

Kindergarten program list 2026-2027

Jasper County Conservation
Environmental Education



Kindergarten 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!

Migrating Monarchs



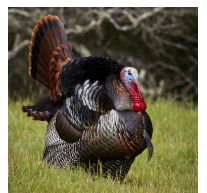
Storybooks, a puppet and pictures will be used to demonstrate the monarch butterfly's life cycle and special adaptations. A brief discussion on migration will be followed by tagging monarch butterflies (naturalist will provide, or, tag classroom-raised butterflies). The monarchs will be released in the schoolyard. This program is only offered the first 2-3 weeks of September while the monarchs are migrating.

**K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, K-ESS3-3*

Turkey Talk

Here's a great program for November! The naturalist will share information about wild turkeys using a puppet, books and pictures. Students will learn a little history about wild turkeys in Iowa, look at real feathers and learn other cool facts about Thanksgiving's #1 bird!

**K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1*



Snowflakes

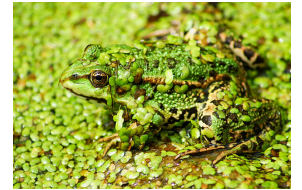


Students will explore the origin of snow. What is it? Where does it come from? Why are snowflakes so special? We'll read a story, dramatize a falling snowflake, and make our very own unique snowflakes. Some of the concepts we cover include seasonal weather observations, symmetry, hexagons and groups of six.

**K-GA2, K-GA3, K-ESS2-1*

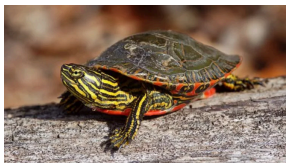
Curious About Camouflage

Students will hunt for insects hidden within the pages of Ruth Heller's "How to Hide a Butterfly". We will discuss how camouflage can help an animal to catch it's dinner or to keep from being someone's dinner. Animal skins will be introduced as we brainstorm: Which animals and insects use camouflage? Why? The class will also play a game that illustrates just how well "blending in" really works.



**K-LS1-1*

Turtle Crossing

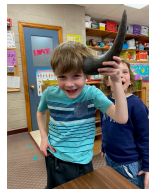


A turtle story will be used to highlight the painted turtle's life cycle and habitat. Comparisons will be made between different kinds of turtles. A live turtle from the nature center, "Toothless," will be brought to the classroom for the students to observe and make discoveries with!

**K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2*

Bison on the Plains

The naturalist will briefly talk about the history of the American Bison and how Native Americans living on the plains depended on them for survival using a slide show of photos. A variety of tools and other artifacts will be brought into the classroom for students to study.



The Curious Garden



Peter Brown's "Curious Garden" will be read to the class. The book shows a young boy's journey to turn a dark and gloomy city into a diverse, vibrant garden. Using a matching board students learn about how the fruits and vegetables we eat grow. Each class will be given flower seeds to start their own curious garden!

**K-ESS2-1, K-ESS3-1, K-ESS3-3*

Caring for the Earth

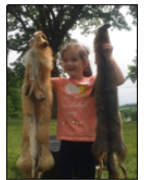
Students are introduced to the importance of environmental awareness and conservation as they become familiar with the earth's natural resources, where "stuff" comes from, and how people's actions affect the environment. The naturalist will read the book, "Agatha's Feather Bed," where in a funny twist, the main character discovers her feather bed was made from goose feathers upon meeting the geese.



**K-ESS3-3*

Kindergarten Spring Field Trip

We offer a spring field trip for kindergarten classes at the Dana King Ceretti Environmental Education Center, located in Kramer Park. The day is divided into 5 or 6 stations, focusing on three main animal habitats. We will explore the prairie, forest, and around the ponds and compare what lives in those areas. Students will work on an art project that highlights those habitats.



**K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-3*

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 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!