

High School Program List 2026-2027

Jasper County Conservation
Environmental Education



High School 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!

High School Choices:

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

Examples of Classroom Programs

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.

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!

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.

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!

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.

Examples of Outdoor Recreation and Field Trip Activities

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.

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.

Kayaking – Students learn boating safety and the basics of 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.

Contact Us

Ready to book a program or have questions?

Contacts:

Katie Cantu

kcantu@jasperia.org

Greg Oldsen

goldsen@jasperia.org

Liz Ventling

lventling@jasperia.org

Phone: (641) 792-9780

Website: www.jaspercountyconservation.com

Mailing Address:

Dana King Ceretti Environmental Education Center

5284 Liberty Ave., Newton, IA 50208



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 3 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 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!