



Fanshawe Conservation Area Fanshawe Outdoor Education Centre

Spring and Fall Primary Programs

Sensory Nature Hike

K-1 Fall and Spring

Students use their senses to gain awareness and appreciation of plants and animals while exploring various natural communities. Games and activities throughout the hike encourage interaction with classmates and the environment.

Fabulous Fall

K-1 Fall

Just like us, animals and plants are getting ready for winter. Through hiking, exploration, and play, students discover how wildlife are preparing for the seasonal changes ahead and how they are uniquely adapted to survive.

Spring Sensations

K-1 Spring

The return of songbirds marks the arrival of spring for many people. As friends of birds, we will gain a basic understanding of their behaviour by watching them with binoculars and playing games. In addition, the flush of new plant growth will not be overlooked on our hike. In the quiet of our Nature Corner, students can examine a collection of springtime secrets and mysteries.

Forest Free Play

K-1 Fall and Spring

A variety of pods, including a forest kitchen, featuring nature-related loose parts, make our forest an exciting play space to encourage imagination, creativity, observation, and building. Students will enjoy using their senses, natural curiosity, creativity, and sense of wonder to discover and interact with nature in a forest. Activities connect with seasonal changes.

Amazing Adaptations: Forest Animals!

1 and 2 Fall and Spring

Discover how different animals adapt to life in the forest. Solve puzzles and explore how animals have different behavior and physical adaptations through various hands-on activities.

Amazing Adaptations: Bugs!

1 and 2 Fall and Spring

Explore and discover the wonders of insect adaptation. Experience the stages of complete metamorphosis and discover how some bugs eat, move, and see! Students will get to catch and examine insects that live in the meadow at Fanshawe Conservation Area.

Flap n' Map

2-3 Fall and Spring

Learn about the hazards and thrills of Monarch butterfly migration in a choose your own adventure map reading exercise. Additional activities focus on learning cardinal directions, and the anatomy and life cycle of a butterfly.

Plant Studies

3 Fall and Spring

Exploring plantations and meadows, playing games, and using dichotomous tree keys, students will gain a basic understanding of plants. Watch out for the Enemies of the Forest in a tree survival game!

Get the Dirt on Soil

3 Fall and Spring

Students will role play as soil scientists to test soil and learn about its different properties and types. By getting their hands dirty, they will discover how soil sustains life. We are sure they will "worm" up to it!

Watery World

2-4 Fall and Spring

Students search for and observe a variety of aquatic life with dip nets at the pond. Discover how bugs help us learn about the quality of the water, and join in the games to better understand metamorphosis by becoming a dragonfly, damselfly, and other aquatic animals. Remember your boots and sense of awe!

Slow the Flow STEM+

3, 3.5 hrs - \$20 per/student Spring

After an interpretive tour across the top of the Fanshawe Dam, this special hands-on STEM program focuses on the local issue of flooding and erosion, told from the perspective of a local Mink we call "Muddy". Students work cooperatively in small groups to complete experiments with surfaces and soils, and learn about the important water control functions and services provided by plants. Students go back outside to discover more about the plants found at Fanshawe.

Winter Primary Programs

Winter for the Animals

K-1 Max 60 students

A winter themed puppet show introduces students to familiar animals and their winter survival strategies, including hibernation, migration and adapting. Students observe and feed birds, look for evidence of animal life outside, and gather together for a cozy winter story.

Christmas for the Animals

K-1 Max 60 students

A seasonal themed puppet show introduces familiar animals, their winter survival strategies, and their excitement for the holiday season. Students observe and feed birds, and leave "presents" for other winter active animals. An animal story, and a carol sing-along with jingling bells conclude this heart warming winter program.

Both programs offered Nov 20th- Dec 20th, 2024. Winter for the Animals continues in early January**

Winter Wildlife Wonders

2

Students will discover adaptations animals have made to survive seasonal changes, and will observe and understand how an animals needs are met in the winter, using evidence.

Hide Hunt Hoard

3-4

Students will learn about different food and shelter sources that animals use to survive in winter, and discover more about the winter habits and habitats of different animal groups.

Program Fee

\$8.00/student/program
\$136 minimum charge for groups with fewer than 16 participants
No charge for leaders or parent volunteers

For bookings: Complete the google form or contact -

Kim Gilbert, Community Education Technician
519-451-2800 ext 284
gilbertk@thamesriver.on.ca