

DICKINSON COUNTY NATURE CENTER

GRADE 3 — NATURE CENTER FIELD TRIP OVERVIEW

What students should

bring:

- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots
- Water bottle for drinking water
- Lunch

What teachers should

bring:

- Sunscreen/bug spray for class
- First aid kit

Contact

Environmental
education coordinator
Bryanna Kuhlman
bkuhlman@co.dickinson.ia.us,
712-336-6352 Ext. 3

Activity 1: Animal Exploration

Led By: Dickinson County Conservation staff

Core Expectations: 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3

Duration: 30 minutes

Description: In this lesson, students will get to meet some of our favorite animal ambassadors. These ambassadors will help to educate students on many amazing animal adaptations in the animal kingdom. Students will get to compare and contrast species adaptations and will learn how these adaptations help animals to survive in their habitats.

Activity 2: Wetland Wander

Led By: Dickinson County Conservation staff

Core Expectations: 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4

Duration: 30 minutes

Description: No two wetlands are the same, and through this exploratory hike students will compare and contrast two very different wetlands in Kenue Park. Students will identify wetlands, make observations about the areas they visit and discover which plants and animals call these areas home, all while enjoying some fresh air outdoors.

Activity 3: Life Under the Pond

Led By: Dickinson County Conservation staff

Core Expectations: 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-4,

Duration: 30 minutes

Description: In this lesson, students will be able to learn about the diversity of pond life through a story and discussion. After the story, students will be able to explore the diversity of macro invertebrates that live in our pond. Students will be able to collect vegetation, sediment and water in order to gather and sort aquatic invertebrates. Although they are small, they are mighty and help researchers to detect the water quality of many wetlands.

Activity 4: Life Cycles Scavenger Hunt

Led By: District teacher or chaperone, if group is 40-100 students

Core Expectations: 3-LS1-1

Duration: 30 minutes

Description: In this activity, students will investigate the life cycles of various animals and plants that call Dickinson County home. Students will need to work together to find, identify and correctly place in order the different life cycle stages of their assigned animal or plant.



DICKINSON COUNTY NATURE CENTER

GRADE 3 — FIELD TRIP OVERVIEW

SIDE 2

Suggested Field Trip Itinerary

10 a.m. Arrive at the Dickinson County Nature Center

10-10:15 a.m. Introduction, break into groups

10:20-10:50 a.m. Activity 1

10:55-11:25 a.m. Activity 2

11:30 a.m.-noon Lunch

12:05-12:15 p.m. Clean up from lunch, bathrooms get back into groups

12:20-12:50 p.m. Activity 3

12:55-1:25 p.m. Activity 4

1:25-1:50 p.m. Playscape time

In order to give each student the opportunity to learn in our outdoor classroom, we try to keep our group numbers small. Your field trip may look different depending on your class size.

10-24 students: Students will participate as one group and rotate through the stations with one or more naturalist.

25-40 students : Students will be broken into two groups and rotate through stations with one of our naturalists.

40-100 students: Students will be broken into four groups and rotate through stations. With this option, teachers should be prepared to lead one activity on the property. The materials and lesson plan will be provided by the Dickinson County Nature Center staff.