

The West Valley Outdoor Learning Center

Program Menu: Bird Themed Programs



HOOT Shows (Hawk and Owl Outreach Talks)

HOOT shows introduce participants to the incredible world of raptors. Outreach programs include two live raptors, and an educator to visit your facility with an interactive presentation. Programs are designed to increase awareness about wildlife as well as enhance classroom units on ecosystems, food webs and adaptations

Silhouettes

Learn how to identify birds in your area by looking at their body shape and their behavior. This lesson will equip you with all you need to become a true “bird watcher”.

Thicket (Game)

This fun outdoor game introduces students to the concept of camouflage and predator-prey relationships.

Beaks and Feet

You can tell a lot about a bird by looking at its beaks and feet. This fun game challenges students to discover how birds beaks and feet are adapted to help the bird survive and thrive on a specific food source.

Food for the Brood

It is a tough world for a baby bird. Learn about how birds work to help their young survive in this exciting relay game. Be prepared though, you may get wet!

Ipod Scavenger Hunt

Take the OLC's ipods for a spin as you and your classmates race to find all the items on your bird themed scavenger hunt. Use the ipod to document what you find, and share your results with the rest of your class. This STEM friendly lesson combines science and technology in a kid-friendly activity.

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Program Menu: Habitat/Conservation



Thicket (Game)

This fun outdoor game introduces students to the concept of camouflage and predator-prey relationships.

How Many Bears Can Live in This Forest?

In this activity, students pretend to be bears looking for the four main elements of a habitat: food, water, shelter and space. Students learn about limiting factors for population sustainability and population growth, and learn about competition between animals for necessary resources.

Web of Life

In this activity, students learn about interconnections between habitats and food webs by collaboratively building a giant web.

Hazardous Links

Discover the connections between animals in a food web, and find out what happens when a pollutant enters the system. This activity/game explores the effects of bioaccumulation on a top predator species.

Habittracks

There was a visitor to the OLC last night, and your job is to follow their tracks and find out what they were looking for! This activity explores the habitat requirements of different animal species and has students practice map reading skills!

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Program Menu: Water Themed Programs



Enviroscape

Get a birds eye view of the Spokane River watershed and see how our actions impact the river and the Spokane Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. This interactive lesson allows students to manipulate variables to see how our actions change the watershed.

Edible Aquifer

The water from our Aquifer is already delicious, but it is brought to a whole new level in this tasty lesson. Students create an aquifer model out of ice cream and candy, and see what happens to pollution that is dumped near a well. The best part of this lesson comes at the end when we suck our aquifer dry 😊

Aquifer Well Hike

Take a good look at our aquifer in this informative guided tour of one of our closest wells. Students see both an active and inactive well, and get a chance to peer down into the depths and get a glimpse of Spokane's water supply!

Incredible Journey

Take a self-guided tour through the water cycle as you pretend to be a tiny water droplet in a great big world. Students learn all about the water cycle, and how each part of cycle interacts.

Macro invertebrate Investigation

In this hands-on field investigation, students determine the quality of the OLC ponds and streams by discovering which kinds of tiny organisms live there. Students collect aquatic macro invertebrates (water bugs) using nets and buckets, and then work to identify the bugs they find.

Macro invertebrate Mayhem!

In this active outdoor game students pretend to be a type of macro invertebrate and see if they can survive in an increasingly polluted environment. This is a great lesson to pair with the Macro invertebrate investigation, and will be sure to get your students up and moving around.

Crumpled Watershed

Build your own mini watershed out of paper and markers and see what happens to your watershed in a storm!

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Program Menu: Special Programs



Native American Studies Day

This full day program introduces students to the benefits and difficulties of living in a tribal society. Students group together to form mini-tribes who are subjected to various positive and negative scenarios. Students engage in fun traditional activities such as working with stone tools, learning about traditional agricultural practices, hunting with bows and arrows, and fishing! They also get to play some traditional games, and make fun crafts. This program is perfect for students grades 3-5.

Miscellaneous Programs:

Survival Hike

Find out what it takes to survive a mishap in the woods in this fun and interactive program. Students learn about preparedness and leave no trace ethics while they work together to solve problems using only their wits and whatever they have brought with them on their hike.

Fossils

In this activity, students learn what fossils are, how they are formed, and what they can tell us about the past. They then get to make their very own model of a fossil, and figure out what their "fossil" could tell future scientists.

Tree Rings

Use a cross-section of a tree to learn about the age of the tree, and the weather patterns in the years of its life.