre.

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