



# SCIENCE, HISTORY, ART IN OUR OWN BEAUTIFUL BACKYARD!

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

### CONTINUING PROGRAMS

<p><b>Marsh Mania—Spring or Fall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPS mapping—scavenger hunt</li> <li>• Marsh metaphor activity—The marsh is a ....?</li> <li>• Mapping animal and human uses of the marsh</li> <li>• Orienteering—use of compass and maps</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cool Runnings—Winter Ecology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observation skills and journaling</li> <li>• Snowshoeing (or hiking if no snow)</li> <li>• Photography with iPads</li> <li>• Study of the marsh in winter</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prairie &amp; Forest (September/October)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify prairie and forest habitats and recognize that prairies are an endangered habitat</li> <li>• Name 2 prairie plants and 2 forest plant adaptations</li> <li>• Identify 2 prairie plants and 2 forest plants</li> </ul>	<p><b>Birds &amp; Biodiversity (January/February)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define biodiversity</li> <li>• List and explain three bird adaptations</li> <li>• Identify 2 bird species</li> <li>• Winter ecology and snowshoeing</li> </ul>

### OTHER PROGRAM IDEAS OR BUILD YOUR OWN PROGRAM

<p><b>Hydrology on the Banks of the La Crosse River</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The watershed—maps and key concepts</li> <li>• Geography key concepts</li> <li>• Geology key concepts</li> <li>• Calculating flow rate</li> </ul> <p><b>Guided Rope Marsh Walk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group activity with blindfolds to use all senses except sight</li> <li>• Processing the experience</li> <li>• Written reflections</li> <li>• “The unforgettable #1 memory for kids”</li> </ul> <p><b>Cultural History in the Marsh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native American periods of history: 1600s-present</li> <li>• European history in marsh area</li> <li>• Slide show of La Crosse history</li> <li>• Recent history—marsh development issues</li> </ul>	<p><b>Art and Nature in the Marsh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observation and illustration</li> <li>• Scientific illustration</li> <li>• Photography and video techniques with iPad</li> </ul> <p><b>Experiencing the Science of the Wetlands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biotic indexing</li> <li>• Water filtration experiment</li> <li>• Hands-on Project WILD: data collection</li> <li>• Value and uses of wetlands</li> </ul> <p><b>Nature Protector Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive species education</li> <li>• Service learning component</li> <li>• Habitat restoration</li> </ul> <p><b>The HOPE program (Science of Climate Change)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOPE = Helping Our Planet’s Environment</li> <li>• Stations on ecosystems, phenology, inventory, movement, art in nature</li> </ul>
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### GENERAL FORMAT

- Two-hour sessions—packaged as desired with maximum of 2 per day
- Led by experts, linked to curriculum, tailored to classroom needs
- Group size: tailored to a grade level experience of one or several classrooms

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE

- High school career experiences—job shadowing, internships, mentors
- Art and nature—sketching, scientific illustration, digital photography
- Collaborative grants for new ideas
- Inservices for teachers on topics in various curriculum areas

*To reserve your day and time for any program or if you have questions, contact Stephanie Hanna, 608-769-5766 or email [steph.hanna@wisconsinconservation.org](mailto:steph.hanna@wisconsinconservation.org)*

*Fee: approximately \$4 per student; prices vary per program. Days and times programs are offered are limited, so contact us soon!*