



Hancock Park District

Educational Programs

2022-2023
School Year



Hancock Park District (HPD) programs immerse students in nature and history through hands-on and experiential activities that are closely aligned with Ohio Academic Content Standards. Our professional staff is dedicated to promoting a better understanding and appreciation of the local culture, history, flora, and fauna.

Please schedule at least **one month in advance** by contacting Michelle Rumschlag, Naturalist, on weekdays between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, at 419-425-7275 or mrumschlag@hancockparks.com.

Please have the following information ready before you call or email:

- _____ Name of school
- _____ Contact person's name, phone number, and email
- _____ School address
- _____ Grade/Age of students
- _____ Number of classes and students
- _____ Preferred program title/topic
- _____ First and second choice of dates
- _____ Are you eating lunch in the park?
- _____ Special needs

- Invite us to your next staff meeting for a 15-minute presentation on the Hancock Park District's educational programs.
- You are welcome to plan your own outing in the Hancock Park System, and enjoy hiking trails, picnic areas, playgrounds, volleyball courts, etc. Please notify the Hancock Park District if you plan your own outing so that we can facilitate a good experience.

1424 East Main Cross St., Findlay, OH
(419) 425-7275 www.hancockparks.com

HPD Educational Programs

Programs are held rain or shine. The Hancock Park District will not cancel a program unless there is a safety concern, such as thunderstorms, tornado watches, or high wind warnings. Due to the popularity of our programs, we cannot schedule a rain date. If there is severe weather, we will try to reschedule the program. However, in the event of just rain, the program will be conducted as planned.

Each program is designed with 30-minute stations, unless otherwise indicated. The number of stations per program is listed after the grade. You may select programs that best fit your curriculum and choose as many stations as time allows.

Park Key:

- ARA** - Aeraland Recreation Area
- LMW** - Litzenberg Memorial Woods
- ONP** - Oakwoods Nature Preserve
- RRA** - Riverbend Recreation Area
- OR** - Outreach

One adult for every 10 children is recommended. *Due to space limitations, we ask that chaperones do not bring other aged siblings.*

- **Hancock County groups** are free, unless otherwise noted.
- **Out-of-county groups** are charged *\$2 per student*. If there are less than 25 participants, a minimum program fee of \$50 will be charged. If there is a charge for Hancock County students, the out-of-county student rate will be prorated. Participation by teachers and chaperones is free.

PAYMENT METHOD: If there is a charge for the program, you will be invoiced after the program based on the number of students who attended. Please do not send payment prior to the program. The Hancock Park District cannot receive payment on site.

History Programs at Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Back in the Day

Grade 1

1-3 stations

Find out how pioneers lived in Hancock County 168 years ago. Take a tour of the 1847 McKinnis House, meet a pioneer, and see how life was different than yours. You'll also get a chance to tour the wagon shed and workshop, and play pioneer games.

Communities

Grade 3

1-3 stations



Get your bartering shoes on as we go to market to trade our extra goods. See what the McKinnis family will be getting around to take to the store. We'll also look at maps from now and then to see how the community has changed over time.

Jobs of Yesteryear

Grade 2

1-3 stations

Meet pioneers with jobs you might be familiar with today, but see how they varied in the 1840s. A teacher, housewife, and workman will tell you about their trades and will ask you to help them, too.



Native American Life

Grade 5

1-3 stations

Learn about local Native American tribes in Northwest Ohio. Hike to the encampment to see how they lived and participate in games and activities to see if you have what it takes to be a great hunter.

Pioneer Pen Pal
Grades 3 & 4

Take your class back in time through a historic letter exchange. Each month as a class, you will write one letter to an early Hancock County resident from 1847. The resident will respond with a period correct letter answering your questions and discussing their life. After your letter exchange, you have the option of meeting with your pen pal either at your school or the McKinnis House.

OR

Pioneer Tyke Hikes
Grades Preschool & Kindergarten

Program time: 1 hour

What was it like to live as a pioneer? Tour the 1847 McKinnis homestead to discover some of the jobs pioneers had during the fall. It will include hands-on activities, such as grinding corn, pressing apples, and churning butter. After each stop, you'll be rewarded with a small taste of the past for your hard work. This program is provided in cooperation with the University of Findlay's College of Education.



What Freedom Means to Me
Grades 4-6

1-3 stations

Experience what immigration to the United States of America was like through the eyes of an immigrant. Dive into an Irish immigrant's family basket and see what precious few possessions were brought over, become an immigrant yourself, and face peril, starvation, and death as you role play your journey to America. See how life would've been if you didn't speak the parent language and try to complete an activity without speaking.

LMW, OR

Nature Programs

Adapting for Survival

Grades 3 & 4

1-4 stations

Explore how animals use their structural adaptations to survive, obtain food, and escape from predators. Learn about plant adaptations, predators & prey, camouflage, body coverings, defenses, and instinct through activities, games, and a nature hike.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR



Amazing Animal Senses
Grade 1

1-5 stations

Discover how animals use sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell through hands-on activities and experiments. New touch and taste/tongue stations have been added to this program.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

Back in Time

Grade 2

1 hour

Learn what animals used to live in Ohio, but don't anymore. Are there relatives that still exist today? A hands-on investigation of fossils will also take place.

OR

Discovery Stories

Grades Preschool & Kindergarten

30 minutes

Through stories, songs, and hands-on activities, students will explore nature and science. A new topic is offered each month:

Jan. - Tardigrades & Friends Mar. - Animal Migration

ONP, OR



Earth's Living History

Grade 4

1-3 stations

See how animals survive in their ever-changing environment through hands-on activities. Discover how the landscape in Ohio looked at various times throughout the past and compare and contrast fossils and animals living today.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

Earth's Resources

Grade 3

1-4 stations



Get your hands dirty as you compare three soils from Hancock County. Students will become geologists and perform experiments on rocks and minerals. Play a popcorn activity to learn about renewable resources and learn how reducing and reusing materials is the way to go.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

Fabulous Food Webs

Grades 1 & 5

1-3 stations

Explore the roles of producers and consumers in the food chain through games and activities. Compare skulls of Ohio herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores. Search for local producers, consumers, and decomposers on a nature hike and classify them.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

Habitats

Grades 1-3

1 - 1½ hours

Students will immerse themselves in nature while hiking and investigating local animal homes. Students will become familiar with basic animal needs, including water, food, living space, and shelter through games and activities.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR



Insect Investigations

Grade 1

Learn what makes an insect an insect while we turn you into one. Explore how different kinds of insect mouthparts help these bugs eat their food. Use sweep nets and go on an insect hunt to discover the great variety of insects that live in Ohio.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

1-3 stations



Landforms

Grade 4

1-3 stations

Find out how much water we have on Earth and what's available to us, see what glaciers were all about, and participate in hands-on activities to see what erosion and weathering do to the landscape.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

Life Cycles

Grade 3

1-3 stations

Explore the ways animals live. Dive into the process of metamorphosis related to amphibians and insects. Learn about a bird and mammal that don't follow normal parenting practices. The life cycle of plants will be covered, too.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

Nature Hike

All ages

30 minutes - 1 hour

Explore Ohio plants and animals first hand with Hancock Park District program staff as your guide. Discover seasonal surprises by visiting the parks each season to investigate how plants and animals adapt to changing weather conditions. We'll also help you investigate nature in your own backyard.

The hike can be general in nature or you may choose from the following topics: Food Chains, Habitats, Insects, Plants, or Seasons.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR



Nature's Recyclers

Grade 2

1-3 stations

Through a story, you'll discover how the world's best recyclers complete the circle of life. Learn about decomposers and scavengers as you search for them on a nature hike and then get dirty with some of the best composters, worms!



ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

Owls

Grade 5

1-2 stations

Explore how owls are specifically adapted as excellent nocturnal predators. Take a closer look at an owl's role in the food chain.

Optional: Unravel the mystery of what owls eat by dissecting owl pellets. \$2 fee charged per pellet.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

Plants

Grade 1

1-3 stations

Discover what plants need to survive, explore how the parts of a plant help it survive in its environment, and investigate how seeds travel in different ways. Investigate plants on a nature hike, take a closer look at where they live, and see how animals depend on plants to survive.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

Puppet Show: The Barn

Grade Preschool & Kindergarten

1 hour

Stop on in to the Old Barn to find out who's living in the stalls and rafters. We will do some singing afterwards and make a craft too!

ONP

Program Offered: February 6-10, 2023



Rocks & Minerals

Grade 6

1-4 stations

Take an in-depth look at the characteristics, formation, and everyday uses of minerals and igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks. Soil sampling will be available.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR



The Solar System

Grade 5

Length: 1 hour

Join us in our portable planetarium to explore our solar system including the sun and other celestial bodies that orbit the sun. Learn about the unique characteristics of planets.

ONP, RRA, OR

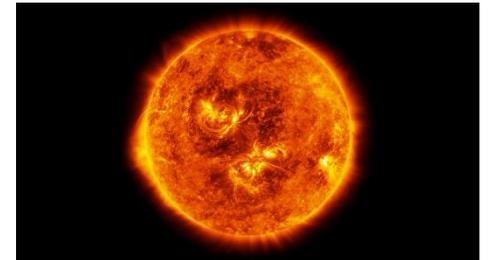
The Sun, the Moon, and the Stars

Grade K

Length: 30 minutes - 1 hour

Join us in our portable planetarium to explore the sun, the moon, and the stars. Discover how the moon changes shape and appears at night or during the day. See how the sun changes position during the day and observe some of the stars you see at night.

ONP, RRA, OR



Room Requirements for

Planetarium Dome:

A room at least 20' W x 20'L x 12'H is required with a clean floor. A

gymnasium works best. The room will be needed 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after the program for setup and takedown. An adult must be present with students in the planetarium.

The World Outside

Grade K

1-3 stations

Explore what's going on outside with the weather and look at the seasons while busy with hands-on experiments and observations.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

Up in the Air

Grade 2

Explore the air around us and in our atmosphere and conduct experiments to see what's really going on in the sky.

ARA, LMW, ONP, RRA, OR

1-3 stations



Water, Water Everywhere

Grade 1

Water will be on our minds as we take a closer look at the different properties of water and see how fresh water and salt water differ. We'll visit a body of water to investigate further, learn about heating from the Sun, and do some solar cooking.

ARA, ONP, RRA, OR

1-3 stations

All Day Programs

History Comes Alive

Grade 4

Step back in time to experience pioneer life and participate in hands-on activities. See the importance of folk music in local culture and the functionality of pioneer clothing, and help spin wool. Assist a hard-working farmwife with butter churning and clothes washing, and discover the hardships of traveling to Hancock County. Investigate the many uses of Ohio plants on a nature hike, get hands-on with tools,



and visit the workshop.

This program is provided in cooperation with the University of Findlay's College of Education.

LMW

Program Fee: \$2 per student

Program Offered: September 15, 18-22, 2023

Program Time: 10 AM - 1:45 PM

Maple Sugarin' Days

Grades 2-5

Program time: 10:30 AM - 1:15 PM

Step into nature and history as you explore the history and production of one of North America's sweetest products.

The upper track will cover wildlife and sap, modern production, and the 1847 McKinnis House with a visit from a costumed interpreter.

The lower track will take you on the trail to cover sap science and maple sugaring in American Indian culture, and to see a busy pioneer working in the sugar bush.

LMW

Program Fee: \$1 per student

Program Offered: March 13-17, 2023



Nature Comes Alive

Grade 5

Immerse yourself in science and nature through a day of hands-on



Program Time: 10 AM - 1:45 PM

activities in the great outdoors. Explore the transfer of energy through ecosystems and food chains, while learning about a local raptor. Search for producers, consumers, and decomposers on a naturalist-led hike. Learn about light with hands-on

activities using prisms and mirrors. Study plants and how they tie into our survival, and then enter our portable planetarium to look at stars.

RRA

Program Fee: \$2 per student

Program Offered: April 17 -21, 2023