



# Hancock Park District Educational Programs 2023-2024 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](mailto: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

1424 East Main Cross St., Findlay, OH  
**(419) 425-7275** [www.hancockparks.com](http://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.

**Most park programs can be held at the following park locations:** Aeraland Recreation Area, Litzenberg Memorial Woods, Oakwoods Nature Preserve and Riverbend Recreation Area. We can also travel to your school site and bring our programs to you.

\*Outreach only

+At Litzenberg Memorial Woods only

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.

Contact Michelle at [mrumschlag@hancockparks.com](mailto:mrumschlag@hancockparks.com) for more information about Nature Comes Alive and Maple Sugarin' for 2024.

## History Programs

Litzenberg Memorial Woods will be closed from January-June 2024 due to a paving project. Programs can take place now until the rest of the year.

### 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.

### 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.

### Communities+

#### Grade 3

#### 1-3 stations

Get your bartering shoes on as we go to the 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.

### 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

### **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.

## **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.

### **Amazing Animal Senses**

**Grade 1**

**1-5 stations**

Discover how animals use sight, sound, taste, touch, smell and their tongues through hands-on activities and experiments.

### **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.

### **Discovery Stories**

**Grades Preschool & Kindergarten**

**30 minutes**

Through stories, songs, and hands-on activities, students will explore nature and science. Can be held at either your school or Oakwoods Nature Preserve.

Nov. – Scat

Dec. – Snowflakes

Jan. – Owls

Mar. – Preying Mantis

### **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 fossils and animals living today.

### **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.

### **Fabulous Food Webs**

**Grades 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.

## **Habitats**

### **Grades 2-3**

**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.

## **Insect Investigations**

### **Grade 1**

**1-3 stations**

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.

## **Landforms**

### **Grade 4**

**1-3 stations**

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

## **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.

## **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.

## **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!

## **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.

## **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.

### **Puppet Show: In the Meadow**

**Grade Preschool & Kindergarten**

**1 hour**

Let's venture into the meadow to see who's out and about in the flowers and grasses. We will do some singing afterwards and make a craft too! Offered at Oakwoods Nature Preserve

*February 5-9, 2024*

### **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.

### **Up in the Air**

**Grade 2**

**1-3 stations**

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

### **What's the Weather**

**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.

### **Water, Water Everywhere**

**Grade 1**

**1-3 stations**

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.

## **Portable Planetarium**

**Planetarium programs take place inside the Discover Center at Oakwoods Nature Preserve or at your school.**

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 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.

### **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.