

**Serving All
Jasper County
Schools**

Environmental Education Bulletin

2025-26



www.jaspercountyconservation.com

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Scheduling Naturalist Programs

Welcome back for the 2025-2026 school year! We are excited to work with you and your students again. Here are a few tips on how to make scheduling classroom presentations and field trips a snap!

First off, in order to accommodate everyone who would like a field trip, we are very limited in the number of classroom programs we can do Sept.-Oct. and April-May. In fact, there will not be any classroom activities scheduled after April 10, 2026 to allow for spring field trips. With that said, please contact us now

for field trips! We give field trip requests first priority!

The program menus we provide at the beginning of the school year are simply our recommendations, based off of experience successfully using them in classrooms. It is not a complete list, and we are *always* eager to work with individual teachers to tailor a program to fit your curriculum! Please call or email if you'd like us to meet with you at school to go over some options. If a past favorite is not listed this year, let us know and we'll schedule that one with your class.

You can call or email program requests (email is easiest and preferred) to Katie at kcantu@jasperia.org. Please try to contact us no later than 2 weeks in advance! Our calendar fills up quickly, so please contact us as early in the year as you can.

Lastly, we are limiting each class to 4 naturalist programs and field trips for the year. We'd LOVE to see your students more, but we need to allow equal time for everyone! Thanks so much for all your support. We are looking forward to a great school year!



Above: Berg 6th grade students climb on a giant glacial rock at Uhlenhopp Arboretum.L

Left: 2nd grade students from Emerson Hough Elementary learn about animal habitats using the streamtable.

Youth Fishing Club

Last September, the Jasper County Youth Fishing Club was created for kids grades 3rd-12th in Jasper County. This club offers monthly educational programming where kids learn about a variety of different fishing topics including seasonal techniques, fisheries biology/management, lure making, and much more. We also provide youth fishing tournaments from April-August. We

topped off the end of this season with an overnight trip to Northeast Iowa where we paddled the Yellow River and trout fished some of the nearby streams.

If you know a child in grades 3rd-12th in Jasper County who might be interested, email Greg Oldsen at goldsen@jasperia.org.



Berg Middle School Garden

Last summer, JCCB Teacher Extern and Berg Middle School teacher Micaela Scott, along with Naturalist Greg Oldsen, received a grant through the Newton Community Education Foundation to create a school garden at Berg Middle School. Throughout the school year, Greg and the Berg CTE class planned and prepared the site for raised bed installation.

The garden includes five raised beds, an automated drip irrigation system, and a native prairie planting around the fence border. Greg also led a seed starting program with the CTE class where students learned how to

start tomato seedlings indoors in preparation for spring planting.

The produce from the garden is being donated to the school district for their summer school lunch program.



Left: Greg and Micaela pick carrots from the Berg Middle School garden.

Students Making a Difference!

This year, we'd like to put the spotlight on one particular student who has made a huge difference. Delaney Woollums, Newton High School Class of 2025, started out her senior year contemplating a student internship with Jasper County Conservation through her Cardinal Internship class. We were certainly glad she chose to hang with us!

Delaney started in September by job shadowing the naturalists at their elementary classroom presentations, and was soon leading parts of those presentations herself! When there weren't classes to attend, she came to the conservation office and worked on several projects, including painting a new game table for the Mariposa Nature Playscape Trail, harvesting and cleaning native prairie seeds, and writing animal fact cards for the live program animals we keep.

When the semester was over and so was the internship, Delaney stayed in touch, coming

back to lead a station for us on a kindergarten field trip at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve and coordinating her fellow National Honor Society classmates on a spring work day at Ashton Wildwood Park. Around 60 students helped with nature trail improvements.

If that weren't enough, Delaney volunteered to come back yet again and assist with our summer youth camps, some which she had attended herself as an elementary student. Delaney even led an activity for the 5-7 year old Nature Quest campers about frogs and toads.

Delaney is going to Iowa State University this fall to study biology. We wish her all the best!



Above: Delaney Woollums with the game table she painted at Mariposa Park's Nature Playscape Trail.



Left: Newton Honor Society students work on spreading wood chips on the trail at Ashton Park.

Above: Newton 11th and 12th grade Honor Society students at Ashton Park.

Right: Delaney Woollums talks to summer campers about frogs and toads.

