



PEBC Winter 2009-2010 Programs

Programs take place at Sparks County Park unless otherwise noted. Sparks Park is located at 935 North Highway 86, Lakefield, MN, 56150. **Pre-registration is required for all programs at minimum of two business days prior to program.** Please call 507-662-5064 to pre-register or send an email to: ecologybus@ecologybus.org. More winter programs may be posted in addition to those listed here so be sure to check the Prairie Ecology Bus Center's website: www.ecologybus.org. Winter listings, changes in programs and new programs will be posted on the website under the "Programs" link. Program fees are listed and class fee is payable at the time of the program.

The Snow is my Home

January 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Open to PreK-1st grades and their parents/caregivers Cost: \$3 for members/ \$6 for non-members (Caregivers attend free).

Snow can be so beautiful as it drifts from the sky, especially if it is falling on a moonlit night! To animals that remain active throughout winter it can sometimes be a challenge. For many animals, the snow helps them to survive our coldest season! Investigate with a PEBC Naturalist, the qualities of snow through activities and artifacts and discover how snow is helpful to many animals' survival!

Geology Rocks!

January 11, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Open to youth grades 3 and older and adults Cost: \$5 for members/ \$8 for non-members

If you take all rocks for granite, this program is for you! You will learn how rocks are formed and how to identify various rock types. Everyone will have opportunities for close-up observation and testing of various rock specimens. We'll become geologists for the evening as we test specimens for hardness and other characteristics to discover their secret identities!

Snowshoes and Jack Wax

January 24, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Open to Youth*, Families and Adults Cost: \$10 for members/ \$15 for non-members

Our Annual Snowshoe Hike is here again with a new twist! Don't miss your chance to enjoy wildlife tracking and winter scenery while walking the trails on snowshoes! Meet us at Sparks Park and we'll explore the sights, sounds and fresh air of winter! Snowshoes are provided or bring your own.

(*Snowshoes do not fit youth grades 2 and younger but they are welcome to attend and walk with us.)

We'll top off the afternoon by making an old-fashioned sweet treat made with snow and another of Mother Nature's fabulous gifts! "Jack Wax" goes by several names including "Snow Taffy" and you'll enjoy this winter candy just as the early Native Americans and Pioneers did! Snowshoes are limited so call early to register!

Chemistry Whiz

January 27, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Open to youth grades 3 and older Cost: \$5 for members/ \$8 for non-members

The stuff of the universe is called **matter**. The air you breathe, the water you drink, the ground on which you walk, the chair in which you sit are all made of ***matter***. There are three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas. You'll become a chemistry whiz for the evening as we conduct hands-on experiments to learn about each of these states of matter.

Ag. Gone Wild!

February 3, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Open to youth grades 3 and older Cost: \$5 for members/ \$8 for non-members

Agriculture involves some pretty wild and crazy things! We use awesome stuff everyday that we don't even think about them coming from Agriculture! Whether or not you live on a farm, this class is for you! We'll be doing some crazy things like making ink from soybeans, learning how to blow bigger better bubbles, exploring what surface tension is and how to break it and more wild activities! Don't miss this chance to explore cool things that grow all around us!

Garden In A Card

February 11, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Open to Youth and Families Cost: \$8 for members/ \$10 for non-members

Just in time for Valentines Day comes this perfect program – plantable paper! You'll be able to ply your creativity and make your own sheet of homemade paper from recycled materials that can be turned into a one-of-a-kind card for your special valentine. Best of all, the paper can then be planted and grown into beautiful flowers! Truly a gift that keeps on giving.

Feast for Feathered Friends

February 20, 10:00 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m.

Open to Youth and Families Cost: \$8 for members/ \$10 for non-members

Nature normally provides food for our northern birds during winter months. However, providing a little extra energy in winter can be helpful - especially if we want to invite our avian neighbors in for a closer look! Learn what birds spend the winter with us and how you can attract them to your backyards. Try your hand at making different types of feeders to take home and delight your winged friends. Each participant will have the opportunity to make three types of bird treats to hang outside their homes or give as gifts! This class can be messy, so dress casually. **Pre-registration required by**

February 15.

Nighttime Hunters

February 22, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Open to Families and Adults Cost: \$8 for members/ \$10 for non-members

Owls can be very mysterious animals! You would have a hard time seeing one if you walked in the woods during the day *or* night! They can see things we can't. They can hear things we can't. And they move so quietly, we may not know they're there - even if they're close by! Owls are uniquely adapted to their role of nighttime hunters. Learn more about these secretive birds through activities, owl artifacts, and dissecting owl "puke" to look for cool bones, fur and feathers from the animals they had for lunch! After learning about these mysterious animals, we will take a walk in the park to try find them so dress for the weather and walking. Don't miss this class – it will be a ***"Hoot!"***

Mystery Agriculture

February 25, 6:00 -- 7:30 p.m.

Open to youth grades 3 and older Cost: \$5 for members/ \$8 for non-members

Everyone loves a mystery! Did you know that potatoes can become batteries powerful enough to run a clock? This is just one of the many mystery experiments you can test using your senses of taste, touch, smell and observation! You'll become a super-sleuthing agriculture detective in this fun program!

How Things Work

March 4, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Open to youth grades 3 and older Cost: \$5 for members/ \$8 for non-members

Sometimes, a few of the things a person needs to do around the farm or your home require an ingenious solution. Using science, these problems can be solved to make the job easier (and fun!). Learn how a bridge works, how to make a boat float, how to tell if an egg is hard boiled and more!

Camouflage Critters

March 8, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Open to PreK-1st grades and their parents/caregivers Cost: \$3 for members/ \$6 for non-members (Caregivers attend free).

Animals and people hide things for various reasons. In nature, animals hide their young to protect them from predators. Pirates hide stolen treasure to protect it from being stolen yet again. One of the most effective ways to hide something is by “camouflaging” it. Mother Nature is full of creatures that are experts when it comes to hiding! Join this fun class to explore the amazing ways animals use camouflage to survive!

Wild Origami Zoo

March 13, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Open to youth grades 5 and older Cost: \$8 for members/ \$10 for non-members

Would you like to try your hand at making a zoo with some of Minnesota’s wildest creatures to bring home? In this nature and art program, we will learn about and create native animals using the ancient art of paper folding known as *Origami*. Learn to make a creeping critter, a beaked buddy, a pond pouncer and others!

Green-Thumb Detectives

March 25, 6:00- 8:00 p.m.

Open to youth grades 3 and older Cost: \$8 for members/ \$10 for non-members

When we think about agriculture, we usually think about plants! Whether it’s growing plants to provide us food, clothing, medicine, and shelter or feeding them to live stock (or wild animals) ... we can’t live without plants! We’ll become plant detectives and explore the many roles that plants play. Spring is when we really get excited about plants because soon farmers will be planting crops and gardeners will be planting flowers and vegetables. We’ll get a head-start on Spring with activities such as making a garden-in-a-glove and a grass pet to grow and care for!

Sounds of Spring

March 28, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Open to PreK-1st grades and their parents/caregivers Cost: \$3 for members/ \$6 for non-members (Caregivers attend free).

Hooray! The first day of spring is March 20! *Ribbit, ribbit*--that's one of the many sounds we might hear this spring as frogs and toads come out of their winter homes. *Trickle, trickle*. Spring brings warmer weather. That weather melts any snow and ice which trickles through streams and rivers. Trickling water is an important part of life for animals and plants. *Chirp, chirp*. Spring brings birds who are busy making nests and laying eggs. Folks who spend a lot of time in the outdoors understand that there are certain sounds that herald the coming of spring. Join us to learn more about these sounds as we hike through Sparks Park!