Nature Field Trip Experiences

Hibernate or Migrate?
Grade Level: Pre-K - 3
What happens to plants and animals in the winter? How do they survive? Who leaves? Who stays and who plays? Learn all the tricks our local wildlife use to brave the winters with hands-on activities, a short hike and an animal talk.
Key concepts: *making observations, seasonal changes, migration, hibernation, adapt, weather*

Nature Exploration
Grade Level: Pre-K – 2
Through purposeful exploration and natural curiosity, students will build their observation and awareness skills in nature. We will connect our discoveries back to lessons in school and what the organisms that live in their backyards.
Key concepts: *sensory & motor skill development, smell, sight, sound, touch*.

Everybody Needs a Home
Grade Level: K - 4
Take a closer look at our local habitats and the animals that call them home! Hands-on activities, a guided hike and a habitat study will help students make connections and gain a better understanding about the world around us. (Activities & concepts may vary based on grade level).
Key concepts: *habitats, basic needs of living things, survival, ecosystems, habitat fragmentation*

Nature Senses
Grade: Pre-K - 3
Students will compare and contrast their own senses with our local plants and animals through fun, interactive hands-on activities. They will gain an understanding of plants and animals and how they use their senses to survive and thrive! (Activities will vary based on grade level).
Key concepts: *sensory & motor skill development, intro to plants & animals, smell, sight, sound, touch*

Fossils
Grade: 3—5
Through interactive studies on the rock cycle, glaciation, soils and fossilization students will become expert Junior Geologists. An exploratory hike takes students on a journey back in time before dinosaurs roamed. Program concludes with a fossil hunt where students can take home their very own fossils from the Little Miami River!
Key concepts: *geology, rock cycle, rock ID, earth materials, erosion, land formation, fossils, minerals*

Brain Twister
Grade: 4 - 8
This STEM program will allow students to think outside the box and create a 'lunar landing device' that will survive the drop down to the planet's surface. Using limited resources and fund from 'NASA' students will work together to create and test their device.
Key concepts: *teamwork, mathematics, budget planning, STEAM, inquiry learning*

Water, Water Everywhere? (Spring/Fall)
Grade Level: 4 –6 or 7—12 focus on River Chemistry
Students will investigate an important natural resource - water. Through this hands-on program, your scientists will learn how the water cycle works and test their own predictions using different
Methods of water quality testing.
Key concepts: *water cycle, properties of liquids, surface and ground water, erosion, physical and chemical properties of water, water quality, conservation*

Team Building
Grade 5 - 9
This program will challenge students to work together to successfully complete a series of team building activities. The importance of communication and attitude will be demonstrated throughout the program. After each activity, students will have the opportunity to debrief and discuss how they worked together as a whole.
Key concepts: *teamwork, communication, positive mental attitude*

Claws, Paws & Jaws
Grade 5 - 9
Discover how predators succeed at hunting their prey through a hands-on examination of skulls, claws, talons and more. What survival strategies do our local prey animals use to escape? Students will work in groups to identify skulls using a dichotomous key. The classification system will be introduced using engaging activities to help students gain an understanding of how and why living things are classified.
Key concepts: *predator, prey, adaptations, carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, classification*

Weather: Wild or Mild?
Grade 1 - 6
Weather can be unpredictable sometimes, but we can better understand weather patterns and make predictions by using science experiments! Through hands-on

experiments and a weather hike, students will gain a better understanding of how weather works and how it can affect our environment.
Key concepts: *Meteorology, water cycle, weather terminology, properties & states of water, natural disasters, climate, human impact*

Program time length:
All of our programs are between 1 ½ hour to 2 hours from start to finish. For school visits and multiple classroom visits; we suggest 40 45 minute sessions (or an entire class period). We can also visit on more than one day in the week to accommodate different grade levels or bigger class sizes.
***We offer customizable programs – including Naturalist career presentations.