



### 2017-2018 Homeschool Schedule

Nahant Marsh Education Center provides a monthly program specifically geared towards homeschooled children grades K-9<sup>th</sup>. Each program includes a lesson, hands-on activity and outdoor exploration.

**Time:** 2:30 – 4:00 pm

**Cost:** \$8 per session or \$64 for the year for non-members.  
\$6 per session or \$48 for the year for members.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Grades K-3 Programs</u>	<u>Grades 4-9 Programs</u>
September 29	Grasshoppers	Grasshoppers
October 27	Bats	Bats
November 17	Pelicans	Pelicans
December 15	Coyote	Coyote
January 26	Reptiles	Reptiles
February 23	Otter	Otter
March 30	Owls	Owls
April 27	Mussels	Mussels
May 25	Frogs	Frogs

## Program Descriptions

**Grasshoppers:** Students will explore the insect that can eat half of its body weight in one day and the mouth parts they use to do that. They will also learn about some of the amazing adaptations of the many grasshoppers that call Nahant home.

**Bats:** Students will learn about the only mammal that flies and how they manage to catch their food at night. We will then identify different species of bats and learn why they are so important to humans.

**Pelicans:** Students will explore what caused the decline in pelican population and learn more about the adaptations of these social birds that call Iowa wetlands home during the summer. They will also learn about other migratory birds that take a rest at Nahant Marsh during their migration.

**Coyote:** Students will learn about coyote's ability to adapt to urbanization. They will also explore and identify tracks and scat left behind from coyotes and their prey.

**Reptiles:** Students will learn about the various reptiles found at Nahant. We will explore the adaptation, behavior, and ecology of these reptiles and how our coldblooded friends survive the winter.

**Otter:** Students will learn about otters and their special adaptations that allow this playful mammal to spend so much of its time in the water and survive cold Iowa winters. They will also learn why otters were trapped so heavily and how they made a comeback.

**Owls:** As nocturnal raptors, owls have many amazing adaptations to hunt prey at night. Learn about the habits of these birds by looking at skulls, wings, and mounts. Students will also get to study and dissect owl pellets.

**Mussels:** Mussels are the most endangered species in the U.S. Learn about the adaptations, diets, life cycle, and history of these shelled creatures. Mussel shells will be shown and students will learn to identify species.

**Frogs:** Students will learn TOAD-ally cool adaptations of different frog species that call Nahant Marsh home. They will also identify and learn to make their own croaks, yaps, chirps and whistles of Iowa's native frogs.