



4th Grade - Winter Winter Wildlife Survival

Program Description for Classroom Teachers

Programs are subject to change based on weather, temperature, road conditions, public health and safety concerns.

Synopsis:

In this student-centered, hands-on snowshoeing program, students will have the opportunity to enjoy snowshoeing in the National Forest with their classmates while learning about structures in plants and animals that help them to function, or survive, in winter here in Northern Utah.

Students will engage in a snowpit analysis by measuring temperature at different depths in the snowpack, and will create snow homes for animals by applying their knowledge of animal adaptations and what makes a good shelter in winter. Students will learn basic tracking skills along the snowshoe hike and discover what wildlife sticks around through Utah winters.

Students will:

- Learn how to snowshoe and appraise the personal value of snowshoeing as a tool for wellness, challenges, and interacting with appropriate social skills with classmates
- **Construct an explanation** from evidence in the area that plants and animals in winter have internal and external structures that function to support survival in cold climates
- Apply knowledge of animal adaptations in winter to create snow homes in an experiment to keep animals warm
- Use evidence from historic snowshoes to make inferences about, and explain the importance of, the geography of the land in winter to the Shoshone and other Native Americans in and around Northern Utah
- Learn and apply basic tracking skills

Length of Program: 2 hours

Location: Murray Farm Trail, King Nature Park, or Stokes Nature Center (weather dependent)

Season Offered: Winter

Program Fee: FREE

Logistics:

- Please plan time to load the bus at your school and drive to the field site.
- Confirm the location of your field experience with the driver before leaving your school.
- Please arrive 5 minutes prior to your program time. Programs will begin and end on time.
- Read over our "Winter Weather Cancellation Policy" prior to your program so you know what to expect in case of severe winter weather or sudden winter weather events.
- Students should wear comfortable clothing that may get dirty and/or wet.
- We will be outside for the entirety of this program, dressing in layers is advised.
- Students should wear snow boots. Please, **no sneakers!**
- We have a limited number of boots, coats, and gloves to loan your students if they need them. If you suspect a student may need necessary snow gear, please request these at least two days in advance of your program.
- Students should wear visible name tags at all times (packing tape over a name tag keeps them from falling off).

- Please bring one adult per five students (there is no charge for teachers or chaperones).
- Running water will not be available at the site, so please plan ahead with water bottles.
- Restrooms may not be available, depending on the field site, so plan ahead accordingly.

Classroom Teacher Pre-Program Preparation

- If multiple classrooms from your school are participating, please ensure that all teachers on your team receive the confirmation email which contains essential information about your scheduled field experience.
- See curriculum connections below.

Curriculum Connections

This program supports learning of **SEEd Strand 4.1 Organisms Functioning In Their Environment**

- **Standard 4.1.1: Construct an explanation** from evidence that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction. Emphasize how structures support an organism’s survival in its environment and how internal and external structures of plants and animals vary within the same and across multiple Utah environments. Examples of structures could include thorns on a stem to prevent predation or gills on a fish to allow it to breathe underwater.

Science and Engineering Practices	Crosscutting Concepts	Disciplinary Core Ideas
Constructing Explanations	Structure and Function	Structure and Function

Additional Utah Core Curriculum Connections

Subject	Standard	Objective
English Language Arts	4.SL.1	Participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations, using age-appropriate vocabulary, on topics, texts, and issues.
Social Studies	4.2.1	Use evidence (for example, artifacts, texts, oral traditions, geographic inquiry) to make inferences about, and explain the importance of, the geography of the land that would become Utah in the culture of one or more prehistoric or historic Native American cultures.
PE	Strand 2	Students will apply knowledge to attain efficient movement and performance.
	Strand 3	Students will understand the components necessary to maintain a healthy level of fitness to support physical activity.
	Strand 4	Students will develop cooperative skills and positive personal behavior through communication and respect for self and others.
	Strand 5	Students will appraise the personal value of physical activity as a tool for wellness, challenges, and interacting with appropriate social skills with friends and family.

SEL	K-12	This program supports students growth in all 5 CASEL core competencies: Self Awareness, Social Awareness, Responsible Decision Making, Self Management, Relationship Skills
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