St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

Conservation Education Programs
2019–2020

With links to
Physical Fitness
and
Mental Health

hands-on, curriculum-based elementary and secondary school programs

Please visit us online at www.scrca.on.ca/conservation-education
for a full list of program opportunities and additional details
OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Outdoor education brings classroom studies to life. We offer 24 hands-on elementary programs available at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area near Petrolia. Other Conservation Areas may be available for certain programs (discuss with our staff when booking). Most programs are 2 hours in length.

Primary/Junior Programs

**The Lorax (Grades JK–2)**
This Dr. Seuss story introduces students to the importance of clean air, freshwater, and animal habitats through a hike and environmental nature activities.

**Pond Pals (Grades JK–2)**
Hands-on investigation of the pond highlights this primary wetland study. Emphasis will be placed on the needs and habitat of pond critters.

**Fabulous Fall (Grades JK–4)**
Preparation for winter is the job of every living organism in the autumn. Hibernation, migration, fall flowers, life cycles, and a variety of other topics will be presented to your students by a series of slides, a nature hike, and activities.

**Nature in Winter (Grades JK–4)**
Through nature activities and a guided hike, students are encouraged to explore natural habitats in the winter. Topics to be investigated include how active animals meet their needs in harsh winter conditions, hibernation, and dormancy in plants. Highlights of the program include searching for animal tracks and a chance to hand-feed wild birds at the woodland bird feeder. Please note – there are no guarantees the birds will co-operate.

**Spring Has Sprung (Grades JK–4)**
Start your spring by studying the variety of changes that occur in nature. Flowers in blossom, budding trees, nest building, and animal habitats are all discussed.

**Oh Christmas Tree (Grades JK–4)**
Available November 27–December 10
Traditions and celebrations of early Christmas Trees are highlighted. Younger students make take-home tree crafts and older students learn identification of cone-bearing trees. An interpretive walk through the wintery forest can be run in lieu of crafts. Maximum 40 students.

Please visit our website for additional programs offered by the SCRCA including:
- **Owl Prowl**
- **Circle of Life**

Maple Syrup (Grades 2–3)
*Only offered March 24, 25, 26, 2020 at A.W. Campbell C.A.*
Experience the sights and sounds of the Sugar Bush from the First Nations and Pioneering perspective. Weather permitting, students may taste sap straight from the tree on an interpretive walk. Hands-on displays (yoke, brace and bit) will allow students to experience some of the pioneer sugar bush traditions.

More Than Just a Bunch of Trees (Grades 2–4)
Plants fuel all food chains on earth and the relationships they have with insects and other animals form the foundation of all habitats. Students will study the needs of plants, their relationships, and become *tree detectives* as they learn tree identification skills. Butterfly-net insect collection from a meadow can be included upon request.

Choose Your Own Adventure Orienteering (Grades 2–5)
Students navigate through a “Choose Your Own Adventure Story” with the aid of a map and compass to locate “adventure” stations. Along the route, animal survival decisions are made which determine the main character’s actions. Students earn “survival points” to determine the strongest survivor.

Slippery Soils (Grades 3–4)
Students are given a hands-on opportunity to explore a soil community, digging under leaves and logs to see who calls this habitat home. Soil formation, soil types, decomposition, and interconnections between soil, plants and habitats are all topics that are discussed through a guided hike and outdoor activities.
Junior/Intermediate Programs

Geocaching (Grades 3–10)
Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt using a Global Positioning System Receiver (GPS) and longitude and latitude coordinates to find hidden caches. During the 2 hour program, students will be taught how to mark and hide a cache. Students will then use the learned knowledge to locate hidden geocaches.

All-Day Geocaching Adventure (Grades 6–10)
You may choose to stay for an All-Day Geocaching Adventure – older grades can search for published geocaches. Following the morning program, students spend the afternoon searching for published geocaches at the 135 ha Conservation Area. Two program fees apply for full-day activities.

Boots, Birds and Bugs (Grades 4–6)
Aquatic food chains and adaptations are emphasized in this hands-on pond community investigation. Students dip their nets into the pond and identify the life forms they discover.

Endangered Species Game (Grades 4–6)
This active game introduces students to some of the Species at Risk found in Ontario. Through a role-playing activity, students will portray species trying to survive the many threats that imperil our wildlife.

Nature in Flight (Grades 4–6)
Winged animals, insects, birds and bats are used to examine flight. Adaptations allowing these animals to fly and the unique spaces they fill within their habitats will be discussed. Properties of air and the characteristics of flight will be identified and human impacts on winged animals will be explored.

Orienteering (Grades 4–8)
With compass and map in hand, students find their way through a designated course. Students learn the basic parts of both a map and a compass and how to use them together in order to orient themselves.

Instincts for Survival (Grades 4–10)
Survival of the fittest is the harsh law required for the balance of nature. This simulation game teaches students about animal interdependencies, predator/prey relationships, disease, elements, camouflage, and the various influences of humans.

A Bug’s World (Grades 6–8)
Investigation of vertebrates and invertebrates highlights this hands-on biodiversity study. Students collect and classify animals from two different habitats to observe the complex diversity of life. Examination of the organism, its community, and the abiotic parts of the ecosystem allow a greater understanding of the animal and its role within the ecosystem.

Conservation in Crisis; with GPS technology (Grades 6–8)
The state of the environment is a serious problem in our world today. Loss of habitat, pollution, erosion, and climate change are only a small portion of the problems we face. The Conservation Authority’s role in finding solutions to these problems will be explored through outdoor activities and a self-guided hike using GPS receivers. A short introduction to the GPS units is included.

Wild Wild Wetlands (Grades 7–8)
What is the value of a wetland? Students will explore this question through a guided hike and a hands-on wetland ecosystem study. Students will discover that plants, animals, and abiotic factors all play a vital role in the health of the ecosystem. Habitat, flood control, erosion, pollution, climate change, and ecosystem services will all be discussed.

Healing Hike (Grades 7–8)
Research continues to grow connecting time spent in nature with human health. Studies have shown that time spent in the forest is connected to an improvement in physical health and mental health. Join us for a ‘healing hike’ where a nature guide leads the group through a series of awareness building, stress-reducing activities allowing students to experience these benefits first-hand.

Pokecaching (Grades 4–8)
Pokecaching is a “Pokemon Go” inspired geocaching game designed by LKDSB Enrichment Students that puts Geography curriculum into action. Participating students will use GPS units to locate Pokecaches. Tokens will be collected for a “Pokemon Gym Battle” at the conclusion of the 2-hour program.
The SCRCA education program is sponsored in part by the generous contributions of:

**Outdoor Program Fees**
- $5.50 per student for a two-hour program
- $10.00 per student for 4 hours (2 programs)
- Minimum Fee: $110.00 per instructor (two-hour program)

**In-Class Program Fees**
- $100.00 per class for a 1-hour program
- $75.00 for each additional class for the same school on the same day
- $75.00 surcharge to cover mileage for schools outside the SCRCA watershed

*Some programs are sponsored and are free of charge – these are noted with the program

**In-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

A Conservation Education Instructor can be made available to bring the outdoors into your classroom. In addition to programs listed below, specialized programs can be developed including animal/plant preparation for winter/spring, life cycles, soils, etc. Activities can include powerpoint presentations, games and nature activities. Some activities can be played in the schoolyard. Please call for details.

**Aquatic Species at Risk (Grades 4–8)**
*Sponsored by Environment and Climate Change Canada
Offered mid-November–March
This program provides an in-depth look at LOCAL species at risk (including hands-on investigation of specimens). Exploration of the species, their importance, the factors that cause species decline, and the solutions available to help restore healthy populations are all discussed in the presentation.

**Spring Water Awareness (Grades JK–6)**
*Sponsored by Plains Midstream Canada
Offered March Only
Children often don’t think about the dangers of ice and waterways during the spring thaw. This program will highlight dangers to watch for – hypothermia, protecting floodplains, and the impact of climate change. An introduction to the natural world around us is also included through a powerpoint presentation and grade-appropriate activities.

**Go with the Flow (Grades JK–8)**
*Sponsored by the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association
Offered mid-November–March
Using an interactive Groundwater Model, this program demonstrates how interdependence links the soil, earth materials, and water, making them part of the same system needed to support life. Different activities for each Grade: Water in our Environment; Soil Erosion; Rocks and Minerals; Energy; Electricity; Ecosystems and Water Systems.

**St. Clair River Bottom Critters (Grades JK–8)**
*Sponsored by the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association
Offered mid-November, January and February
Students will explore live critters from the bottom of the St. Clair River which are used to determine the quality of the environment. They will discover that a healthy environment is important to everyone – industry and residents alike. **In-class Program**

**River RAP (Grades 6–8)**
*Sponsored by the Friends of the St. Clair River
Offered mid-November–March
Learn about local threats to our watershed using a hands-on ‘enviro-scape’ model. Students will learn about current strategies to ensure safe, healthy water for the St. Clair River community and the plants and animals that inhabit it.

For further information on how to book a program visit our website at www.scrca.on.ca

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