



2012 Wildcat Hills Nature Center Educational Programs



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Why Wildcat Hills?

The Wildcat Hills Nature Center is located approximately 8 miles south of Gering, off of Hwy 71. The rugged sandstone buttes and ponderosa pine-clad canyons are an invitation to explore nature!

Students will discover ecosystems found only in western Nebraska, through hands-on, cross-curriculum programs. Certified staff, Amanda Filipi, will lead various field trips and programs that are targeted to your students needs and grade level.

This booklet will provide you with a list of programs and field trips offered by the Wildcat Hills Nature Center. Not finding a program to fit your lesson plan? Other lesson topics are available and we can adapt our offering to provide the best

learning experience for your students.

Please contact Amanda at 308-436-3777 or amanda.filipi@nebraska.gov to inquire about our field trips or classroom programs!

A valid Nebraska State Park Sticker is required for non-government vehicles.



Nature Deficit Disorder

Nature Deficit Disorder

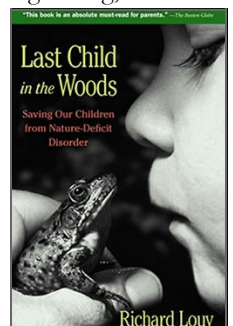
- Students today spend over 50 hours a week on electronic media!
- Children under 8 years old can identify 25% more Pokémon characters than local wildlife!
- Children under the age of 13 spend on average only 30 minutes per week outside in free-style play.

What is Nature Deficit Disorder? The term Nature Deficit disorder was coined by author Rickard Louv in his book "*Last Child in the Woods.*" It can be described as an over-stimulation of our children and their disconnect from the natural world. Nature Deficit disorder results in the diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties, higher rates of physical and emotional illness and fear of the natural world.

The latest studies show that youth between the ages of 8 to 18 spend an average of over 7 hours a day on electronic media, totally over 50 hours a week!

The way things are going the next generation will be fundamentally unprepared for the challenges and decisions they face regarding the natural world. They will not understand the connection between themselves and the natural places where they live.

Good New! There has been a movement in the last few years to reconnect children to nature! Outdoor based learning helps develop critical processes skills, observation, analysis, problem solving, organizing, cause and effect and hand-eye coordinator.



Classroom Programs

Don't have funding to travel, that's okay, the Nature Center Programs will come to you! These programs are targeted for students in grades K-5th, but can be adapted for any age level. These programs can vary in length, depending on your schedule! (Typical program ~30 to 60 minutes) A maximum of ~30 students is recommended!

Habitat Match: Could a Polar Bear live in Nebraska? Students will explore habitats and animals around Nebraska and their special adaptations. They will use their creative side to create an animal that is adapted for living in different habitats.

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.1.1.g, SC2.3.1.a, SC2.3.1.b, SC2.3.1.c, SC2.3.1.d, SC2.3.4.a, SC5.3.1.c, SC5.3.1.b, SC5.3.3.c, SC5.3.3.d, SC5.3.4.a, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

CSI (Critter Scene Investigation): Follow the clues left behind by wildlife to unravel the mystery of what happened at the scene. Students will conduct investigations, use tools, and record observations.

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.a, 2.1.1.b, 2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.e, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.1.1.g, SC 5.1.1.a, SC5.1.1.b, SC5.1.1.d, SC5.1.1.e, SC5.1.1.f, SC5.1.1.g, SC5.1.1.i, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Skulls and Skins: Investigate skulls and skins of several common Nebraska mammals, birds and reptiles while learning about their special adaptations. Learn about the herbivores, carnivores and omnivores of the area by examining their skulls and teeth!

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.a, 2.1.1.b, 2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.e, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.1.1.g, SC2.3.1.a, SC2.3.1.b, SC2.3.1.c, SC2.3.1.d, SC 2.3.2.a, SC 2.3.2.b, SC2.3.4.a, SC5.3.1.b, SC5.3.2.a, SC5.3.2.b, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Outstanding Owls: Come along and learn about our nocturnal feathered friend, the owl! Get acquainted their amazing adaptations, unique features and even dissect an owl pellet! Student will conduct investigations, use tools and record observations.

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.a, 2.1.1.b, 2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.e, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.1.1.g, SC2.3.1.a, SC2.3.1.b, SC2.3.1.c, SC2.3.1.d, SC 2.3.2.a, SC 2.3.2.b, SC2.3.4.a, SC5.3.1.b, SC5.3.2.a, SC5.3.2.b, SC5.3.3.a, SC5.3.3.b, SC5.3.3.d, SC5.3.4.a, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Reptiles and Amphibians: Slithering snakes, terrific turtles, and awesome amphibians! Get an up-close and personal look at these interesting critters! Students will learn about native Nebraskan reptiles and amphibians and their adaptations.

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.a, SC2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.3.2.b, SC2.3.1.c, SC2.3.1.d, SC2.2.1.a, SC2.3.2.b, SC2.3.4.a, SC5.3.1.b, SC5.3.2.a, SC5.3.2.b, SC5.3.3.a, SC5.3.3.b, SC5.3.3.d, SC5.3.4.a, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Other suggested themes: Please remember, your program topic can be tailored to fit your group's specific needs. Ask us about a topic of your choice.

*In the end we will conserve
only what we love. We will love
only what we understand.
We will understand only
what we are taught.”*

-Baba Dioum



K-2nd Grade Field Trips

Travel out to the Wildcat Hills Nature Center and experience, *Near Nature, Near Perfect!* The field trips are correlated with several state science and language art standards. These programs can vary in length, depending on your schedule! (Typical program ~30 to 60 minutes)

Nature Explorer: Explore Nature! Discover the Wildcat Hills with a nature hike, hands-on observation and activity. Students will record observations, use simple tools and explore native habitats and the wildlife that live there.

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.a, SC2.1.1.c, SC2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.e, SC2.1.1.g, SC2.3.1.a, SC2.3.1.c, SC2.3.1.d, SC2.3.4a, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c

Healthy Habitats: Uncover the basic needs of living things! Food, water, shelter and space are essential to survive. Student will explore the various habitats of the Wildcat Hills and the life it supports.

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.c, SC2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.e, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.1.1.g, SC2.3.1.a, SC2.3.1.b, SC2.3.1.c, SC2.3.1.d, SC2.3.4.a, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c

As We Grow: Unearth the changes that occur to living things! Students will explore changes in life cycles of familiar Nebraska wildlife and understand that living things grow and change.

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.a, SC2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.e, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.1.1.g, SC2.3.1.b, SC2.3.1.c, SC2.3.1.d, SC2.3.2a, SC2.3.2b, SC2.3.4a, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c

Astounding Observations: Let's discover nature by using all of our senses! Come along on a guided nature hike and discover the smells, sounds, textures and sights of nature. Students will conduct investigations, use simple tools, and record observations.

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.a, 2.1.1.b, 2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.e, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.1.1.g, SC2.3.1.a, SC2.3.1.d, SC2.3.2.b, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c

Camouflage Critters: Why would some critters want to blend in and some don't? Come along and unravel the mystery behind this question. Students will learn about camouflage through hands-on observations and activities.

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.a, 2.1.1.b, 2.1.1.c, 2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.e, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.1.1.g, SC2.3.1.a, SC2.3.1.b, SC2.3.1.c, SC2.3.1.d, SC2.3.2.b, SC2.3.4.a, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c

Feathered Friends: Examine our fine, feathered friends up close!! Flap over and find out about birds amazing adaptations, extensive migrations and even learn about research being done in the area. Students will take a guided nature hike, learn to use binoculars, conduct a migration activity and much more!!

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.a, 2.1.1.b, 2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.e, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.1.1.g, SC2.3.1.a, SC2.3.1.b, SC2.3.1.c, SC2.3.1.d, SC 2.3.2.a, SC 2.3.2.b, SC2.3.4.a, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c

Tracks and Scat: Come along on a nature hike and follow the clues left behind by wildlife to unravel the mystery of what happened! Discover animal tracks, signs and scat left behind! Students will conduct an investigation, use simple tools and record observations!

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.a, 2.1.1.b, 2.1.1.c, 2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.e, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.1.1.g, SC2.3.1.a, SC2.3.1.b, SC2.3.1.d, SC2.3.2.b, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c

Incredible Insects (Seasonal): What animal has six legs, compound eyes and three body parts? Insects! Come along and search for interesting insects of the Wildcat Hills, learn about their amazing adaptations and learn about their life cycles.

Standards Met: SC2.1.1.a, 2.1.1.b, 2.1.1.c, 2.1.1.d, SC2.1.1.e, SC2.1.1.f, SC2.1.1.g, SC2.3.1.a, SC2.3.1.b, SC2.3.1.c, SC2.3.1.d, SC2.3.2.a, SC2.3.2.b, SC2.3.4.a, LA 0.3.1.b, LA 1.1.3.d, LA 1.1.5.d, LA 1.1.6.j, LA 1.1.6.o, LA 1.2.2.a, LA 2.2.1.g, LA 2.2.2.c, LA 2.3.1.a, LA 2.3.2.d, LA 2.3.3.a, LA 2.3.3.b, LA 2.3.3.c

Seasonal Discovery: There is always something new happening at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center! Students will learn to observe how plants and animals respond to seasonal changes.

Nature Center Scavenger Hunt: Explore the Wildcat Hills Nature Center! Find the different tracks, mounts and ever changing displays through an interactive scavenger hunt.

Other suggested themes: Please remember, your program topic can be tailored to fit your group's specific needs. Ask us about a topic of your choice.

3rd-5th Grade Field Trips

The Wildcat Hills Nature Center offers a variety of field trips! Not finding a topic! Just let us know and we will adapt any program to fit your classroom needs! These programs can vary in length, depending on your schedule! (Typical program ~30 to 60 minutes)

Tracks and Scat: Come along on a nature hike and follow the clues left behind by wildlife to unravel the mystery of what happened! Uncover animal tracks, signs and scat left behind! Students will conduct an investigation, select equipment and record observations!

Standards Met: SC5.1.1.a, SC5.1.1.b, SC5.1.1.d, SC5.1.1.e, SC5.1.1.f, SC5.1.1.g, SC5.1.1.i, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Amazing Adaptions: How do animals survive in a changing environment? Adaptations!! Student will learn about the cool adaptations found throughout the plants and animals of Nebraska. Be prepared to use your creative side to build an animal with adaptations to fit in a specific environment!

Standards Met: SC5.3.1.b, SC5.3.3.c, SC5.3.3.d, SC5.3.4.a, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Food Chain: Notice how all living things are linked together through food chains. Students will learn about the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers and how they impact the environment through hands-on activities.

Standards Met: SC5.3.3.a, SC5.3.3.b, SC5.3.3.c, SC5.3.3.d, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Feathered Friends: Examine our fine, feathered friends up close!! Discover birds amazing adaptations, extensive migrations and even learn about research being done in the area. Students will take a guided nature hike, learn to use binoculars, conduct a migration activity and much more!!

Standards Met: SC5.1.1.a, SC5.1.1.b, SC5.1.1.d, SC5.1.1.e, SC5.1.1.f, SC5.1.1.g, SC5.1.1.i, SC5.3.1.a, SC5.3.1.b, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Healthy Habitats: Unearth the basic needs of living things! Food, water, shelter and space are the essential to survive. Student will explore the various habitats of the Wildcat Hills and the life it supports.

Standards Met: SC5.3.1.a, 5.3.1.b, SC5.3.3.b, SC5.3.3.c, SC5.3.3.d, SC5.3.4.a, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Nature Journaling: Fine tune your observation skills around the Nature Center. Student will be given the opportunity to sketch from nature and practice descriptive writing and poetry in their own personal journal.

Standards Met: SC5.1.1.d, SC5.1.1.g, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Wonderful Water: Water, water, everywhere! Come along and travel through the water cycle through hands-on activities and experiments!

Standards Met: SC5.3.3.c, SC5.3.3.d, SC5.3.4.a, LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Astounding Observations: Let's discover nature by using all of our senses! Come along on a guided nature hike and discover the smells, sounds, textures and sights of nature. Students will conduct investigations, use simple tools, and record observations.

Standards Met: LA 3.1.6p, LA 3.2.2.c, LA 3.3.2.b, LA 4.2.1.f, LA 5.3.1.a, LA 5.3.1.b, LA 5.3.2.a, LA 5.3.3.a, LA 5.3.3.b, LA 5.3.3.c, LA 5.2.2.b, LA 5.3.2.b, LA 5.3.2.c

Seasonal Discovery: There is always something new happening at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center! Students will learn to observe how plants and animals respond to seasonal changes.

Nature Center Scavenger Hunt: Explore the Wildcat Hills Nature Center! Find the different tracks, mounts and ever changing displays through an interactive scavenger hunt.

Other suggested themes: Please remember, your program topic can be tailored to fit your group's specific needs. Ask us about a topic of your choice.

6th—8th Grade Field Trips

The field trips are correlated with several state science and language art standards. These programs can vary in length, depending on your schedule! (Typical program ~30 to 60 minutes)

Tracks and Scat: Come along on a nature hike and follow the clues left behind by wildlife to unravel the mystery of what happened! Discover animal tracks, signs and scat left behind! Students will conduct an investigation, select equipment and record observations!

Standards Met: SC8.1.1.e, SC8.1.1.f, SC8.1.1.g, SC8.1.1.h, LA 8.3.1.a, LA 8.3.1.b, LA 8.3.2.a, LA 8.3.2.b, LA 8.3.2.c, LA 8.3.3.a, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.c

Amazing Adaptions: How do animals survive in a changing environment? Adaptations!! Student will learn about the cool adaptations found throughout the plants and animals of Nebraska. Be prepared to use your creative side to build an animal with adaptations to fit in a specific environment!

Standards Met: SC8.3.3.e, SC8.3.3.f, SC8.3.3.g, SC8.3.4.a, SC8.3.4.b, SC8.3.3.g, SC8.3.1.e, LA 8.3.1.a, LA 8.3.1.b, LA 8.3.2.a, LA 8.3.2.b, LA 8.3.2.c, LA 8.3.3.a, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.c

Food Chain: Discover how all living things are linked together through food chains. Students will learn about the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers and how they impact the environment through hands-on activities,

Standards Met: SC8.3.1.e, SC8.3.3.a, SC8.3.3.b, SC8.3.3.c, SC8.3.3.d, SC8.3.3.e, SC8.3.3.f, SC8.3.3.g, SC8.4.3.a, LA 8.3.1.a, LA 8.3.1.b, LA 8.3.2.a, LA 8.3.2.b, LA 8.3.2.c, LA 8.3.3.a, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.c

Feathered Friends: Examine our fine, feathered friends up close!! Discover birds amazing adaptations, extensive migrations and even learn about research being done in the area. Students will take a guided nature hike, learn to use binoculars, conduct a migration activity and much more!!

Standards Met: SC8.3.3.e, SC8.3.3.f, SC8.3.3.g, SC8.3.1.e; SC8.3.4.a, SC8.3.4.b, SC8.3.4.c, LA 8.3.1.a, LA 8.3.1.b, LA 8.3.2.a, LA 8.3.2.b, LA 8.3.2.c, LA 8.3.3.a, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.c

Healthy Habitats: Discover the basic needs of living things! Food, water, shelter and space are the essential to survive. Student will explore the various habitats of the Wildcat Hills and the life it supports.

Standards Met: SC8.3.3.g, SC8.3.4.a, LA 8.3.1.a, LA 8.3.1.b, LA 8.3.2.a, LA 8.3.2.b, LA 8.3.2.c, LA 8.3.3.a, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.c

Nature Journaling: Fine tune your observation skills around the Nature Center. Student will be given the opportunity to sketch from nature and practice descriptive writing and poetry in their own personal journal.

Standards Met: SC8.1.1.e, SC8.1.1.f, SC8.1.1.h, LA 8.3.1.a, LA 8.3.1.b, LA 8.3.2.a, LA 8.3.2.b, LA 8.3.2.c, LA 8.3.3.a, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.b, LA 8.3.3.c

Seasonal Discovery: There is always something new happening at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center! Students will learn to observe how plants and animals respond to seasonal changes.

Nature Center Scavenger Hunt: Explore the Wildcat Hills Nature Center! Discover the tracks, mounts and ever changing displays through an interactive scavenger hunt.

Other suggested themes: Please remember, your program topic can be tailored to fit your group's specific needs. Ask us about a topic of your choice.



Pre-K Programs/Field Trips

Activities meet several Head Start Domains and NAEYC Accreditation Criteria. Just ask to see what standards and correlations are met by each activity!

First Impressions

What is your favorite animal? Is it warm and fuzzy or slick and scaly? Let's discover our 'first impressions' to many animals found in the area. We will use movement and math to show how we think about these animals.

Astounding Observations

Let's discover nature by using all of our senses! Come along on a guided nature hike and discover the smells, sounds, textures and sights of nature. Students will conduct investigations, use simple tools, and record observations.

Nature Explorer

Explore Nature! Discover the Wildcat Hills with a nature hike, hands-on observation and activity. Students will record observations, use simple tools and explore native habitats and the wildlife that live there.

As We Grow

Discover the changes that occur to living things! Students will explore changes in the life cycles of familiar Nebraska wildlife and understand that living things grow and change.

What is Wild?

What makes an animal wild? Is it fur, claws or teeth?! Discover the difference between wild and domestic animals through a hands-on animal sort activity with an engaging story!

Bird Beak Buffet

Explore the special functions of bird beaks through hands-on discovery. Learn about bird adaptations, come along on a birding hike and much more!

Seasonal Discovery:

There is always something new happening at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center! Students will learn to observe how plants and animals respond to seasonal changes. Topics may include: Looking at Leaves, Spiders, Observations skills, Turkeys, Animal tracks, the Blue Sea, Trees, Ants, Grasshoppers, Worms, Fish, Owls, Deer, Bears, Seeds, Food Webs and much more! Please remember, your program topic can be tailored to fit your group's specific needs. Ask us about a topic of your choice.

Nature Center Scavenger Hunt:

Explore the Wildcat Hills Nature Center! Discover the tracks, mounts and ever changing displays through an interactive scavenger hunt.

Other suggested themes:

Please remember, your program topic can be tailored to fit your group's specific needs. Ask us about a topic of your choice.



Homeschool Programs

The homeschool programs will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month starting at 10:00am at the Nature Center (*unless otherwise noted). Each month is a different program topic! These programs will be conducted rain or shine, so be prepared for the unpredictable Nebraska weather!

January 18, 2012

Tracks and Scat: Come along on a nature hike and follow the clues left behind by wildlife to unravel the mystery of what happened! Discover animal tracks, signs and scat left behind in the snow! Students will conduct an investigation, use simple tools and record observations!

February 15, 2012

Outstanding Owls: Come along and learn about our nocturnal feathered friend, the owl! Learn about their amazing adaptations, unique features and even dissect an owl pellet! Student will conduct investigations, use simple tools and record observations.

March 21, 2012

Healthy Habitats: Uncover the basic needs of living things! Food, water, shelter and space are the essential to survive. Student will explore the various habitats of the Wildcat Hills and the life it supports.

April 18, 2012

As We Grow: Discover the changes that occur to living things! Students will explore changes in the life cycles of familiar wildlife and understand that living things grow and change.

May 16, 2012

Interesting Insects: What animal has six legs, compound eyes and three body parts? Insects! Come along and search for interesting insects of the Wildcat Hills, learn about their amazing adaptations and learn about their life cycles.

September 19, 2012

Feathered Friends: Examine our fine, feathered friends up close!! Discover birds amazing adaptations, extensive migrations and even learn about research being done in the area. Students will take a guided nature hike, learn to use binoculars, conduct a migration activity and much more!!

October 17, 2012

Overwhelming Observations: Let's discover nature by using all of our senses! Come along on a guided nature hike and discover the smells, sounds, textures and sights of nature. Students will conduct investigations, use simple tools, and record observations.

*November 14, 2012

Camouflage Critters: Why would some critters want to blend in and some don't? Come along and unravel the mystery behind this question. Students will learn about camouflage through hands-on observations and activities.

*December 12, 2012

Pristine Pines: Pretty, prickly pines! Come along and learn about their amazing adaptations for living in the Wildcat Hills! Discover their unique seeds, leaves and root systems!



Wildcat Hills Nature Center

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E-mail: amanda.filipi@nebraska.gov

We strive to offer the best outdoor learning experience for your students. Please inform us before your learning experience of any special needs or accommodations that would enhance your students learning. Due to the nature of field-based programming, Wildcat Hills Nature Center aims to provide instructors to maintain a 15:1 student: instructor ratio for all programs. Please bring teachers and adults with your group to maintain a student: instructor ratio that is age and ability-appropriate. A valid Nebraska State Park Sticker is required for non-government vehicles.

A majority of these programs will have a portion conducted in the out-of-doors. Please make sure your students are prepared for inclement and ever changing Nebraska weather! Closed toed shoes (no sandals), water bottles, jackets/coats, sunscreen, etc....

Find Us on the Web!
www.outdoornebraska.gov
See You Out There



In-Service Educational Workshops

Tired of the same ol' workshops? Take a walk on the WILD side!!

The Wildcat Hills Nature Center offers several nature-related workshops and training for educators. These curriculums provide you with standards based activities to fit engage students in the great outdoors!

The workshops are targeted for educators teaching Pre-K through 12th grade! Length of the workshop may vary in length, (depending on which curriculum) but most workshops require just 6 hours. Participants

receive a certificate, curriculum guides, hands-on learning, additional resources and knowledge and skills! Continuing education credits may also be available!

Training available include:

- Project WILD
- Project Learning Tree
- Project Water Education for Teachers (WET)
- Growing Up WILD
- PLT Environmental Experience for Early Childhood
- and many more!

A small fee for some workshops will be required! Length of workshop will vary. Minimum attendance for a workshop is 10 participants.

For more information about educational workshops contact Amanda Filipi at 308-436-3777 or amanda.filipi@nebraska.gov

