

Cass County Conservation Program List K-3rd 2010-2011

The programs listed are sponsored by the Cass County Conservation Board and are designed to actively involve your students. **Call Lora Schwendinger at 712-769-2372 or e-mail lschwendinger@casscoia.us to schedule a program** (Some require further advance notice)! Each program length will be made to fit your schedule.

Kindergarten

Monarch Magic- (K-3) September Only. Your students will get to know the Monarch Butterfly up close and personal during this program. We will tag some Monarchs with special sticky tags (to aid in research), learn about their migration, and we'll watch a video to learn about the Monarch's life cycle and habitat requirements.

Gobble, Gobble- (K) November Only. Is this the only sound that turkey's make? Not by far! We will bring a guest from the local Turkey Federation to demonstrate turkey calls, followed by a chance for your students to make their very own turkey caller craft

Beaver Adaptations (K-3) March Only. Discover all about Nature's Engineers! This nocturnal animal is not interesting but a picky eater!

Mammals R' Us- (K-3) Using seven different props and student assistants, your classroom will quickly learn what makes a mammal unique from other critters...and they won't soon forget! This program has previously been used by the Des Moines Zoo educational staff.

Feathers for Lunch- (K) The book, *Feathers for Lunch* uses colors and feathers to match with the birds in the story. We will also use the colors, shapes and feathers in a matching/puzzle game.

Nature's Yucky- (K-2) The book, *Nature's Yucky!* uses kids' natural fascination with the stinky, the gross, and the icky to help them learn more about wild animals and why critters behave as they do. Props will be brought as an addition to this program.

Ready to Recycle- (K-1) This program focuses on showing the class how simple it is to recycle and how they can become involved at home and in their school. By the end of this program they will know exactly what can and can't be recycled in Cass County and even how to spot recycled products while at the store!

Seasons Safari- (K) Outdoor hike, We will discover all what is changing around us! In fall-human, plant, and animal change are the main topics of the hike. Spring focuses on plants and animals. Your students will not look at your schoolyard the same!

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1st grade – 3rd grade

Monarch Magic- (K-3) September Only. Your students will get to know the Monarch Butterfly up close and personal during this program. We will tag some Monarchs with special sticky tags (to aid in research), learn about their migration, and we'll watch a video to learn about the Monarch's life cycle and habitat requirements.

Monarch Migration (1-3) Outdoor-September Only We will begin by reviewing the monarch life cycle. The class will then get to become monarchs as they face migration hazards on their way to Mexico. A great review and fun game!

Batty for Bats- (1-3) October Only.. Your students will have fun learning facts about bats and will leave with a new appreciation for the often misunderstood bat. A TV/VCR will be needed for a short introductory video.

Owls (1-3) January – February Only. Iowa's first bird species to nest, kicks off the new year right!

Beaver Adaptations (K-3) March Only. Discover all about Nature's Engineers! This nocturnal animal is not interesting but a picky eater!

Seeds- (1-3) Fall is a great time to learn about seeds and nuts. We'll read the story *In a Nutshell*, look at different types of seeds and nuts, and play the game Maple Seed Mix-Up.

Metamorphosis Surprise- (1-3) Did you know that a ladybug and dragonflies goes through metamorphosis? Ladybugs, dragonflies and other unexpected insects will be shown and discussed as students and teachers alike will be surprised to learn about metamorphosis of animals other than frogs and butterflies!

Mammals R' Us- (K-3) Using seven different props and student assistants, your classroom will quickly learn what makes a mammal unique from other critters...and they won't soon forget! This program has previously been used by the Des Moines Zoo educational staff.

Nature's Yucky- (K-2) The book, *Nature's Yucky!* uses kids' natural fascination with the stinky, the gross, and the icky to help them learn more about wild animals and why critters behave as they do. Props will be brought as an addition to this program.

The Lunch Box- (1-2) April Only. Two 'picnic lunches' will be brought to your classroom and your students will be guided through a comparison of the amount of trash each one produces.

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The program encourages students to make wise choices when selecting foods for their lunches, a great program before the field trip season!

Adaptations of our Feathered Friends- (1-3) Why aren't all bird beaks shaped the same? The answer will be obvious, as the students become different birds and try to eat their favorite foods using another bird's beak.

Web of Life- (2-3) After the story *Pass the Energy, Please!*, students will work together to build a food chain. Food webs could also be discussed. Desks may need to be moved for this activity.

What is a Box Turtle? (1-2) We'll learn all about land turtles by reading the book *Box Turtle at Long Pond*. A live Ornate Box Turtle will be shown and discussed. The focus of this program could easily be switched to adaptations if you wish.

Ready to Recycle- (K-1) This program focuses on showing the class how simple it is to recycle and how they can become involved at home and in their school. By the end of this program they will know exactly what can and can't be recycled in Cass County and even how to spot recycled products while at the store!

Recycle Magic!- (2-3) After learning facts about deforestation, we will make our very own recycled paper!

Soil Smarts- (2-3) How long does it take to make soil? After a soil discussion, we will look at items that have been decomposing for several weeks. Which ones are decomposing fastest? Why? These questions and more will be answered as students learn why we need to protect our planet. Four weeks notice is required for this program.

Plant Basics- (2-3) Two students will be chosen to become "Chloro" and "Phyll" as they help us learn what gives plants their green color and how they make their own food. We can then move on to discuss how plants disperse seeds to ensure their survival.

Previous Favorites:

Grady's Garden- (2-3) Students will perform a melodrama called *Grady's Garden*. In *Grady's Garden*, "bad" insects and animals destroy garden plants, while "hero" insects and animals help the plants. Other roles in the play include flowers, Grady the Gardener and the producer. The whole class will feel important as they actively learn about the relationships between plants and animals.

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Rock 'n Cookies???- (1-3) What could a rock and a cookie possibly have in common? That is what your children will find out with this basic introduction to rocks and minerals.

Salmon Struggles (3-5) Outdoor- Learn about the salmon's life cycle and the dangers that they face in their migration. The students will become salmon...can they survive the obstacles?

Inflatable Greenhouses- (K-3) Students will learn what plants need to survive as they build their own greenhouses (made from inflatable, clear balloons). The greenhouses will be left in the classroom for your viewing.

Pollutions & Solutions- (3-5) I will bring my 3-D model of a watershed complete with houses, industries, golf courses, etc. as your students get a very basic introduction of erosion, water pollution and, most importantly, learn ways to prevent pollution. This is a great hands-on activity that will involve all of the children.