

3rd Grade Program List

Environmental Education

Jasper County Conservation

3rd Grade Programs 2026-2027

Welcome Educators!

We are thrilled to offer a variety of engaging and informative environmental education programs designed to empower teachers and inspire students. Our programs are hands-on, curriculum-aligned, and adaptable to various age groups and learning environments.

Explore the options below and discover how we can help bring the wonders of the natural world into your classroom and beyond!

3rd Grade Fall Field Trip

Third grade classes travel to Uhlenhopp Arboretum on the eastern side of Jasper County where the field trip possibilities are endless! We can incorporate the “Bird Beaks”, “Fascinating Fossils”, “Aging of Trees”, “Bucket of Bones”, “Incredible Insects” and “Migrating Monarchs” programs into these field trips as well as observation hikes and working with microscopes. Please contact the naturalists for more information on what we can do to make this a great learning experience for your students!

***3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4**



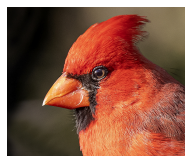
Animal Classification

This program follows along with reading about animals and how scientists group them based on their characteristics. Students will study various groups of animals found in Jasper County and will become familiar with using field guides and other resources to identify and classify them.



***3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2**

Bird Beak Buffet



Students will study several different kinds of birds from different habitats in Iowa. We will determine how these birds are similar and different by observing beak design and wing shape on real, taxidermy birds. Students will experiment with tools representative of beak designs to determine if there is a relationship between beak design and food preference.

***3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2**

Fascinating Fossils

Students will learn how fossils are made, what they tell us of the past, and how to identify common fossils found in Iowa. The naturalist will bring examples for small group study. A few fossils will be made for the classroom using rubber molds and plaster of paris to demonstrate sedimentation and the forming of fossil molds and casts. A discussion will also be led on paleontology and how scientists study things that lived a long time ago.



***3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-1, 3-LS4-4**

The Story of Snow



Students will gain a whole new perspective on snow after studying snowflake shapes and patterns with the naturalist. We'll discuss how temperature changes snow crystals and students will make snow crystals of their own or study real snowflakes if they are around!

***3-ESS2-1**

What's in the Night Sky?

We will review how Earth moves and why what we see from Earth changes throughout the year, focusing on the moon, constellations and other astronomical events that might be happening at the time of the program.



First Impressions



Students will distinguish between reactions to an animal based on myth or stereotype and those based on facts. Students will recognize the value of animals' contributions to ecosystems even those that people sometimes respond to with fear. The class will meet "Cupcake" the fox snake in a live animal demonstration.

***3-LS4-4**

Worms

A discussion about the life cycle of worms will be led with the students. Students will then work with small groups to observe real worms under a microscope, explore the internal organs of a dissected worm, and make worm measurements using gummy worms.

***3-LS1-1**



Contact Us

Ready to book a program or have questions?

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Next Steps

1. **Explore our offerings:** Review the program descriptions to find the best fit for your students. Please limit your selection to a total of 5 programs during the school year, including field trips.
2. **Contact us:** Reach out via email at the beginning of the school year to guarantee a time.
3. **Book your program:** We'll work with you to schedule your chosen environmental education experience. Plan for 30-40 minutes per program.
4. **Prepare for an amazing learning adventure!** Please plan to sit with your class and enjoy the presentation along with your students!