Seasonal Spotlights

The natural world is brimming with exciting changes throughout every season. These programs will provide us with the opportunity to explore, observe and focus on one of the many fascinating elements of our forest preserves.

If you have any questions or are interested in registering, please contact us at:

Creek Bend Nature Center
37W700 Dean Street, St. Charles, IL

Phone – 630.444.3190
Email – programs@kaneforest.com

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
KANE COUNTY

Spring Wildflowers

Program Length: 60-90 minutes

Season: Spring

Goals of the program:

- **Discuss the basic structure and life cycle of wildflowers**
- **Describe the relationship between wildflowers, pollinators and other organisms**
- **Learn the names and cultural history of various native and non-native wildflowers**

Animal Seasonal Adaptations

Program Length: 60-90 minutes
Season: Fall, Winter

Goals of the program:

- **Discuss seasonal survival strategies**
- **Learn why animals migrate, hibernate or stay active throughout the year**
- **Address the benefits and challenges of each of these survival strategies**

The Wonderful World of Insects

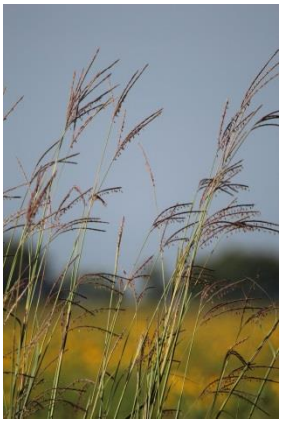
Program Length: 60-90 minutes

Season: Spring, Summer, Fall

Goals of the program:

- **Learn the unique body parts of all insects**
- **Explore insect diversity**
- **Discuss the importance of insects in a healthy ecosystem**
- **Collect and observe specimen using nets and bug jars**

The Marvelous Prairie



Program Length: 60-90 minutes

Season: Summer, Fall

Goals of the program:

- **Identify native, exotic and invasive plants**
- **Compare the prairie with other ecosystems**
- **Address the decline of the tallgrass prairie and discuss modern restoration practices**
- **Learn about the adaptations of prairie plants**

Rivers, Streams and Everything in Between

Program Length: 60-90 minutes

Season: Any

Goals of the program:

- **Review the water cycle**
- **Recognize that water is a non-renewable resource**
- **Interpret a local water source and its relation to the Fox River**
- **Discuss watershed and the effects of pollution**

Tracks and Trails

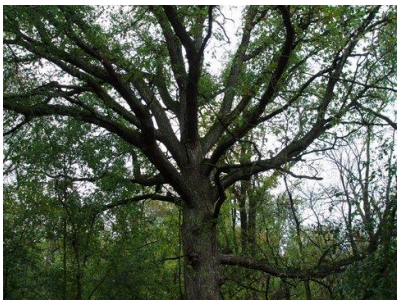
Program Length: 60-90 minutes

Season: Any

Goals of the program:

- **Describe the various types of animal signs (tracks, browse, nests, burrows, etc.)**
- **Identify animal tracks using measurments and references**
- **Practice observational skills to recognize the clues that animals leave behind**
- **Discuss how predators track their prey**

Trees and Their Leaves



Program Length: 60-90 minutes

Season: Any

Goals of the program:

- **Discuss the structure of trees and their life cycle**
- **Describe the basic needs for plant growth**
- **Learn identification techniques and compare different types of trees**
- **Explore the role of decomposers in the forest nutrient cycle**

Maple Sugaring

Program Length: 60-90 minutes

Season: Late February - March

Goals of the program:

- **Discuss the history, method and technology behind maple sugaring**
- **Describe the process of food production and storage in trees**
- **Observe a demonstration of maple tapping**

The Earth Beneath Our Feet

Program Length: 60-90 minutes

Season: Spring, Summer, Fall

Goals of the program:

- **Realize that dirt is a negative term while soil is a valuable material necessary for all life on Earth**
- **Understand the components that make up soil**
- **Identify different horizons in the soil**
- **Compare and contrast different soil textures**

Discovery Hike

Program Length: 60-90 minutes

Season: Any

Goals of the program:

- **Utilize the interpretive potential of the trail**
- **Practice observational skills**
- **Understand that any day is a good day to go for a hike**