

Your Opportunities to Connect

GROUP PROGRAM CATALOG

A Guide to Group Educational Programs of the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center



WILDCAT GLADES
CONSERVATION &
Audubon
CENTER

Your Opportunities to Connect

GROUP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



Adjacent to some of the area's unique natural resources, such as Shoal Creek, and the globally rare chert glades, the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center in Wildcat Park is a living laboratory to use in conservation education programs.

The Center is a partnership project of Audubon Missouri, the City of Joplin and the Missouri Department of Conservation. We are a private, non-profit organization that relies on support from generous individuals and foundations, as well as program fees, store sales, memberships and special events. The Center provides children and adults with nature-related educational programs and outdoor experiences through a sustainably developed nature center facility, site amenities, and system of trails. Our professional staff and volunteers strive to meet your needs.

The site features:

- Indoor educational displays and exhibits for all ages, including a 1,300-gallon Ozark stream and a wildlife terrarium complex
- A wildlife viewing area to see native birds and other animals up-close
- Over three miles of nature trails
- Outdoor learning stations
- Classrooms and meeting rooms

“No Lunchables, Please!”

Green Lunch Challenge at Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center

Lunchables, with their many layers of packaging, are just one example of a lunch that is not as environmentally sustainable or healthy as a home-made lunch. While packing a home-made lunch may take a bit more planning and few extra minutes, the benefits are worth it for your child. One thing you can do is to pack the lunch the night before to reduce the morning rush.

Home-made lunches also save money! Studies have shown that buying disposable lunches on average cost about \$4.00 a day per person, while a home-made lunch is around \$2.65. That adds up to nearly \$250.00 per person per school year!

In an effort to do more recycling education with groups who visit Wildcat Glades and bring their sack lunches to eat here, we are launching a new effort to encourage everyone to reduce and recycle as much of their lunch waste as possible, and help reduce the amount of solid waste going to landfills.

First, group leaders should review the list of tips below to share with children and their parents detailing ways that they can bring a “greener” lunch when they visit the Center:

- Instead of packing food in plastic baggies and using other disposable items (utensils, paper bags, etc.), use washable plastic containers, heavier plastic utensils, and insulated lunch bags. Put their name on all reusable items.
- Instead of juice boxes or Capri-Sun-type drinks, take reusable water/drink bottles.
- Instead of fruit cups, pack fresh fruits and veggies in reusable containers.
- Use cloth napkins, or at least buy paper ones that have the highest recycled content. Have your child help decorate their reusable napkin making it special, and more likely to return home.
- Avoid purchasing items that are individually wrapped. Buy in bulk and save money.

When the group arrives and checks in, the leaders will be given separate bags for recyclables and trash (non-recyclables). Aluminum, #1 and #2 plastic (look for the recycling symbol imprinted on the container), glass bottles, tin cans, and cardboard or paper will be recyclable. Please make sure they are empty and as clean as possible. There are also plastic and aluminum recycling containers available in the picnic area. A composter for food waste (mainly fruit and vegetables, NO meat or dairy products) is also available in the picnic area. Groups should place bags of trash and recyclables in our dumpster compound nearby after lunch.

We believe that this challenge will help teach individuals more about recycling and open a door for a group discussion about how they can have a positive impact on our environment, and possibly inspire them to reduce, reuse, and recycle more at home and school.

Thanks to the Region M Solid Waste Management District and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for their assistance with this program. Some information for this page was taken from the following web site, which lists other tips for a greener, healthier lunch: <http://greenlivingideas.com/2008/01/22/tips-for-packing-a-nutritious-waste-free-lunch/>



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GROUP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

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Our educational programs take the habitats found in Wildcat Park and combines them with best practices in teaching and environmental studies. Our hands-on, field-based programs are guided by National and State Standards, teacher input, and are taught by caring, committed naturalists and volunteers. Each trip is different as we experience the seasons and cycle of life at the park and every visit delivers thought-provoking lessons that fit well with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning. The Audubon Center opens children's eyes to the natural world around them and shows them ways to care for their living world. Students will leave with their interest sparked and teachers with new ideas and inspiration for many lessons to come.

Group programs should be scheduled in advance as soon as you know when you'd like to visit us. See the registration form at the end, or contact us via our web site, e-mail, or by phone if you prefer. If you don't see a program here that meets your needs, just ask us – we can develop and personalize specific programming to meet your requirements.

Kindergarten & First Grade

Amazing Animals:

Characteristics of Living Things & Animal Classification

GLEs: 3.1.A., 3.1.D., 3.1.E., 7.1.A.–E.
When: Apr.-May and Sept.-Nov.
Size: 15 students min. / 60 students max.
Time: 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Cost: \$4 per student

Most children have a natural curiosity about animals and this program emphasizes observing and touching a variety of live organisms. Through a sensory nature hike, we will engage students in using all their senses. An entertaining puppet show will help teach them about what's living and what's not.

Second Grade

The Circle of Life: *Life Cycles of Animals*

GLEs: 3.1.B., 3.1.D., 7.1.A.–E.
When: Apr.-May
Size: 15 students min. / 60 students max.
Time: 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Cost: \$4 per student

Students will discover the similarities/differences between butterfly, frog, bird, and mammal life cycles through an entertaining puppet show, exhibits, and hands-on time with live amphibians and catching insects.

Third Grade

Adapt to this Habitat:

Adaptations & Habitats

GLEs: 3.1.A., 3.1.D., 4.2.A., 7.1.A.–E.
When: Apr.-May and Sept.-Oct.
Size: 15 students min. / 60 students max.
Time: 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Cost: \$4 per student

While on a nature scavenger hike, students will discover what organisms need to survive and the components of a habitat. They will also compare woodlands, creeks, and glades, and how plants/animals are adapted for each habitat.

Third & Fourth Grade

Winter Wonderland: *Winter Ecology*

GLEs: 3.1.A., 3.1.D., 4.2.A., 7.1.A.–E.
When: Nov. - Feb.
Size: 15 students min. / 60 students max.
Time: 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Cost: \$4 per student

Discover how animals and plants adapt for winter. On a winter hike, students will also learn what animals are around us simply by reading the clues they leave behind, such as tracks and scat. Wild birds at our bird feeding stations allow students to learn to identify common birds in winter, and become citizen scientists as they help us track observations for programs like Project FeederWatch, which they can also do at school or at home.



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Fourth, Fifth, & Sixth Grade

Excellent Ecosystems:

Ecology & Terrestrial Ecosystems

GLEs: 1.2.C., 3.1.D., 3.1.E., 3.2.B., 4.1.A., 4.1.B., 4.1.D., 4.2.A., 4.3.C., 5.2.A., 7.1.A.–E.

When: Apr.-May and Sept.-Oct.

Size: 30 students min. / 60 students max.

Time: 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
(30 min. break for lunch included)

Cost: \$6 per student

Students will collect, record, and report data as they take an in-depth look at glade and woodland ecosystems. For a half day or 2 hour experience, we only investigate the woodland ecosystem, and the cost is \$4 per student with a minimum of 15 students. We will examine the living, as well as the non-living components of these ecosystems. Students will learn to use a simple key to identify organisms. They will also learn about the transfer of energy in an ecosystem and the role of producers, consumers, and decomposers in our world.

Fifth – Twelfth Grade

Water Wonders:

Water & Aquatic Ecosystems

GLEs: 1.2.C., 3.1.A., 3.1.E., 4.1.A., 4.1.D., 4.2.A., 4.3.C., 5.1.B., 5.2.A., 5.2.E., 5.3.A., 7.1.A.–E.

When: Apr.-May and Sept.-Oct.

Size: 30 students min. / 60 students max.

Time: 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$6 per student

Water – you can't live without it! Students will learn about local water-related issues and examine these issues by collecting real data from Silver and Shoal Creeks. Students will also learn to use a simple key for identifying the aquatic organisms collected through their exploration of these ecosystems. For a half day or 2 hour experience, we only sample the macroinvertebrates in the stream and the cost is \$4 per student with a minimum of 15 students. Prepare to get wet! Old shoes required.

Green Technologies Tour

GLEs: 1.2.A., 1.2.C., 4.1.C., 4.2.B., 5.3.A., 8.1.A.–C., 8.3.B.

When: year round

Size: 15 students min. / 60 students max.

Time: 2 hrs. (flexible starting time)

Cost: \$4 per student

Learn about the unique, cost-saving, “green” technologies and principles employed in the Audubon Center and site, such as geothermal heating and cooling, a living roof, etc. A naturalist will guide students through a series of learning stations that highlight various resource saving principles, including recycling, and green technologies.



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PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Believing that an awareness of nature should begin as early as possible, the Center offers a variety of on-site pre-school programs for daycares and pre-schools with children 3-6 years old. Our programs incorporate seasonal themes to help develop a child's ability to make simple associations with things found in nature, to participate successfully in cooperative play and learning, and to help a child develop motor skills through games and role playing. A half-hour-long program may incorporate live animals, nature artifacts, stories, puppets, imaginative play, nature games and crafts.

When: year round

Size: 10 students min. / 30 students max.

Time: 1 hr. (flexible starting time)

Cost: \$4 per student

Pre-school Outreach Program (Let us come to you!)

Animal Ark

When: year round

Size: 20 max.

Time: 30 min.

Age: 3-6

Cost: \$50 for first program

\$35 for each consecutive program
(needed if more than 20 students)

If more than 15 mi. from Center, will also charge mileage at current government rate.

With several live animals, a naturalist will wow the children at YOUR site! Learn about the lives of Trevor the rabbit, a brave box turtle, and a slippery salamander. Age appropriate songs, stories, and finger plays will help make this a memorable experience for all!

Other Program Titles and Availability:

Talkin' Turkey Nov.

Winter Wonderland Dec.-Feb.

Wake Up Groundhog! Jan.-Feb.

Wings Of Winter Nov.-Feb.

or tell us what topics you would like to see!

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Home schools are welcome to schedule any of the group programs listed here. Minimum group size applies and children age three and up are included; ages two and under are free, along with parents. Because of the wide age range of most home school groups, we often recommend the third grade program, Adapt to this Habitat, which appeals to many ages. If separated into older (4th grade and up) and younger (3rd grade and below) groups, we may be able to conduct two programs simultaneously to fit your group's educational needs.

SCOUT AND OTHER YOUTH GROUP PROGRAMS

The Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center provides a variety of group program opportunities. There are programs for scout groups that are designed to help work on the various requirements needed to complete badges and other advancements such as bird study, forestry and environmental science. There are also programs for groups such as Boys and Girls Clubs, 4-H, school-age daycares and day camps to incorporate into their activities. Many programs include hikes, live animals and you may even get wet!

Amphibians and Reptiles

When: year round

Size: 15 min. / 30 max.

Time: 30 min. - 1 hr., depending on age group

Age: 6 and up, including adults

Cost: \$3 per participant

They're sometimes slimy or scaly, and often misunderstood! Learn the truth about amphibians and reptiles as we view and even touch some of these live, cold-blooded critters and discover their amazing adaptations for survival and how they benefit humans.

Discover Birds

When: year round

Size: 15 min. / 20 max.

Time: 2 hrs

Age: 6 and up, including adults

Cost: \$4 per participant

Do you have a home in Latin America AND the Four State Area? Many birds do! Learn about the connection between the birds on breeding grounds in this area and wintering grounds south of the border. We'll begin indoors learning basic bird ID techniques, and a few of the more common birds of the area. We'll also learn about critical issues affecting birds. Following a discussion of how to use binoculars and field guides, we'll head outdoors for a chance to see and hear birds in their natural habitats on a hike through the park.



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Birthday Parties

Your child can celebrate their birthday at the Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center! Parties geared for 4-10 year-olds include a 20-minute nature program and use of a classroom or outdoor pavilion for 2 hours to celebrate with your own birthday supplies. Choose up to four of the following live animal “ambassadors” to visit your party (availability on day of program may vary): snake, salamander, turtle, toad, frog, or rabbit. Have a particular party theme in mind? Let us know and we may be able to work that into the nature program.

\$10.00 per child for the first 15 children.

10 child minimum or \$100.

\$15.00 for each additional child up to 30.

Contact the Audubon Center to reserve your birthday party. *A 50% deposit is required in order to confirm date. 50% of deposit will be refunded upon cancellation.*

Room and Facilities Rentals and Adult Programs

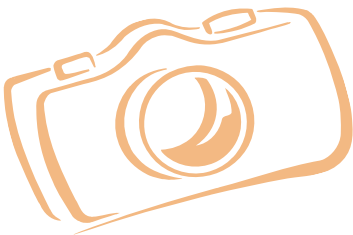
Need a room or outdoor pavilion for a reception, retirement party, business meeting, or company picnic? The Audubon Center offers both indoor and outdoor facilities with spacious rooms, seating up to 125, kitchen access, a patio, and beautiful exhibits. Indoor spaces offer glimpses of the area’s unique chert glades and the event pavilion lies next to scenic Shoal Creek. An optional nature program is also available for adult groups such as reunions and organization or corporate meetings. Please contact the Audubon Center for reservations and pricing information.

Your Support is Vital!

The Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center is not supported by taxes. We are a private, non-profit organization that relies on support from generous individuals and foundations, as well as program fees, store sales, memberships and special events. This allows us to keep our programming costs low and open to everyone. To make a gift to the Audubon Center, please contact us at (417) 782-6287.

Shopping in the Nature Store

A visit isn’t complete without stopping in the Heron’s Nest nature store. The nature store has dozens of items your group will enjoy, from snacks and drinks, to educational toys and books, Audubon plush birds or other items to enhance the learning experience. You are welcome to let your group visit the store. Please notify us when you schedule your visit, and limit to 10 students at a time in store with adult chaperone. If you prefer, we can have souvenir packages ready for your group. Each package costs \$5 and includes a variety of items appropriate to your learning experience. You can obtain an order form from our web site, or by calling (417) 782-6287. Please submit your order at least two weeks before your visit.



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REGISTRATION

Photos by: Becky Biehl-Wylie, Jamine Bray, Ferguson & Katzman Photography, Patrick W. Tuttle, Chris Pistole, and Katharine Spigarelli.

Registration Instructions

Welcome to an exciting year of learning and fun at Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center!

Please follow these instructions when completing the registration form. If you are not a school group, please fill in the blanks with applicable responses.

- 1) Program requests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Group sizes are limited to allow more personal instruction for each student. If you have more students than the maximum group size, you will need to book additional programs.
- 2) Please PRINT all information on the registration form. Mail the form to the Audubon Center, Attn: Education Department, 201 West Riviera Dr., Suite A, Joplin, MO 64804 or fax (417) 623-2288.
- 3) Two or more classes coming at the same time to the Center for the same program should complete ONE registration.
- 4) Please plan to arrive 10-15 minutes before your program begins to allow time to check-in and use the restrooms. If you arrive late, your program will be shortened so that we may maintain other programs as scheduled. If you must leave before the designated ending time for your program, be sure to note this on the form and also inform the instructor(s) when you arrive.

- 5) An e-mail or written confirmation will be sent to all those registered for programs.
- 6) Payment should be made prior to the program in the Heron's Nest nature store in the Center. Please pay with ONE check or credit card if possible. Cash is accepted as well. If paying with a purchase order, this must be approved prior to your visit and a copy must be brought with you.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

A 50% fee will be charged for all canceled reservations with less than two weeks notice, as other programs may be scheduled around your request.

Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center

201 West Riviera Drive, Suite A
Joplin, MO 64804
(417) 782-6287

www.wildcatglades.audubon.org



REGISTRATION FORM PLEASE PRINT!

Application Date _____

School or Group name: _____

Will you be eating lunch here? _____ At what time will you need to leave? _____

Will you be visiting the Heron's Nest nature store? _____

E-mail address: _____

School or other address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Person: _____ Home Phone #: _____

School Phone #: _____ Ext: _____ Fax #: _____

Any Special Needs? (i.e. students in wheelchairs): _____

Preferred Request(s): Please label 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice of dates. Please Note: Specific dates may be requested, however, we may not be able to guarantee those dates.

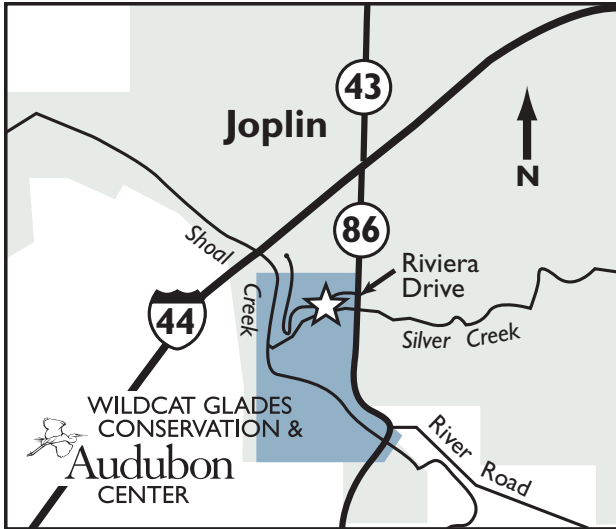
Program	Dates	# Students	Grade	Start Time (for 1/2 day prog.)
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please mail or fax registration form to:

Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center
Attn.: Education Department
201 West Riviera Dr., Suite A
Joplin, MO 64804
Fax: (417) 623-2288

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CENTER HOURS

Year-Round: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday

March - October: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday

The Audubon Center is closed on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day through the day after, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

**We Guide Learning. Live What We Teach.
Nurture Respect For Nature and Thrive Outdoors.**

YOU MAY FOLD ON DOTTED LINE AND TAPE CLOSED AT 3 GRAY AREAS TO RETURN REGISTRATION.

Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center
Attn.: Education Department
201 West Riviera Drive, Suite A
Joplin MO 64804

PLACE
STAMP
HERE
