



Clermont County Park District School Programs

Get in Touch with Trees (All Seasons)

Grade Level: Pre-K – 1

Students will explore their sense of touch and discover different textures in nature through an exploratory hike in one of our specified park locations. Students will use their senses to describe the different parts of a tree and how these parts work together. An animal talk will help students discover WHO else makes their home in the trees.

Park Locations: Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park, Pattison Park

Key concepts: sensory development, observations, tree anatomy

From Sap to Syrup (February— March)

Grade Level: Pre-K—6

Take a tour of our sugar bush as you follow the process of maple syrup making. Students will learn how to identify a sugar maple tree and what it takes to turn the clear, sweet sap into delicious maple syrup! Students will also have the opportunity to tap a Sugar Maple tree and sample the sweet treats straight from the sugar bush.

Park Location: Pattison Park

Key concepts: photosynthesis, tree identification, history of maple sugaring

Fur, Feathers and Scales (Spring/Fall/Winter)

Grade Level: Pre-K—5

Take a closer look at the animals that call Clermont County home. Students will meet some of our live animal ambassadors and discover what adaptations help them survive. We will discuss how their adaptations help them in different habitats during an exploratory hike.

Park Locations: Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park, Shor Park, Pattison Park

Key concepts: adaptations, animal structures, senses, behavior, observations, habitats

Mud Pie Magic (Spring/Fall)**Grade Level: K—5**

What is soil? What color is it? How does it feel? Sound? Smell? Does soil change from place to place? Is it important to us? Students will explore these questions and discover the importance of Earth's thinnest layer.

Park Locations: Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park

Key concepts: physical properties of soil, Earth materials, soil types, biodiversity, erosion, soil food webs, ecosystems

Native Americans: Cultures and Traditions (Spring/Fall/Winter)**Grade Level: 1—4****Program time: 2 hours**

Learn how Native Americans lived in the 1700's before European settlers arrived. Students will step back in time and learn how Native Americans worked, played and lived in the great forests of Southeast Ohio. Program includes interactive games, hike and activities that focus on the tribes of Southeast Ohio.

Park Locations: Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park

Key concepts: culture, traditions, social studies

Weather: Wild or Mild? (Spring/Fall/Winter)**Grade Level: 1—6**

Weather can be unpredictable at times; learn how meteorologists make weather predictions through hands-on experiments. This program will give students a better understanding of weather systems and the factors that drive our weather.

Park Locations: Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park, Pattison Park, Shor Park

Key concepts: meteorology, weather patterns and terminology, seasons, water cycle, properties and states of water, natural disasters, human impact on weather

Home Sweet Home (Spring/Fall/Winter)

Grade Level: 1—8

This program will introduce students to our local habitats and the animals that live within them. Throughout the program students will explore three different types of habitats, meet our live animals and participate in fun activities and gain a better understanding of the world around us.

Park Locations: Chilo Lock 34 Park, Shor Park, Sycamore Park, Pattison Park (Lakeside)

Key concepts: habitat, carrying capacity, habitat fragmentation, ecosystem, adaptations and needs for survival

Bees, please! Pollination (Spring/Fall)

Grade Level: 1—6

Discover the cycle of pollination and its importance in our daily lives through hands-on activities. Students will get a closer look at our local pollinators and learn tips for identifying some of the locals on a guided hike.

Park Locations: Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park, Shor Park, Pattison Park

Key concepts: mechanics of pollination, pollinators, basic flower and insect anatomy, metamorphosis, adaptation

Secret World of Plants (Spring/Fall)

Grade Level: 1—6

It's a jungle out there and plants are not defenseless. Students will learn clever strategies and unique adaptations that plants use in the battle for survival. Explore the basic structures of flowers and some simple tricks to plant identification during a guided hike.

Park Locations: Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park, Shor Park, Pattison Park

Key concepts: plant structures, adaptations, plant identification, dichotomous key, seed dispersal

Earth Rocks (Spring/Fall/Winter)

Grade Level: 3—6

Students will become expert Junior Geologists through interactive studies of the rock cycle, glaciation, soils and fossilization. An exploratory hike takes students on a journey back in time before dinosaurs roamed. Program concludes with a fossil hunt where students can take home their very own fossil from the East Fork Little Miami River!

Park Locations: Sycamore Park

Key concepts: geology, rock cycle, rock ID, earth materials, erosion, land formation, fossils, minerals

Water, Water Everywhere (Spring/Fall)

Grade Level: 4 –6 or 7—12 focus on Water Chemistry

Students will become scientists and investigate an important natural resource - water. Through this hands-on program, your scientists will learn how the water cycle works and test their own predictions using different methods of water quality testing. Students will discover the history of Chilo Lock and Dam 34 with a tour through our museum.

Park Locations: Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park (no museum tour)

Key concepts: water cycle, properties of liquids, surface and ground water, erosion, physical and chemical properties of water, water quality, conservation

Who's for Dinner? (Spring/Fall)

Grade Level: 3 - 8

Students will explore the concepts of food chains and food webs through hands-on activities. An interactive hike will help students learn how energy cycles through Ohio's ecosystems, and identify food chains in action.

Park Locations: Sycamore Park, Chilo Lock 34 Park, Shor Park

Key concepts: food webs and chains, energy flow, ecosystem dynamics, recycling, decomposers, herbivores, carnivores, producers, consumers, photosynthesis

Inquiry in Nature (Spring/Fall)

Grade Level: 5 - 8

Students learn the QUEST model for inquiry investigation to make a new discoveries. A hike through the forest will allow students to explore their curiosities and work with their team to develop a comparative question, then design and implement an investigation to answer their question. In small groups, students report their results, methods, and future modifications. It is highly recommended to bring two adult chaperones per group of 8 students due to the highly individualized nature of this lesson.

Park Locations: Sycamore Park, Chilo Lock 34 Park, Shor Park

Key concepts: scientific method, data collection, critical thinking