

Eagle River Nature Center's 2023-2024 Nature Studies for Homeschoolers K-6th

Every month, the Eagle River Nature Center is excited to offer a 2 part workshop to focus in on a natural topic. These are geared toward elementary-aged students who are learning in a homeschool setting. Each workshop is \$50 total (includes both sessions). Please contact Samantha at naturalist@ernc.org with any questions or if you'd like to schedule a private workshop for your co-op!

REGISTRATION DETAILS

- 1) There are no refunds once payment is made.
- 2) We need a minimum of 5 students to hold a class. Max of 10. If a class is cancelled due to low enrollment or bad weather, we will reach out regarding rescheduling or refund.
- 3) Registration for classes is done online.
- 4) If your child is sick and you're enrolled for a series, please let us know as soon as possible BEFORE the class. You may select a different class as "make-up", assuming space is available. If you fail to attend a class without letting us know, you lose your chance of selecting a make-up class.
- 5) Questions? or contact us Samantha Blumenkönig naturalist@ernc.org

THIS IS THE RIGHT PROGRAM FOR YOUR FAMILY IF:

- **Your family is able to walk together with a group for up to 1 mile.** *All classes involve an outdoor portion, usually hiking on the Rodak Trail.*
- **Your student is on the path to literacy.** *Often there are simple, self-guided reading pieces of each program. Your student will be most successful if they are on their way to becoming independent readers, or you are able to help them to read.*
- **Your student is able to respectfully listen to others and take turns.** *In order for everyone to have a positive learning environment, the expectation is that students are able to take turns and listen to others.*
- **Your student practices good self-preservation.** *The naturalists and all of the adults are around to help ensure the physical safety of all students, however the student must have the awareness to not take risks that may derail the class, such as tree climbing or inappropriate horse play.*

SAFETY POLICY:

- 1) All children need to be accompanied by an engaged adult who is actively assisting and guiding children's learning, safety and behavior at all times. Our classes are facilitated with the expectation that adults learn and participate along with their students.
- 2) Siblings are welcome, but for safety reasons, each adult may only have 1 independently-walking pre-school child in their care during field trips (not counting babies in backpack or stroller).
- 3) When on the trail, all participants are expected to walk behind the guide, stay together, and follow instructions.
- 4) Pets are not allowed to attend these classes.

We are committed to the success of each student. We are happy to work with families to develop supports and accommodations for special needs.

PARENT SIGNATURE I have read and agree to these policies. (Special sign in sheet

What to expect:

Week 1: Welcoming Get-to-know-you activity (15 min)

“Lecture”/Slide show, with flexible note taking options (30 min)

Wiggle Break (10 min)

Rodak Walk on the theme with Nature Journal Break

Week 2: Nature Journal Gallery Walk + “I still want to know...”refresh conversation (20 min)

Station exploration/rotations (40 min)

Wiggle Break (10 min)

Craft Intro and execution!

Nature Studies for Homeschooled Students K-6th

Eagle River Nature Center

FALL 2023 SCHEDULE

FUNGUS AMONG US *AUGUST 2023*

Fungi are neither plants nor animals but comprise their own kingdom. We'll go on a “Detritus Safari” to discover how saprophytic fungi help break down forest garbage, and develop some simple tools to start identifying the diverse fungi that are essential to our boreal ecosystem. Finish this session with some ideas about how to cultivate your own fungi and how fungus just might save the world!

Key Skills: Hand lenses • Using identification guides

Unbe-LEAF-able Trees *SEPTEMBER 2023*

Explore plant growth & functions, then go on a leaf collection expedition and learn to identify tree species using a key. Discover how trees deal with winter. We'll also explore what tools foresters use to track the health of a forest.

Key skills: Some reading & math • Group participation • Use of a dichotomous key

Sun and Moon Studies *October 2023*

We'll start with some constellations storytelling inspired by the night sky. Study the phases of the moon, learn about the solar system, and look through a telescope at the night sky, conditions permitting. We'll wrap up by making a night sky journal for recording your observations.

Life around the Pond November 2023

They may be smaller than us, but salmon and beavers have a big impact on our landscape. Investigate beaver ecology and adaptations and explore how salmon nourish ecosystems—even the trees!

Key Skills: Group Participation • Safety around water • Some reading

SNOW YEAH! December 2023

Take a close look at snowflakes and learn about how rain/hail/snow are formed in the atmosphere. We'll study the phase changes of water, learn about avalanches, and go snowshoeing, weather permitting.

Key Skills: Hand lenses • Snowshoeing

TOPICS COMING UP IN 2024:

Dates/Times for Jan-April 2024 to be announced by mid November 2023

Phenology/Changes over Time January 2024

Habitats and Ecosystems February 2024

Birding March 2024

Aquatic Insects April 2024