

CAMP PROGRAMS OFFERED

DAY CAMPS: Pick one program from GROUP 1 and one from GROUP 2

OVERNIGHT CAMPS: Pick one program from GROUP 1, one from GROUP 2 and one from GROUP 3

GROUP 1:

CREEPY CRAWLY CRITTERS (aka ARTHROPODS):

This fascinating phylum, which includes spiders, scorpions, crustaceans and all different kinds of insects, is the largest on Earth, but one of the least understood. In this program, the truths behind some of the creepy crawly myths are explained, and students learn which of the many species are actually dangerous to humans. A live arthropod collection provides the class with an up-close view of some of our native examples, and fun gadgets, tools and visual aids give them a chance to see life through the eyes of an arthropod!

(Recommended for all ages)

MAIN TEKS APPLIED: K.4, 1.5, 1.9, 2.5, 2.9, 3.8, 3.9, 4.8, 5.9(A,B), 6.11, 6.12

ANIMAL EXPLORATION:

Fossil Rim has many unusual animals from all over the world - animals which most people never get to see up close, and, therefore, never get to see how truly amazing they are. Truly understanding an animal comes from exploring the details, the little pieces and parts that make up the whole, so in this hands-on program we give students the rare opportunity to examine the skulls, bones, teeth, fur, horns and antlers of some of our most exotic creatures. Once the class has a chance to see these variations for themselves, we can discuss what unique traits each animal has, what those traits tell us about them, and why we think they may have developed in the first place.

(Recommended for all ages)

MAIN TEKS APPLIED: 2.9, 3.9, 4.8, 5.9, 6.10

POST-VISIT MATERIALS: **Animal Exploration Crossword Puzzle**

CHEMICAL CAPTURE:

Being a wildlife veterinarian at Fossil Rim isn't easy, and in this exciting program students learn about some of the most dangerous tasks our vets undertake in the field. Classes discuss what it means to work with wild animals, learn what training and precautions must be taken, and hear real stories of what goes on behind the scenes at Fossil Rim. Each student will also get to test their vet-ability as they participate in a hands-on chemical capture activity that is guaranteed to be a hit!

(Recommended for all ages)

MAIN TEKS APPLIED: K.1, 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1

DYEING FROM NATURE:

In this day and age, most of us take the convenience of technology for granted, but in this program students are taken back through time to an era when man turned to nature for his needs. Students are shown examples of natural dyes and the plants, animals or minerals they came from, and then compare them with the modern methods that are used today. Then, as we prepare a cochineal concoction, each student will get a chance to try natural tie-dyeing for themselves.

For groups of less than 30 students only.

Note: Each student should bring a pre-washed, white T-shirt to tie-dye, or bandanas will be provided.

(Recommended for all ages)

GROUP 2:

LIFE AND DEATH ON THE PLAINS:

For hundreds of years, the Great Plains covered most of North America with its grasslands, providing a home for many different species of plants and animals. The largest - and perhaps most important - of all was the fabled bison, and in this program students will follow along through time as we relate the fate of these giant herds. After discussing the effect bison had on plant succession, the destruction of their huge populations, and how humans fit in to the balance, the class will play an exciting game of predator vs. prey in which every student will get to experience the hardships of survival on the plains first-hand!

(Recommended for all ages)

MAIN TEKS APPLIED: Science: (2.9, 3.8, 4.5, 4.10, 5.5, 7.5, 7.12) Social Studies: (5.9, 6.7, 7.10)

POST-VISIT MATERIALS: **Environmental Organizations in Texas**

THE BRINK OF EXTINCT:

Fossil Rim is a facility dedicated to conservation, and in this program we strive to bring the real meaning of this concept home to the students by discussing crucial matters such as what it means to be endangered, how an ecosystem functions, the interconnectivity of all life on earth, the role humans have played in the past and their responsibility for the future. Once the class has a grasp on how important it is to maintain balance in nature, everyone will participate in an exciting - and often hilarious - game that shows how delicate that balance really is!

(Recommended for all ages)

MAIN TEKS APPLIED: Science: (K.9, 4.5, 5.9) Social Studies: (5.9, 6.7)

POST-VISIT MATERIALS: **(Information sheets on international policies)**

BEHAVE YOURSELF:

Nearly everyone's heard that an opossum will play dead, or that a turtle will retreat into its shell when frightened, but there are many other examples of animal behavior that you may not have heard of before. In this program we will explore other examples of ways that animals communicate, play, interact, fight and defend themselves. We will get a chance to try reading animal behavior, and even practice using their language for ourselves.

(Recommended for all ages)

GROUP 3

NATIVE AMERICAN NATURE:

Native Americans depended on nature for their survival, spent much of their lives learning the ways of the land, and passed this knowledge down through generations using fables and songs. In this program each student will be invited to let their imagination take over as we gather around the campfire circle and experience what life was like for the Indians of our area. You will participate in a lively Plains Indian play, get hands-on with some of the plants they depended on most, and help "Cedar Tree" start the sacred campfire.

(Recommended for all ages)

MAIN TEKS APPLIED: Science: (8.14) Social Studies: (5.22, 5.23, 5.9, 6.18, 6.7, 7.10)

STARGAZING EXTRAVAGANZA:

People have been gazing up at the stars for thousands of years, using them as guides for everything from planting crops to building houses to navigating ships. Great stories have been woven around them, and many believed they were the homes of the spirits. In this program we explore one of nature's greatest mysteries through light-hearted games, discussions of the constellations of different cultures, the way stars have been used as guides, the physical makeup of the galaxies and, weather permitting, by doing some stargazing of our own.

(Recommended for all ages)

MAIN TEKS APPLIED:

NIGHT HIKE:

This is an option if you're interested in the darker side of hiking, or if the weather was not conducive to daytime hiking. Please ask your instructor beforehand.

Nature Hike and Fossil Dig:

Your group will take a hike through the woods experiencing nature at work. The guide will help look for different animal and plant life along the way. The hike will take the group to the fossil pit where you can search for fossils on three different levels. Many fossil's such as the Ammonite, Heart Urchin, Marine Snail, Pecten, Devil's Toenail, Clam, Starfish and many others have been found. Then returning back to Wolf Ridge.