

Making the Grade: School Program Menu for High School 2025-2026



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Jasper County Conservation Board has actively been teaching conservation education to the residents of Jasper County for over 50 years. There are some incredible opportunities we can provide for your students!

Conservation education is not just about bats, bugs, and butterflies. We also teach about ecological principles, Iowa history, current issues, and outdoor recreation.

The programs listed below have been specifically designed to complement high school science curriculums. Our programs not only strengthen science skills but incorporate social studies and linguistic components as well. These programs are **free of charge**, highly informative, and focus specifically on issues within Iowa. Take a look and let us show you the world of opportunities we can provide you with.

Choices:

- Classroom conservation education programs
- Iowa history and cultural programs
- Outdoor recreational skills
- Field trips to Jasper County parks and wildlife areas
- Volunteer Opportunities

Ecological & Biological Explorations

Migrating Monarchs - Become a citizen scientist! Help us catch and "tag" monarchs that will contribute to research of migration patterns and population changes. We can tag classroom raised monarchs as well. If your monarch butterfly is found, you'll receive notice of where and how many miles it travelled!

Careers in Conservation - There is more to the conservation world than "Ranger Rick"! Students will learn about the wide variety of career options in the conservation field.

Endangered Species in Iowa - We've all heard about the elephants and pandas, but what about the endangered species in Iowa? Students will learn which species in Iowa are endangered and why. We'll then explore recent research, discuss possible solutions, and discover recent efforts being undertaken to help.

Vertebrates of Iowa - From red fox to fox snakes, students will learn what types of vertebrates live in Iowa and how to identify them in this very "hands-on" and interactive session.

Water Water Everywhere - Iowa is continually faced with water quality issues. Students will learn the history of Iowa's waterways and the various human actions affecting them. Using a 3-dimensional landscape model, we'll discuss a variety of modern techniques currently being used to improve water quality in our state and others. If time permits, hands-on water quality testing can also be included in the program.

Wildlife Management—Discussion on wildlife and habitat needs will take place, using various Iowa species as examples. Students will discover how wildlife managers help ecosystems using different practices. This could be a great introduction for a schoolyard project!

Iowa History Programs

The People Vs Wildlife—Which animals used to live in Iowa? What happened to them and where did they go? Students will find the answers to these questions as we discuss the history of Iowa's land use and how it has affected the wildlife.

Landforms - What's an ice age and what causes it? What's a glacier and where did it come from? Students will learn about natural processes such as erosion and glaciers, and how those forces sculpted Iowa's landscape. Terms such as moraine, esker and drumlin will also be explored.

Outdoor Recreation & Field Trips

Fishing - You bring the worms and we'll bring the poles. Students will learn basic fishing techniques and how to identify some common fish in Iowa's ponds and streams. We have 25 fishing poles.

Ice Fishing - Don't let the cold keep your students indoors all winter! Try ice fishing for part of a day, or part of a winter field trip. Equipment will be provided.

Snowshoeing - A little history and instruction will be provided and students can practice walking around the school yard. This would also be a great activity during a winter field trip to a park combined with tracking wildlife and other winter activities.

Cross-Country Skiing - The naturalists will provide the equipment and basic instruction. Skiing can be done at a local park or the school yard.

Marsh Study - Explore a murky wetland looking for animal life. Students will learn the importance of wetlands and water quality and how this unique area was formed.

Orienteering - Students will learn to find their way using a compass. Equipment and instruction will be provided--a longer course is set up at Krumm Preserve for a field trip.

GPS - Students will learn the basics of using a Global Positioning Systems (GPS) unit. Students will then practice their skills in a scavenger hunt.

Pond Study - Discover the macro life in a pond through water sampling. Students will also perform water quality tests and discuss issues affecting Iowa's waterways.

Prairie Hike - Students will learn about this disappearing habitat and the plants and animals that call it home. Several stewardship projects are available depending on time of year.

Survival Skills - Learn basic survival skills and other things to make you more comfortable in the outdoors, from how to identify poisonous plants, to how to dress for the outdoors. Students will then learn what one item is the most important in a survival situation.

Woodland Hike - Take a hike through an Iowa woodland habitat. Students will learn the history of Iowa's woodlands and the surrounding ecology. Tree identification can also be incorporated.

Archery - Students will practice their skills using recurve bows, compound bows, or both. Equipment will be provided.

Canoeing and Kayaking - Students learn boating safety and the basics of canoeing and kayaking on the lake at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve. All equipment, including life jackets, will be provided.

Hammocking—Hang out with us! We have 25 hammocks that can be used for a school program or as a field trip station at a park. Students can read, journal, draw, bird watch or just relax in a stress-free environment.

Get Involved by Volunteering

Are your students looking for volunteer opportunities that will expose them to the "wild" side of conservation? Do you think they would like to support runners at the annual *Off the Beaten Path* trail race, help harvest and plant native prairie seed, work on a nature trail, or assist with elementary school presentations?

Jasper County Conservation Board offers several fun ways to volunteer throughout the year. Students who enjoy working with the public, being outdoors, are enthusiastic about wildlife, or like to preserve natural resources would benefit from the variety of opportunities we have to offer.

If you know of a student who is interested in the outdoors and would like to become involved through volunteerism, please have them contact Katie Cantu or Greg Oldsen at (641) 792-9780 or by email at kcantu@jasperia.org or goldsen@jasperia.org.

To schedule or discuss programs, please contact us at the emails or phone number listed above. We look forward to partnering with you!

