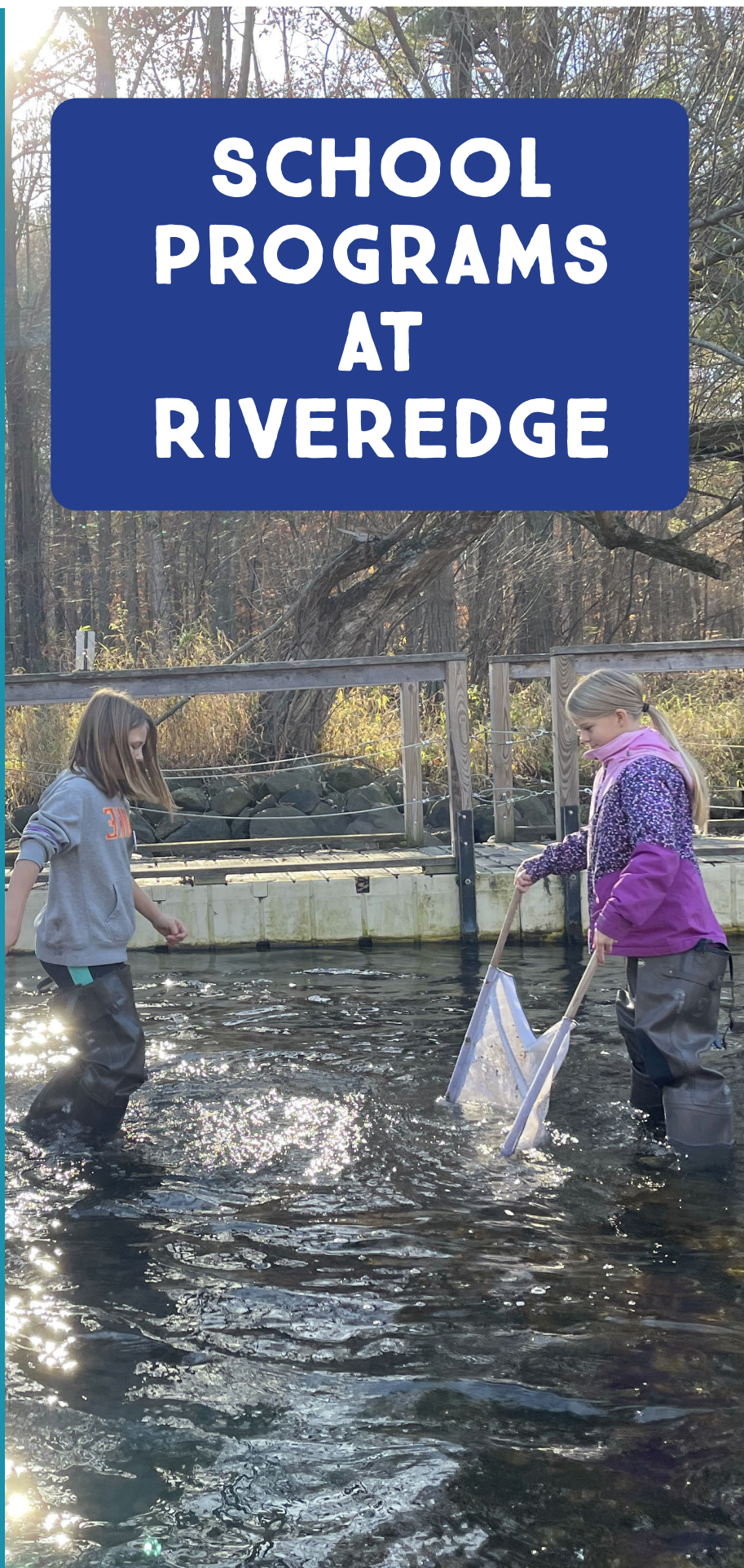




SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT RIVEREDGE

For public, private,
or homeschooled
learners



WELCOME TO RIVEREDGE!



WHO WE ARE

We invite you to take your students beyond their classroom, into the hands-on, inquiry-based outdoor experience that is Riveredge Nature Center!

Located in Saukville, Wisconsin, our programs reach students throughout Southeastern Wisconsin from preschool through high school. With learning based on exploration and discovery, we provide real-world examples that ignite engagement in your classroom curriculum.

WHY CHOOSE RIVEREDGE?



**Aligned with WSS
and NGSS**



**Over 480 Acres to
Explore**



Small Group Sizes



\$7-12 a Student
















































**Bus or program
scholarships available**



**55+ Years of
Experience**

**TO APPLY, VISIT [RIVEREDGENATURECENTER.ORG/
SCHOOLPROGRAMS](https://riveredgenaturecenter.org/schoolprograms)**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	M	HS	Season	Hours*	Field Trip	Outreach	NGSS
A Log's Life	X	X	X							 	1.5-2	X		LS1.A.C, LS3.A ESS2.E
Incredible Insects	X	X	X							 	1.5-2	X	X	LS1.A.C, ESS2.E
Maple Magic	X	X	X								1.5-2	X	X	LS1.A.C, PS3.D, ESS3.A
Exploring the Vernal Pond	X	X	X	X							2	X		LS1.B.C., LS3.A, LS4.D, ESS2.E, ESS3.A
Sensitizing	X	X	X	X						  	2	X	X	LS1.A, LS4.D
Garden Explorations		X	X	X							2	X	X	LS1.A.C., LS2.A, ESS3.A
Art in Nature		X	X	X	X	X	X			  	2	X	X	LS1.C, LS4.D
Fruits of Fall			X	X							2.5	X		LS1.B, LS2.A.C
Basically Birds			X	X	X	X				  	2.5	X	X	LS1.A.B, LS2.D, LS4.B
Habitat Explorations				X	X					 	2.5	X	X	LS2.A.C.D., LS4.A.D., ESS2.A
Looking at Life Cycles				X	X					 	2	X	X	LS1.B, LS3.A
Pollination Puzzle				X	X	X				 	2.5	X	X	LS1.A.4, LS1.D.4, LS2.A.2, LS2.D.3
Maple Sugarin'				X	X	X	X				2.5	X	X	LS1.A.C, LS2.A, PS1.B, PS3.D, ESS2.C
Soil Secrets				X	X	X	X	X		 	2	X	X	LS1.A.4, LS4.B.C, PS3.D, ESS2.E
Life in Winter					X	X					2.5	X	X	LS1.A.D, LS2.C, LS4.C, PS3.D, ESS2.E
Vernal Food Webs					X	X	X				3	X	X	LS1.A.B.C, LS2.A.C, LS4.C.D, PS3.D, ESS2.E
Prairie Adaptations						X	X	X		 	3	X	X	LS1.B.C, LS4.C.D, ESS3.C
Pond Interactions						X	X	X		 	3.5	X	X	LS1.A.C, LS2.A,B,C,D, PS3.D
Wisconsin's Glacial Landscape						X	X	X		 	3 or 5	X	X	ESS1.C, ESS2.A.B.C.D.E
Communities and Ecosystems							X	X		 	3 or 5	X		LS1.C, LS2.A.B.C.D, ESS2.A, ESS3.A.C
River Connections							X	X		 	3	X		LS2.B.C.D, ESS1.C, ESS2.A.C, ESS3.A.C
Winter Ecology							X	X	X		2.5	X	X	LS1.C, LS2.A.B, LS4.B.C
Explore and Restore							X	X	X	 	3	X	X	LS1.B, LS2.A.C,D, LS4.B.C.D, ESS3.C
River Investigation							X	X	X	 	3	X		LS2.A.C, LS4.D, ESS2.C, ESS3.C
Determining Water Quality								X	X	 	3 or 5	X		LS2.A.C, LS4.D, ESS2.C, ESS3.A.C

* Hours listed are for in-person programming. Outreach programs are 1 -1.5 hours

 Fall  Winter  Spring

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS



A LOG'S LIFE - PK-1st - 1.5 - 2 hours

After a tree falls in the forest, it has another life as home to a variety of creatures. Learn about the life cycle of trees and discover the many creatures that depend on forests. A variety of exploratory and sensory experiences allow students to follow their curiosity and get an up-close experience in this unique habitat.

ART IN NATURE - K-5th - 2 hours

Discover patterns in nature through observation of Riveredge collections and outdoor explorations. Create small art projects that reflect their experience connecting with the outdoors.

BASICALLY BIRDS - 2nd-4th - 2.5 hours

Learn to identify common Wisconsin birds and examine bird characteristics, internal and external adaptations and survival strategies. Then embark on a bird hike to find feathered friends and help in a birdfeeder study.

COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS

5th-M - 3 or 5 hours - Plants, animals, fungi, and abiotic elements in an environment interact with each other in various ways. Explore the concepts of community and interdependence. Collect, record and analyze data to better understand pond, forest, and prairie ecosystems.

DETERMINING WATER QUALITY

M-H - 3 or 5 hours - Using the river as a lab, learn about water quality by conducting chemical and physical tests. Collect aquatic invertebrates and use a biotic index to see how these organisms are indicators of water quality.

EXPLORE AND RESTORE - 5th-HS - 3 hours

Team up with professionals to participate in service-learning projects that protect biodiversity. Work together as a team to pull invasive buckthorn, plant trees, or monitor wildlife while exploring unique habitats. Learn how varying techniques like controlled burning, invasive removal, and erosion control help protect unique ecosystems.

EXPLORING THE VERNAL POND

PK-2nd - 2 hours - A vernal pond is an extraordinary ecosystem teeming with life! An adventure-filled hike leads to a vernal pond brimming with aquatic organisms. From a floating boardwalk, students collect those animals and learn about the unique watery world they call home.

FRUITS OF FALL - 1st-2nd - 2.5 hours

Enjoy an exploration of seed dispersal strategies and the concept that fruit is a seed container. The program includes meeting Johnny Appleseed and learning how apple cider is made!

GARDEN EXPLORATIONS - K-2nd - 2 hours

Dig into dirt in the Riveredge children's garden. Students experiment with soil, water and seeds to discover how plants grow and provide food for humans. The program concludes with a fresh, seasonal snack!

HABITAT EXPLORATIONS

2nd-3rd - 2.5 hours - Communities and the plants and animals that depend on them are both unique and interconnected. A variety of exploratory and sensory experiences allow students to follow their curiosity and get an up-close experience of two very different habitats.



INCREDIBLE INSECTS - PK-1st - 1.5 - 2 hours

With sweep nets and bug boxes in hand, set off to discover the many amazing insects that inhabit the Riveredge prairie in autumn. During our exploration, we will get a close-up look at these fascinating creatures and learn how they eat, fly, jump, and enrich our world.

LIFE IN WINTER - 3rd-4th - 2.5 hours

With a treasure map and a set of wintry clues, set off to discover the relationship between animals and their habitats. By examining animal tracks and other signs, discover the skills of observing and making inferences. With sufficient snow cover, snowshoes may be worn.

LOOKING AT LIFE CYCLES - 2nd-3rd- 2

hours - Living things change in fascinating ways throughout their lives. Collect pond animals such as dragonfly larvae and diving beetles, and discover what they look like at different stages of their life cycles.

MAPLE MAGIC - PK-1st - 1.5 - 2 hours

When the days grow warmer and longer, the forest comes alive with the rhythm of flowing sap. Join us in the sugar bush during this special time of year and learn first-hand how to tap a sugar maple tree.

MAPLE SUGARIN' - 2nd-5th - 2.5 hours

The sweetness of spring, the miracle of photosynthesis, and the science of Maple Sugarin' are presented in a fast-paced visit to our working sugarbush!

POLLINATION PUZZLE- 2nd-4th - 2.5 hours

Pollination involves an interconnection between pollinators, plants, and the environment. Collect and investigate native insects and tour our organic farm and working bee hive to see pollination in action.

POND INTERACTIONS - 4th-M - 3.5 hours

A pond ecosystem is made of countless interactions. Map out and collect information and critters of a pond habitat to uncover links between aquatic organisms, abiotic elements, and the larger watershed that connects us all.

PRAIRIE ADAPTATIONS - 4th-M- 3 hours

Explore the prairies of Riveredge and see how the plants and insects survive in their unique niches. Use scientific tools and activities to discover the importance of structural, functional and behavioral adaptations.

RIVER CONNECTIONS - 5th-M - 3 hours

How do watersheds connect us? In this program, students strap on hip waders to explore the Milwaukee River and learn about the human impact on water quality and the diverse organisms that call it home.

RIVER INVESTIGATION - 5th-HS - 3 hours

Use the scientific method to design a river study, strap on a pair of waders, and step into the Milwaukee River to put your prediction to the test! Use traditional and digital probeware to explore how biotic and abiotic components interact in a river ecosystem.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE -->

**SENSITIZING** - PK-2nd - 2 hours

Natural things come in many different shapes, sizes, colors, textures, odors, tastes and sounds. Learn about the diversity of nature through a unique variety of sensory experiences.

SOIL SECRETS - 2nd-M - 2 hours

Discover the secret world beneath your feet. Learn how scientists classify soil and rocks, while investigating the role soil plays and the unique living things that call it home

VERNAL FOOD WEBS - 3rd-5th - 3 hours

A vernal pond presents an amazing and extraordinary ecosystem teeming with life. Collect organisms from a floating boardwalk and explore interrelationships and adaptations that maintain life in this temporary pond.

WINTER ECOLOGY - 5th-M - 2.5 hours

Discover the relationship between animals and their habitats. Explore the impact of limiting factors, such as animals' heat loss, cover and food availability.

WISCONSIN'S GLACIAL LANDSCAPE

4th-7th - 3 or 5 hours - In this student-led quest, travel back in time 10,000 years ago to when the glaciers of Wisconsin retreated. Use scientific tools such as wind meters, soil probes, and thermometers to explore the clues the glaciers left behind—incredible kettle, moraine, kame and esker landforms!

**TO REGISTER YOUR CLASS, VISIT
RIVEREDGENATURECENTER.ORG/
SCHOOLPROGRAMS**

ADVENTURE PROGRAMS

Adventure programs provide a special opportunity for students to gain resilience and to experience the outdoors in a hands-on way! Costs for these programs vary. **To schedule the following options, please contact Bailey Veal at bveal@riveredge.us**

TREE CLIMBING - 2nd-HS - 3 hours

Professional tree climbing helps students see the forest from a new perspective. After a brief training and safety demonstration, students ascend into the canopy in a guided tree climb.

KAYAKING - 5th-HS - 3 hours

Get out on the water on our fleet of kayaks! Led by an expert guide, Riveredge kayaking outings are beginner-friendly and help kids cultivate confidence and teamwork.

SNOWSHOEING - 2nd - HS - 2 - 3 hours

When snow conditions allow, students explore a Riveredge winter wonderland using snowshoes!

PARTNERSHIP OPTIONS

School Partnership - Partnering schools commit to at least one program at Riveredge or one outreach program each year for each grade. Schools receive priority scheduling, and teachers are invited to yearly professional development.

Scientist in Residence Partnership (SIR) - The SIR is an environmental educator placed directly at the schools in a partnering school district. This educator becomes a part of the school team, working closely with teachers and administrators to reduce barriers to outdoor learning.

For partnership inquiries, contact Jeff Kierzek at jkierzek@riveredge.us.