



# Early Learners Program Guide



## *Early Learners Program Guide*

Nahant Marsh offers enrichment programs to enhance and complement science lessons taught at preschool. Each program will take approx. 30 minutes and will include hands-on activities. These programs are designed for preschool to first grade and meet current science standards.

This guide has been developed to help educators, event coordinators and activity coordinators understand the vast environmental education programming Nahant Marsh has to offer.

### **Planning a visit**

1. To schedule a visit to your facility, please send completed Preschool Program Request Form (pg. 4) to Amy Loving, the Education Coordinator at [aloving@eicc.edu](mailto:aloving@eicc.edu).
2. Outreach programming is \$30 per hour.
3. Let Naturalist know of any special needs of the group.
4. Please provide a table or desk for presentation materials.

### **Additional Information**

1. Outdoor or adequate indoor space may be needed for some the programs listed. Please make note that not all of the programs listed are ideal for a classroom setting. If outdoor or large indoor space is available, a Naturalist may wish to visit prior to the scheduled visit to ensure adequate space is available for the program requested.
2. Some programs require equipment that is not suitable for large groups. Please contact Naturalist for more information.
3. If making arrangements to visit multiple classrooms at a grade level, please coordinate times with other teachers.
4. The Naturalists will arrive 5-10 minutes prior to the presentation. Please provide the Education Coordinator information on parking and where to check in at the school.

## Early Learners Programs

**Beautiful Butterflies:** Learn about the life cycle of butterflies. Students will also learn about the adaptations that caterpillars and butterflies have to eat and protect themselves.

**Track that Scat:** Even if we cannot see animals, that doesn't mean that they aren't there. Students will study different types of scat and tracks to determine which animal they belong to.

**Turtles:** Explore our live native turtle collection. Students will describe the parts of a turtle and make conclusions about where the turtles live and what they eat.

**Snakes:** Explore our live native snake collection. Snakes are not as scary as they seem and serve a very important role in a habitat. Students will get a chance to touch (optional) and learn about the amazing adaptations that help snakes to hunt, eat, and protect themselves.

**Preparing for Winter:** Some animals migrate, some hibernate, and some brave the winter. In this program, students will learn about how animals have adapted to survive harsh Iowa winters.

**Urban Animals:** There are many types of birds and mammals that can be found right in our backyards and schoolyards. This program will introduce students to backyard habitats.

**Movin' and Shakin':** Animals move in many different ways. Students will learn what kinds of animals leap, swing, dance, and slide.

**Worms and Dirt:** Did you know one acre of land can contain more than a million earthworms? Students will get hands-on with worms and learn how they are an important food source for animals as well as important to the soil.

**Camouflage:** Many animals use camouflage to hide from predators or to catch their prey. We are going to learn about different animals that use camouflage and then see if we can find any camouflaged animals outside!

**Buzz about Bees:** Students will learn why bees are important pollinators and why bees are good for people and their habitats.

**Nature Shapes and Colors:** Nature is filled with many shapes and colors. Students will use their sense to make observations and describe and organize patterns.

**Tigers of the Night Sky:** Owls have many incredible adaptations to hunt at night. Students will study owl feathers and skulls to learn more about these birds of prey.

# Early Learners Program Request Form

Please return completed form to Amy Loving, [aloving@eicc.edu](mailto:aloving@eicc.edu)

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of program: \_\_\_\_\_

Time(s) of program: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of students: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Choice(s): \_\_\_\_\_

How many classrooms will the presentation be given to? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the classroom have access to a projector and screen? \_\_\_\_\_

Where should the naturalist check in at the school? \_\_\_\_\_

Any additional info: \_\_\_\_\_

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