

# Bremer County Conservation Environmental and Recycling Programs

## *August 2025*



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***Greetings!*** Bremer County Naturalists are able to present in your classroom for free. We will schedule outdoor days and field trips also. We do only outdoor programs or field trips in the month of May and it books up very quickly. These programs are just a sampling of what we offer. We are happy to tailor/create new programs to suit your classroom's curriculum needs.

***When scheduling:*** To schedule a program for your group contact Angie [angie.ael@co.bremer.ia.us](mailto:angie.ael@co.bremer.ia.us) or Liz [lwilgenbusch@co.bremer.ia.us](mailto:lwilgenbusch@co.bremer.ia.us) Before you call or e-mail, please have the following information ready:

- Day of week/time selections for program (we like to visit all classes in one day)
- Name or description of program(s) you would like to schedule
- Number of groups you will be scheduling for (groups size is class size or smaller)
- Number of people per group
- Arrival and departure times for your group (be sure and check with the bus garage) or a schedule of specials, recess, and lunch if the programs are to be presented at your site
- Plans for lunch - will you be eating at the park or returning to school; how long is your lunch; what is your normal lunch time?

After scheduling a visit, we will send you a confirmation that includes all the details discussed.

*In the Tall, Tall Grass:* Based on the Denise Fleming book and has sounds that go along with the book as well as a craft that “hides” animals in the tall, tall grass.

**PK-K 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors**

### *Spiders*

Basic information on spiders is provided. Spider replicas and a coloring page are used.

**PK-1st 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *The Salamander Room*

There is a felt board activity to go along with this book. Students will do a salamander color sheet or craft to follow up.

**PK-1st 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors**

### *Seasons*

We will celebrate the season we are in with activities/crafts from that season. Leaves, Pumpkins or Apples can be requested for fall.

**PK-1st 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Squirrels and Acorns*

We will discuss squirrels and how it uses acorns for food. We will also sort, count and use acorns during the program. Please let us know if you have a nut allergy in your class!

**PK-1st 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Snowflakes*

Learn about the different types of snowflakes. A book will be shared along with a snowflake matching activity.

**PK-1st 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Polar Bears and Penguins*

Students will learn about how these cold weather animals survive on opposite poles.

**PK-1st 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors**

### *Oviparous Animals*

We read a book. Each student will be given a card to put themselves into non-oviparous or oviparous groups. Then students will cut and glue different animals in categories.

**PK-1st 45 minutes**

**Location: Indoors**

*Babies & Parents:* A quick lesson discusses that babies can come from eggs or be born alive. Some babies look like their parents and others don't. There are several animal match activities & a book to make this one fun.

**PK-1st 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Garbage Monster*

After reading the story, *The Garbage Monster*, the teacher will dress up one of the students with our pretend garbage props. The rest of the class can then take a turn “shrinking the garbage monster” through composting, recycling, and reusing. This program can also be combined with a field trip to the recycling center.

**PK-1st 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or at Recycling Center**

### *Nocturnal Animals*

Students will discover the life of animals that are awake at night.

**PK-2nd 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Animals Prepare for Winter*

How do animals know when winter is coming? Find out where they live and how they survive.

**PK-2nd 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors**

### *Camouflage*

What is it? Why do animals have it? Students will learn about camouflage. Animal pictures and a book will be used. During the fall or spring, a camouflage game can be played outside where we will look for colored noodles. During winter months we will hide animals in the classroom.

**PK-2nd 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *WaterWorks!*

Students will investigate the properties of water and engineer the movement of water. Students can produce an action to move water, observe it and then use various containers to play while learning.

**PK-2nd 30-45 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**



### *Light & Shadows*

Teacher can pick groundhog or rabbit's shadow book. Students can deepen their understanding of how objects can be seen if it is lit by light, and that some materials allow light to pass through while others block light. Students use light and shadow to produce shadows and then a shadow performance will tell a story.

**PK-2nd** 30-45 minutes

**Location: Indoors**

### *Turkey Talk*

Learn the basics of wild turkeys in Iowa. Students will see feathers, feet and a pretend head.

**PK-3rd** 30 - 45 minutes

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Worms Eat My Garbage*

Students will learn the different jobs of worms in nature. We discuss what should or shouldn't go into the worm bin and how to care for the worms. And of course, everyone gets to meet the worms! Classes can also "worm-sit" for extended learning opportunities.

**PK-5th** 30-45 minutes

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Animal Tracks*

Students will learn about animal tracks while listening to a book and creating their own animal tracks. Grades 3rd-8th will try to solve a tracks mystery by identifying tracks and movements.

**PK-8th** 30-45 minutes

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Recycling Center Tour (Field Trip!)*

Experience the recycling process first hand! Tour your local recycling center, find out what materials are processed there and what they might become.

**PK-12th** 30 minutes

**Location: Recycling Center**

### *Birds & Eggs*

Students will learn bird basics. We can use binoculars to observe birds, listen to bird calls, discuss migration, read a book, share our bird stuffed animals or talk about eggs. Students can visit the Babcock Woods Bird Blind in Waverly.

**PK-Adult** 30-60 minutes

**Location: Indoors or outdoors; Babcock Woods Bird Blind**

### *Trash to Treasures*

Take what many would consider garbage and turn it into a unique gift that everyone will enjoy!

**PK-Adult** 30-45 minutes

**Location: Indoors**

### *Mammals of Iowa*

Students will learn the terms predator, prey, carnivore, herbivore, and omnivores. We will take a look at furs and skulls.

**PK-Adult** 30-45 minutes

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Dinosaurs*

Students will work together as paleontologists in a "dig" for dinosaur bones. The bones are plaster of Paris and are in a tub of sand.

**K-2nd** 30 minutes

**Location: Indoors**

### *Oceans*

Learn about the world's five oceans. Layers of the ocean, zones and animals found in the ocean will be discussed depending on the grade level. Animal replicas and a book will be shared with students.

**K-3rd** 45 minutes

**Location: Indoors**

### *Bumble Bees*

Students will learn all about the importance of bumble bees in the environment. They will learn about the bumble bees lifecycle and create their own bee. A pollinator cube game can be played.

**K-3rd** 30-45 minutes

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *The Life of a Water Droplet*

Students will learn about the water cycle. A water dice activity allows students to move from ocean to clouds as a water molecule. There is a matter version of the water program that discusses states of water: solid, liquid, and gas.

**K-4th** 30 minutes

**Location: Indoors**

### *Bats*

Students will learn about bats and their importance while exploring some of the common myths surrounding this unique creature. An echolocation game called Bat & Moth shows kids how bats find food.

**K-4th** 30 minutes

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Insects*

Students will learn the basics of insects. We can collect insects with nets during the fall and/or monarch tagging in August-September. Life cycle replicas can be used.

**K-6th 30-45 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Mini Recycling Center*

Read a story of Agatha's Feather Bed. Then use our kid-powered conveyor to simulate how recyclable materials are sorted in a recycling facility (by humans and magnets). Discuss how these materials are transformed into new products.

**K-6th 45 minutes**

**Location: Indoors**

### *Fishing*

Students will learn the basics of fishing. Students can fish at a local pond or lake. Chaperones requested!

**K-Adult 30-60 minutes**

**Location: Waverly Duck Pond or anywhere there's water**

### *Seeds & Plants*

We briefly discuss how a seed grows and travels. Then we go over plant parts. We play a game that teaches what a seed needs.

**1st-3rd 30 - 45 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*

Students will learn the difference between the 3R's, participate in a relay race and learn how many times products can be recycled.

**1st-6th 45-60 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Native Americans*

Students will brush the surface of Native Americans. We have stories and some activities to share. We can also assemble a Cheyenne Hunting Lodge. This requires plenty of outside room. We have a smaller tipi to use indoors in a gym. You can check out the Bison Tub.

**1st-6th 30-45 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**



### *Owls*

Students will find out what owls live in Iowa and the sounds they make. They will also learn about an owl's hearing, sight and other unique adaptations for living. Owl pellet dissections to find bones can be requested.

**1st-Adult 30-45 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Papermaking*

Make your own recycled paper. Access to water and electricity needed. Be prepared for a mess!

**1st-Adult 60 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Vertebrate Groups*

Students will learn about mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish and their characteristics. They will experience hands-on what these animal furs, feathers and scales feel like through examples.

**2nd-6th 30-45 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Move West game*

Learn about life as a pioneer through the Move West game. Students will break into family groups and decide how to spend their money to see if they survive their move west.

**2nd-12th 45 minutes**

**Location: Indoors**

### *Pond/Stream Study*

Students will discover the variety of invertebrate and vertebrate life that lives in the water. Aquatic nets are used to find eggs, tadpoles, frogs, crawdads, dragonfly nymphs and much more!

**2nd-12th 45-60 minutes**

**Location: Pond/Stream near you**

### *Constellations*

Discuss stars and constellation stories followed by making a constellation wheel.

**3rd-6th 30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors; or with the star lab**



### *Geology Rocks!*

Learn about the rock cycle and how the three classes of rocks are formed by playing an interactive cube game. Students will move between rock types as they play the game. A quick activity with starbursts will help demonstrate metamorphic rocks.

**3rd-6th** **30 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors; or field trip to Rockford Fossil Park**

### *Disc Golf*

Players complete a hole by throwing a disc from an area toward a basket. We have 4 portable baskets and many discs that can be used in an outdoor area or in a gym. PE teachers can check out equipment too.

**3rd-Adult** **45 minutes**

**Location: Outdoors or in gym**

### *Snowshoes*

Get your class out to Ingawanis Woodland for a winter field trip. Participants will get out and enjoy the winter air during a snowshoe hike. Let us know if you are interested and we'll put you on a list so when it does snow, we can get out and about! Snowshoeing can be done at the school too.

**3rd-Adult** **45 - 60 minutes**

**Location: Outdoors**

### *Wizard of Wartville*

Read the Wizard of Wartville book. Divide students into groups. Give each small group an envelope with slips of paper with items that might be found in a landfill, as well as slips with the amount of time it takes these items to decompose. Have each group match up the waste item slip with how long they think it will be in a landfill before it decomposes.

**4th-6th** **45 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Dragonfly Pond*

Students design a plan of human land use around the image of a pond. They determine the best locations for homes, businesses, industries, and farms with respect for the environment. Based on where they 'build', we then see how their community pollutes the water. We will need access to water for filling a jug.

**4th-12th** **45 minutes**

**Location: Indoors**

### *Survival*

Students can go through a survival situation presented to them and decide what to take along. Field trip topics could include fire and shelter building. This program can be done along with the book, Hatchet.

**4th-12th** **30-60 minutes**

**Location: Indoors or outdoors**

### *Using a Compass*

Students will have the opportunity to learn how to use a compass. Students will go on a hunt for items to get familiar with the compass.

**4th-12th** **30-45 minutes**

**Location: Outdoors**

### *Canoeing/Kayaking*

We have 6 canoes, 17 kayaks, and 5 Standup Paddleboards. Students will learn about canoeing/kayaking, water safety and paddling techniques. Students can go canoeing/kayaking on the water depending on age/ability and group size.

**4th-Adult** **45-120 minutes**

**Location: Waverly Duck Pond or anywhere there's water**

### *Archery*

Students will learn the safety commands in order to use bows/arrows in a fun and safe setting.

**4th-Adult** **45-60 minutes**

**Location: Outdoors**

### *Green Shopping*

This program teaches students how to decrease waste when purchasing everyday products. Students will go "shopping" and try to pick the most environmentally friendly items and discuss their choices.

**4th-Adult** **45-60 minutes**

**Location: Indoors**

### *GPS Units*

There are 24 units. Students will go on a hunt for items to get familiar with the GPS. Try geocaching at your school to tie in with latitude and longitude lessons.

**4th-Adult** **45-60 minutes**

**Location: Outdoors**

