

PROGRAM GUIDE



REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP

HOW TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS

- Registration for TNI Programs can be done on our website at www.TheNatureInstitute.org or by calling (618) 466-9930.
- You can find programs by going to our [Calendar of Events](#), [Adult and Family Programs](#), and [Children's Programs pages](#). Each program will have its own registration form.
- If you have questions about a program, you can always give us a call at 618-466-9930.
- Note: All programs are subject to cancellation based on weather or lack of registrations. Our website will always be the most up to date information.

BECOME A MEMBER

Take an active role in assisting The Nature Institute in their mission of preservation, restoration, and education. When you give to a local conservation and environmental education organization like The Nature Institute, you are doing more than just donating. Your dues assist us in providing our community with opportunities for people of all ages to explore and learn about the outdoor world, and help provide healthy habitats for diverse wildlife populations.

Members at all levels enjoy these benefits:

- Free admission to monthly Moonlight Hikes, Telescope Nights, and various seasonal programs
- Discounted admission to various TNI programs such as Yoga + Hike, Owl Prowl, and Guided Winter Hikes
- Invitations to Members Only Events
- Valuable savings on education classes, workshops, and family programs
- Free subscription to the member e-news

Find the **Membership Level** that is right for you!

- Individual Membership (\$50)– Benefits for 2 individuals
 - \$400 value
- Family Membership (\$125)– Benefits for up to 6 individuals
 - Also included, is early registration for Discovery Day Camp
 - 15% discount on registration total cost for camp (immediate/household family only)
 - \$1300 value
- Mississippi Sanctuary Society (\$250)– Benefits for up to 8 individuals
 - Also included, is early registration for Discovery Day Camp
 - 15% discount on registration total cost for camp (immediate/household family only)
 - \$1700 value
- Olin Observation League (\$500)– Benefits for up to 10 individuals
 - Also included, is early registration for Discovery Day Camp
 - 15% discount on registration total cost for camp (immediate/household family only)
 - \$2100 value
- Lifetime Member (\$1,500)– Benefits for up to 4 individuals for life
 - Also included, is early registration for Discovery Day Camp
 - 15% discount on registration total cost for camp (immediate/household family only)
 - Over \$6000 value

[Become a
Member Today!](#)

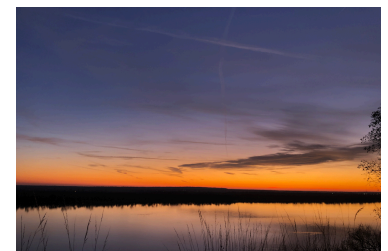
SPECIAL EVENTS

In Harmony with Nature - September 20, 5:30-7pm

Join us for a night of music on the skeet range provided by Alton High Symphonic Orchestra. Food will be available for purchase from T&S Smokehouse. Concert starts at 6pm, gates open at 5:30pm.

Registration Required: No, but preferred
Tickets will be available at the door.

Ticket	Price
Adult	\$12
Student (9-18)	\$6
Child (0-8)	Free



Enchanted Forest - October 18, 6-9pm

Join us for an open house style event to learn about the nocturnal animals that call TNI home. This fun halloween themed event is great for all ages and their families. You can do some activities on the skeet range, go for a night hike around our paved Frog Trail to visit with some common TNI animals, and end the night gathering your bag of goodies to take home and maybe even a s'more. Gates open at 6pm

Registration Required: No, pay at the gate.

Ticket	Price
Adults (18 +)	\$5
Children (3-18)	\$5
Babies (0-2)	Free



ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

NATURE EDUCATION



Moonlight Hikes (Participant Min: 5, Max: 30)
 Join us on a night hike through the woods. On the trails of the Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve, the terrain is light to moderate (may include some elevation change) and appropriate for families. You can expect the hike to be about 2 miles, and will include stops along the way. Guides choose routes based on the group and do not pick the route until the night of the hike. Some things to bring include a reusable water bottle, bug spray, and appropriate footwear and clothing. A flashlight is optional and a guide will encourage you to keep it off for most of the hike.

Program Fees: \$5/ticket, Free for members
Registration Required: Yes

Date	Date	Date
6/21, 8:30pm	9/17, 7:30pm	12/15, 5:30pm
7/21, 8:30pm	10/17, 6:30pm	
8/19, 8:00pm	11/15, 5:30pm	

Heartland Prairie Hikes (Participant Min: 1, Max: none)

Join us at Heartland Prairie at Gordon Moore Park in Alton for these bimonthly hikes, held every second and fourth Tuesday at 5:30pm from April through October. Walks will focus on identifying native plants and birds. The walk is a stroll around the front of the prairie until approximately 6:00 p.m. If you are running late, you can still meet us in the front section of the prairie. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water, binoculars, and a plant identification book.

Program Fees: Free

Date	Date	Date
6/11, 5:30pm	8/13, 5:30pm	10/8, 5:30pm
6/25, 5:30pm	8/27, 5:30pm	10/22, 5:30pm
7/9, 5:30pm	9/10, 5:30pm	
7/23, 5:30pm	9/24, 5:30pm	

Telescope Nights (Participant Min: 2, Max: 30)

Have an old telescope laying around, but never use it? Always wanted to look at the universe through a telescope, but don't own one? You are in luck! Come on out to the Talahi Lodge on the scheduled nights and we will have some set up. You can also bring your own and we can help you use it. We will talk about how telescopes work and look at the moon and other night sky objects.

Program Fees: \$5/ticket, Free for members
Registration Required: Yes

Date	Date	Date
6/6, 9pm	9/2, 8pm	12/1, 5pm
7/9, 9pm	10/2, 7pm	
8/4, 12-2pm	11/1, 6:30pm	

Note: Summer Solar Party will happen in place of the August Telescope Night. Join us to safely look at the sun on August 4 at 12pm.

Program Fees: \$5/ticket, Free for members
Registration Required: Yes

ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

NATURE EDUCATION

Beginner Tree and Plant ID

(Participant Min: 5, Max: 20)

Learn how to identify trees by their bark, leaves, and branching. This beginner level class will hike roughly 1 mile in total. Recommended for teens and adults.

Program Fees: \$10/ticket, Free for members

Date	Time
8/3	12-1pm

Nature Journaling with Kelly

(Participant Min: 4, Max: 12)

One of the best ways to learn about the natural world is through your own quiet observations. Join The Nature Institute for a series of Nature Journaling walks that will help you to slow down and see what is right in front of you. All ages are welcome. Option to purchase a nature journaling kit for \$12.

Program Fees: \$5/ticket, Free for members

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Time
6/11	9-10:30am
7/16	9-10:30am
8/12	9-10:30am
9/17	9-10:30am



Monarch Tagging (Participant Min: 5, Max: 20)

Assist scientists by providing them with monarch migration data! Join our education staff in catching and tagging monarch butterflies this fall. All ages welcome.

Note: This event takes place at Heartland Prairie

Program Fees: \$10/ticket, Free for members

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Time
9/10	5:30-6:30pm



Roaming Naturalists (Participant Min: 2, Max: 15)

Roaming Naturalists is a monthly hike, designed for adults who want to learn more about the natural world. While each hike will have a topic of focus, we will allow the interest of the group and the surprises of nature determine what we learn on our hike. Hikes range from 1-2 miles (rarely 3 miles) on easy to moderate terrain. These hikes will occur rain or shine. In the event of icy conditions, or excessive snow, the hike may be canceled.

Program Fees: Free, Suggested Donation: \$5

Date	Topic
10/8, 9am	Cahokia Mounds Grand Plaza Tour (off-site)
11/12, 9am	Creek Hike
12/10, 9am	Fall Hike

ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Children's Yoga Series

Join Lauren for some time relaxing out in nature with your little one! Sessions lasts 4 weeks and takes place entirely outdoors. All classes are for children accompanied by an adult. In the event of inclement weather, sessions will be moved to an indoor space. Children's yoga looks a little different than your usual yoga class! Expect fun movements, music, yoga games, and materials exploration at class.

About the Instructor: Lauren received her Registered Yoga Teacher certification through Moonbird Yoga in O'Fallon, IL. She also obtained her Registered Children's Yoga Teacher certification through ChildLight Education Company. She holds certifications as an ACE Certified Personal Trainer and a GGS Women's Coaching Specialist. She is currently working on her certification as a GGS Pre- & Postnatal Coach. Lauren is also the Director of Education at The Nature Institute!

Little Birds Yoga (Participant Min: 3, Max: 10)

Little Birds yoga class is for ages 2 - 4 years accompanied by an adult. Sessions last 4 weeks and take place entirely outdoors. Be sure to bring mats or towels to practice on! No younger or older siblings, please.

Program Fees: \$45/month, \$40 for members

Registration Required: Yes

Series	Dates
Mondays in October 10-10:30am	7, 14, 21, and 28

Fledglings Yoga (Participant Min: 3, Max: 12)

Fledglings class is for ages 4 - 8 accompanied by an adult. The session lasts 4 weeks and takes place entirely outdoors. Be sure to bring mats or towels to practice on!

Program Fees: \$50/month, \$45 for members

Registration Required: Yes

Series	Dates
Thursdays in October 4-4:45pm	3, 10, 17, and 24



ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Yoga + Hike (Min: 7, Max: 40)

Brick City Yoga is headed to the Nature Institute for a 60-minute hike in nature before connecting more in a 60-minute yoga practice with a view of the Mississippi River. Then, stick around for a coffee from local shop Germania Brew Haus. Mark your calendar and grab your hiking boots along with your mat for a nature-centric Saturday morning outing!

Program Fees: \$30/ticket, \$25 for members

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Time
9/7	8-10am
10/12	8-10am



Forest Bathing (Participant Min: 5, Max: 20)
Join Jess Thenhaus, a certified Forest & Nature Therapy Guide, for a unique outdoor experience at The Nature Institute. Forest Bathing is a practice that supports health and wellness through guided immersion in forests and other environments to promote the well-being of both people and the land. Unplug and unwind as you connect with nature and the 'more than human world' in this immersive sensory experience. This is not a strenuous hike in the woods, but rather a gentle, leisurely walk designed to allow time and stress to melt away as you sink comfortably into the peace of presence that nature can provide.

Program Fees: \$35/ticket, \$30 for members

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Time
6/22	8-10am

ART IN NATURE

Classic Flicks for Conservation

(Participant Min: 1, Max: 60)

Transformers, those robots in disguise, turn 40 this year, so cozy up with a blanket for a movie on the lawn and celebrate these films featuring robots! This free event takes place monthly from April through October. Watch a classic movie on our giant inflatable screen. Bring your own seating (lawn chairs or blankets), as well as your own snacks. No alcohol is permitted. Limited parking is available, so arrive early to grab your seat.

Program Fees: Free, Suggested Donation: \$5

Registration Required: No

Date	Title
6/22, 8:45pm	Transformers: The Movie
7/20, 8:30pm	Wall-E (Sponsored by Hayner Library)
8/24, 8pm	The Iron Giant
9/21, 7:30pm	The War of the Robots
10/19, 7pm	Robot Monster

Macoupin Art Collective Art Bus

The Macoupin Art Collective's ArtBus will be making a special visit to The Nature Institute this summer. This mobile art studio provides free art activities to local communities. The ArtBus will be parked at TNI between 10 am and 12 pm on Saturday, June 15th. Feel free to arrive any time between those hours to create a nature themed art project. Learn more about the ArtBus at <https://macart.org/bus>.

Program Fees: Free

Registration Required: No

Date	Time
6/15	10am-12pm

STUDENT PROGRAMS

Outdoor EDventure Days

(Participant Min: 5, Max: 14)

This drop off program provides a single camp day for students when schools are closed. Morning snack is included in the program pricing. Spaces are limited.

This program is available to ages 6 - 12.

Program Fees: \$55/ticket, \$50 for members

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Topic
10/14, 9am-3pm	Creepy Crawlies: As Halloween approaches, join TNI's education staff for a day full of spooky adventures. Conduct experiments, study worms and insects, and head outside to learn about our nocturnal animals out in the forest.

Kids Night Out (Participant Min: 7, Max: 16)

Need an evening off? Join us for a Kids Night Out! This 3 hour drop off program includes dinner and an evening of fun for ages 6 - 10. This program is offered once a month on a Friday evening during the school year. Spaces are limited. See below for a description of our upcoming Kids Night Out. Spots fill up fast!

Program Fees: \$35/ticket, \$30 for members

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Topic
9/13, 5-8pm	Under the Stars: Explore the world of astronomy, constellations, and mythology! Kids will have the opportunity to use high tech telescopes, create astronomy themed crafts, and go on a hike to look at stars.

Nature at Night (Participant Min: 5, Max: 20)

Explore nature after dark on the preserve! Join TNI naturalists for some late night experiments, hiking, and exploration for ages 8 - 12 accompanied by an adult.

Program Fees: \$5/ticket, Free for members

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Time
8/23	8-9pm

After School Explorers (Participant Min: 5, Max: 14)

After School Explorers (previously Discovery Nature Club) is an after school drop-off program for elementary students (1st - 5th grade). This fall, students will meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 3 - 5 pm to explore the preserve and learn more about nature. Registration is by the month.

Program Fees: \$30/ticket, \$25 for members

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Topic
9/4 and 9/18, 3-5pm	Tracks and Scat
10/2 and 10/16, 3-5pm	Animal Homes
11/6 and 11/20, 3-5pm	Endure the Elements
12/4, 3-5pm	Oh, Tannenbaum!



Bushcraft for Teens (Participant Min: 4, Max: 12)

Learn specialty techniques and skills for living and surviving in the wild. This class will include bush knife skills, needle felting, and friction fires. This special teen class is for ages 12 – 16! This is a drop-off program. All materials are provided.

Program Fees: \$18/ticket, \$15 for members

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Time
11/2	12-2pm

YOUNG CHILDREN PROGRAMS

Tiny Trekkers (Participant Min: 5, Max 10)

Tiny Trekkers is a once a week drop off program for ages 3 - 5. Registration is offered by the month only, single class registrations are not permitted. Preschoolers will explore nearly 500 acres of preserve through hands-on experiences out in nature. Spots are limited.

For the fall of 2024, there are 2 session options available. Each child may only register for one time slot – you cannot combine the morning and afternoon session. Children must be able to use the restrooms independently. Please see our Tiny Trekkers page for more details.

Morning (9-11am)	Topic
September 3, 10, 17, and 24	Sensory Kitchen
October 1, 8, 15, and 22	Creatures of the Night
November 5, 12, 19, and 26	Wonders of Weather
December 3 and 10	Adventures in Art

Afternoon (1-3pm)	Topic
September 3, 10, 17, and 24	Sensory Kitchen
October 1, 8, 15, and 22	Creatures of the Night
November 5, 12, 19, and 26	Wonders of Weather
December 3 and 10	Adventures in Art

Daily Schedule

In warmer weather months, the entire session is spent outdoors. In cold weather, a minimum of 50% of the time is spent outdoors as weather allows and the other portion is spent in our indoor classroom. We go out rain, snow, or shine, and ask that all kids come prepared for the elements!

Morning Session

- 9 am: Drop Off, Welcome Activities, Gathering Circle
- 9:20 am: Topic – Focused Hike, Games, or Nature Exploration
- 10:10 am: Snack & Story
- 10:25 am: Art Activity or Science Experiment
- 10:40 am: Free Play at the Nature Explore Classroom
- 11 am: Pick Up

Afternoon Session

- 1 pm: Drop Off, Welcome Activities, Gathering Circle
- 1:20 pm: Topic – Focused Hike, Games, or Nature Exploration
- 2:10 pm: Snack & Story
- 2:25 pm: Art Activity or Science Experiment
- 2:40 pm: Free Play at the Nature Explore Classroom
- 3 pm: Pick Up



YOUNG CHILDREN PROGRAMS

Knee High Naturalists (Participant Min: 4, Max 15)
 Put on some boots and bring your sense of adventure and exploration! This program is designed for children ages 2.5 – 5 accompanied by an adult. Come and learn about nature through story time, art activities, and outdoor exploration. This program takes place on the 1st Wednesday and the 1st Saturday of the month from 10 – 11 am.

Program Fees: \$10/ticket, \$8 for members
Registration Required: Yes

Wednesdays	Saturdays	Topic
	6/1	Sensational Summer
	7/13	Forest Tea Party
8/7	8/3	Shapes in Nature
9/4	9/7	Colorful Creatures
10/2	10/5	Underground Adventure
11/6	11/2	Mighty Mississippi
12/4	12/7	Go Wild!

Forest Playdate

Bring your little one for Reggio-inspired forest play. Various invitations will be offered to spark your child's curiosity, creativity, and problem solving skills. Ages 18 months – 6 years are invited to this special play day. All activities take place around the Lodge and playground. This is an open-house style program – feel free to arrive and leave at any time between 9 – 11 am.

Program Fees: Free
Registration Required: No

Date	Time
9/26	9-11am

Messy Play Day (Participant Min: 5, Max: 25)
 It's time to get MESSY! Join our education team for a slew of messy activities to take part in. Paint, splash, squish and stomp through a variety of sensory - based activities. This open house style program includes a variety of messy, hands-on activities, as well as a self led scavenger hunt, mud kitchen 'cooking', and water play. Messy Play Day has an Early Childhood focus, for ages 18 mos - 5 years.

This open house style program takes place on August 17th and has 2 session options. You are welcome to arrive at any time between those hours. Be sure to bring a change of clothes!

Program Fees: \$12/ticket, \$10 for members, Adults and sibling helpers age 10 and up are free.

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Time
8/17	9 - 10:30am
8/17	12:30 - 2pm

Bear Hunt Hike (Participant Min: 5, Max: 15)
 We're going on a bear hunt at TNI! Ages 3 - 7 are invited to explore fun materials, complete silly activities, and go on a short hike to find a bear. Kids will take home their very own teddy bear at the end of the program. Be sure to wear clothes and shoes that can get messy!

Program Fees: \$15/ticket, \$10 for members
Registration Required: Yes

Date	Time
10/12	11am - 12pm



HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

ECO Homeschool Adventures

Calling all homeschool families! This program takes place on select Wednesdays and occasional Tuesdays. Our Elementary sessions meet from 10 – 11:30 am, and our Middle & High School session meets from 1 – 3 pm. Sessions fill up quickly, so register early for your preferred dates.

Our sessions may include hikes, nature exploration, games, experiments, art projects, or scientific surveys. Participants in our younger sessions will also receive extension activities that can be completed at home with their whole family. Topics rotate each month and sessions are offered August through May.

Middle School (Participant Min: 4, Max 16)

This program is geared towards students in 6th – 12th grade that are learning from home. Unlike the younger group of ECO Homeschool Adventures, this is a drop off program and requires a drop off program health form prior to dropping off your child.

Program Fees: \$10/ticket, \$8 for members

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Topic
9/25, 1-3pm	Junior Entomologists
10/23, 1-3pm	Chemistry Collective



Elementary (Participant Min: 8, Max: 30)

This program is geared towards students in 1st – 5th that are learning from home, but older siblings are welcome to attend. Parents/guardians are required to attend with children. Pre-registration is required.

Program Fees: \$10/ticket, \$8 for members, Parents and Siblings under 2 are free.

Registration Required: Yes

Date	Topic
8/13, 10-11:30am	Math in Nature
8/21 or 8/28, 10-11:30am	Bug Safari
9/11 or 9/25, 10-11:30am	Wildly Creative Creations
10/9 or 10/23, 10-11:30am	Funky Fungi
10/29, 6-7pm	Nocturnal Nature
11/13 or 11/27, 10-11:30am	Survival Skills, Part 1
12/11, 10-11:30am	Wilderness Medicine (3rd-6th Grade)
12/12, 10-11:30am	Ooey Goey Science (1st-3rd Grade)



OUTDOOR ESCAPE ROOMS

OUTDOOR ESCAPE ROOM: PRESERVE PROTECTORS

The evil Denaturizer has struck at The Nature Institute. He has placed poison bombs across the preserve, which can only be accessed by solving an ensemble of crafty puzzles. If allowed to explode, these bombs will wipe out all living things in the Mississippi River from here to the Gulf of Mexico! Can you solve the clues and stop the explosions before it's too late?

This Outdoor Escape Room is suitable for ages 16 and up and takes place entirely outdoors. This program runs for roughly 3 hours and is only booked for one group at a time.

Group Size: 4-8 People

Program Fee: \$35/ticket, \$30 for members

Registration Required: Yes, booked at least 2 weeks in advance

Keep in mind that:

- This program is a mental and physical challenge! You will spend up to 3 hours hiking, solving puzzles, tackling uneven terrain, and being outside in the elements. Signed liability waivers are required after booking for all participants.
- This program is entirely outdoors. It will be canceled or rescheduled if there are thunderstorms or heavy rains. Dress appropriately for the weather. The program will still run in light rain.
- There will be up to 2 miles of hiking with varied terrain during this program. Wear suitable walking shoes.
- Please bring a full water bottle with you. You may also want to bring a small snack and/or a strapped bag to walk around with.
- An education staff member will accompany your group for the duration of the program.

CHILDREN'S OUTDOOR ESCAPE ROOMS

While visiting TNI with some friends, you might become lost, left behind, encounter confused or inquisitive aliens/monsters, or run afoul with some insane scientists. Your only hope is to use your brains to show off your knowledge and solve puzzles in order to escape the preserve.

Test out our Children's Outdoor Escape Room! Ages 9 and up can join us for a variety of nature-based missions. Each mission provides a variety of puzzles to help you escape. Our Children's Outdoor Escape Rooms are suitable for ages 9 and up and take place entirely outdoors. This program runs for 1 hour and is only booked for one group at a time.

Group Size: 2-8 people

Program Fee: \$12.ticket, \$10 for members

Registration Required: Yes, must be booked at least 2 weeks in advance

Check out our specific topics below.

Age Range	Topic
3rd and Up	Life Cycles
4th and Up	Food Webs & Chains, Lunar & Solar Eclipse, Moon Phases, Parts of a Flower, Plant and Animal Habitats, Planets, Solar System, Space Rocks
5th and Up	Animal Adaptations, Biomes, Life Cycle of Stars, Plant Adaptations
7th and Up	Classification and Taxonomy, Ecology
8th and Up	Plant Parts

Keep in mind that:

- This program is entirely outdoors. It will be canceled or rescheduled if there are thunderstorms or heavy rains. Dress appropriately for the weather. The program will still run in light rain.
- There may be 1 – 2 miles of hiking with a varied terrain during this program. Wear suitable walking shoes.
- It's recommended that you bring a water bottle in a sling or small bag.
- An education staff member will accompany your group for the duration of the program.

[Fill out an Outdoor Escape Room request to get started.](#)

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

BOOK A BIRTHDAY PARTY

Send your kids outdoors to explore nature for their birthday! With a variety of themes to choose from, our nature-based birthday parties are sure to be a hit for your outdoorsy child. Your party activities will take place outdoors with an experienced educator. Check out what's included in our parties below:

Included:

- 1 hour of instructor led nature-based and outdoor activities
- 1 hour of self led party time
- Use of Lodge classroom for party space
- Lodge porch seating for additional party space
- Adults and parents are included in the booking fee
- White plastic tablecloths are provided for the tables
- Easy access to nature playground
- TNI handles the clean up!
- Exclusive TNI hat for the birthday child

Birthday Party Themes

- Teddy Bear Tracking (3 - 6 years)
- Slimy & Scaly Celebration (4 - 7 years)
- Grossology (6 - 11 years)
- Predator & Prey (6 - 11 years)
- Woodland Wizards (8 - 12 years)
- Survive (9 - 14 years)
- Custom (All Ages)

Program Fee: \$250/party, \$225 for Members

Group Size: Up to 15 children, including the birthday child. Additional children cost \$8 each, Max of 20 kids.

Deposit: Full balance is due at the time of booking. Additional fees incurred after booking will be due one week out, such as additional children or add-ons. Fees are non refundable if canceled with less than 2 weeks notice.

Availability: Birthdays are available in time slots on Saturday and Sunday from 10 – 12, or 1:30 – 3:30. You may also opt to book birthdays on evening weeknights from 4 – 6 pm or 5 – 7 pm. Please check with our calendar for availability or contact Jscull@thenatureinstitute.org.

Booking: To book a birthday party, please fill out the form. Birthday parties must be booked 2 weeks in advance.

Add-Ons:

- 30 minute campfire – \$25 (provided during the last 30 minutes of self led party time unless otherwise requested)
- 30 minute campfire with s'mores fixings – \$50 (provided during the last 30 minutes of self led party time unless otherwise requested)
- Additional Party Time – \$50/30 minutes
- Additional child (after 15 included in booking) – \$8/each

BOOK A BIRTHDAY
PARTY

OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Bring The Nature Institute to your classroom! Our education staff will bring nature exploration to your school, library, afterschool program, or scout meeting. Programs are available Tuesdays through Fridays, August through May.

Program Length: 30 – 60 minutes

- Educational programs are facilitated by our staff and volunteers
- All materials needed for the program are brought to you!

Program Size: 30 students/program

- Programs can be scheduled back to back for multiple classes.
- Contact us if you would like to arrange a large group program or assembly.

Program Cost: \$80/program

- Mileage fees (\$0.70/mi) will apply for organizations more than 10 miles away.



SCOUT PROGRAMS

We offer private group bookings for Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts. Programs can be set up by troop leaders on a date and time that works best for their group.

Program Length: 1.5 – 2 hours, depending on the badge.

- Scout programs are facilitated by our staff and volunteer leaders.
- We provide one leader per group of 15 scouts.
- You are invited to use our picnic tables and play area for self-guided lunch and free play time, before or after the program
- Programs must be booked 2 weeks in advance.
- Badgework is not required to book a scout program. We are happy to lead a hike for your group on just about any topic!

Program Size: 10-45 scouts

- Depending on group size, your troop may be split into smaller groups of 15 scouts each.
- Contact us if you would like to arrange a trip for more than 45 scouts.

Program Cost: \$8/scout

- Minimum of \$80 per program, which covers up to 10 scouts.
- Overnights are a separate rate. Details can be found under 'Scout Overnights'.
- 1 parent/guardian per scout is free. Additional guardians or siblings will be charged at the scout rate of \$6/each.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIPS

The Nature Institute (TNI) offers field trip programs to groups of students in preschool through college. Field trip programs are offered in one and a half hour blocks, Tuesday through Friday throughout the school year. Field trips must be booked 2 weeks in advance minimum.

Program Length: 1.5 hours

- Field trips are facilitated by our staff and are one and a half hours in length.
- We provide one field trip leader per group of 15 – 17 students.
- You are invited to use our picnic tables and play area for self-guided lunch and free play time, before or after the program.

Program Size: 15-50 students per program

- Please break your students into groups of no more than 15.
- We are unable to accommodate more than 50 students at once. If you have more than 50 students, back to back or multi-day programs can be booked in order to schedule everyone in your group.

Program Cost: \$7/student

- Minimum of \$105 per program, which covers 15 students.
- Groups that have less than 15 students are welcome to book a field trip, but will still be required to pay the minimum booking fee of \$105.
- All school staff are free. Additional parent chaperones are charged at the student rate of \$7/each.
- Plan your field trip early and take advantage of the [Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant](#). It provides schools funds for getting kids out in nature on field trips each year.

Full Day Field Adventure

- For \$10.50/student, you can double your learning and fun at The Nature Institute. Option to book from 9 – 1, 9:30 – 1:30, or 10 – 2! Full Day Field Adventures include 2 programs of your choice, 1 in the morning and 1 in the afternoon, with an hour long break between for lunch and playground time. Limited to 50 students or less per day.

