

Environmental Education

Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge

May 2013

May 7 Frazee 1st Graders - (may be changed)

Tree planting

Tree games morning only

Tree Factory and Every Tree for itself

May 8 Rossman 3rd grade - all day 9:15-2:00

Photo Hunt

Hidden Hazards game

Camo Hike

GPS

Spring Sounds

May 9 Roosevelt 3rd grade - all day 9:15-2:00

Photo Hunt

Spring sounds

GPS

Camo hike

Hidden Hazards

May 10 Moorhead Middle school to be determined

May 14 Park Rapids middle school to be determined

May 15 Circle of Life K-3 (until 1:15)

Sounds of Spring

Every Tree For Itself game

Photo Hike

Great Migration Challenge

Camo Hike

Wild Puppets

May 16 Rossman K 9:00-11:00

Wild Puppets

Every Tree for Itself Game

Sounds of Spring

Photo/Camo Hike combined

May 20 Circle of Life 4-6 9:15-2:00

Photo hike
Spring Sounds
GPS
Camouflage Hike
Hidden Hazards

May 22 Roosevelt K 9:00-11:00 (stays to eat hotdogs)

Photo Hunt/Camo hike combine
Every Tree for itself
Sounds of Spring

May 23 Ogema K 9:15-1:15

Every Tree for itself
Sounds of Spring
Photo Hike
Wild Puppets
Great Migration Challenge
Camo hike

May 24 Ogema 3 9:15-2:00

Photo hunt
Spring Sounds
GPS
Camo hike
Hidden Hazards game

May 29 Moorhead 4th (Reinertson) 9:45-1:05

Beaver Dam and Eagle Nest tour
GPS
Hidden Hazards game
Water Cycle Activity

May 30 Moorhead 4th Robert Asp 9:15-2:05

GPS/Orienteering
Beaver dam and eagle nest
Water cycle
Hidden Hazards game

Kindergarten Activities

All Days begin with the Tamarac Watch, a journaling activity 10 minutes.

Spring Sounds - students learn the calls of 6 frogs by imitating their calls heard on a player. They will be able to answer the question of why frogs are so noisy in the spring. Using a big thermometer, students will place pictures of the frogs at the appropriate water temp in which they start calling. Set up includes box of name tags, player, plastic runners to sit on. Must take down at end of day and return to van. Lesson plan available.

Camo hike - photos of animals are hidden along a trail and kids use their eyes to spot these camouflaged animals. They learn what it means to be camouflaged and why it is so important to survival. Set up of animals on trail before students arrive and take down at end of day.

Photo hunt - children go on a scavenger photo hunt, class is divided into groups. A list of nature related items is provided as a guide. Leader and assistants make sure each class is identified on each camera used so photos can be provided to the appropriate school and teacher.

Wild songs, puppets - children learn about spring migration, frogs through a story and puppets, children get to participate. anything to add, Connie?.

Every Tree for Itself game - Student become trees. Poker chips represent sunlight, water and nutrients. (red is sunlight, blue is water and white nutrients. One leg is firmly planted (their root). Chips are spread around the trees and when you say go, they collect chips.. They have to have a certain amount of each to survive. You can pretend there is a flood, drought, wildfire and pollution etc. going through several scenarios. Will everyone survive? Must set up area for game and gather materials at end of day. Lesson plan is in Project Learning Tree

Great Migration Challenge - Each student becomes a bird - wears a tag with picture. There are several stations set up. They roll a dice at each station to determine if they can keep migrating or are pushed back. Who makes it to the end? set up of stations and take down at end of day. Lesson Plan available.

3rd Grade Activities

All Days begin with the Tamarac Watch

Spring sounds - children will learn 6 bird calls, and 6 frog calls. "name tags" of the frogs are given out to students with the picture of the critter- 6 different calls among the 20 or so kids. They learn these calls and then call out at designated times (birds at certain times of morning (leader pretends to be a clock) Frogs call at certain temperatures. they learn about our frog and bird surveys and how we incorporate GPS technology. Set up of area and materials and gather at end of day.

Photo Hunt - leaders must identify classes by teacher on cameras, assist with photo hunt in small groups.

Camo Hike- similar to above.

GPS- Leaders will program points on GPS units prior to kids arrival. Route must be set up (pictures of animals/plants with questions leading to the next point.) Students navigate to points. Leaders and Assistants guide students if needed.

Leader teaches about GPS technology and how we use it on the refuge. Need leaders and assistants.

Photo hunt - students go on a photo hunt using a list to guide them. Class is divided into small groups. Assistants/leaders monitor groups. Leaders make sure each class is identified on the camera.

Hidden Hazards game - activity shows hazards migratory birds face such as cats, towers, windows etc. Students may have to get through a jump rope (high wires) get past a cat etc. Hula hoops represent safe zones in cat territory. if tagged by a cat, cat guides the bird to the entrance of the wintering grounds where those captured birds become a wall. Each kid has a sticky note saying "window" or "open". Once past the cat and into nesting grounds, they must collect 4 colored tokens which represent whether they are parasitized or not. They have to run past the cat again to get to the wall and pick a bird - if it says opening, you go through, if it says window you do not make it to the wintering grounds. If you make it to the wintering grounds, you collect 4 tokens (different colors- some rep contaminated food) Once everyone is finished find out whose eggs were parasitized and whose food was contaminated...Leaders/assistants must be there to set up game before classes arrive and take down as needed after. Lesson plan available.

4th Grade

GPS - same as above

Hidden Hazards Game -same as above

Water Cycle - I have not seen this activity - Nancy Brennan and Kelly presented last year.

Beaver/Eagle Tour Stops -

Students learn about bald eagles including how they became endangered through pesticide use DDT. Game illustrating this is played if time. Scopes are set up to view nest, as well as binoculars. Props include eagle egg and call Students visit a beaver dam and learn about their natural history and how they create wetlands and habitat for other species.

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