

Classes By Theme

**PLEASE NOTE: Classes for K-3 Classes are 1 ½ hours in length;
classes for grades 4-12 are 3 hours in length**

Classes by Theme	Grade Levels				Seasons			
	K-3	4-6	7-8	9-12	F	W	Sp	Su
Wildlife								
A Bug's Life		•	•		•		•	•
Birds and Bird Banding	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Creepy Crawly Creatures	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Freezing Our Feathers Off		•	•	•		•		
Lake Layers & Fish Function		•	•	•*	•		•	•
Leave it to Beaver	•	•			•		•	•
Minnesota Mammals		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Wolves of the North Woods		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ecology / Environment								
Animal Habitats	•				•	•	•	•
Animal Signs		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dirt, Rocks & Worms		•	•	•	•		•	•
Energy for Life		•	•		•		•	•
Energy Mix & Match (see pg 13)		•	•	•	•		•	•
Forest Ecology		•	•	•	•		•	•
The Forest in Fall	•				•			
Predator / Prey Relationships		•	•		•	•	•	•
Reading the Landscape				•	•		•	•
Stream Superheroes	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Culture / History								
Nature Journaling		•	•	•	•		•	•
Ojibwe Hike		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Porcupine Quill Embroidery		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Recycled Art		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Twines from Plants & Shell Ornaments		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Adventure/Outdoor Ed.								
Climbing Wall	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cross Country Skiing		•	•	•		•		
Orienteering		•	•	•	•		•	•
Skywalk High Ropes Course		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Snowshoeing		•	•	•		•		
Survivor: North Woods		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Team Challenge		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Total Team		•	•	•	•	•	•	•

* Students aged 16 and over must have a valid Minnesota Fishing license.

Classes by Theme continued -

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	K-3	4-6	7-8	9-12	F	W	Sp	Su
Plants								
Maple Syruping		•	•	•			•	
To Be a Tree	•					•		•
Winter Tree I.D.			•	•		•		
Evening Programs								
Astronomy <i>WINTER ONLY!</i>		•	•	•		•		
Land Use Hearing		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Nature Jeopardy	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Nature Scavenger Hunt		•	•	•	•		•	•
Raptors: By Family		•	•		•	•	•	•
Raptors: Endangered		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Raptors: Hunting from on High	•				•	•	•	•
Raptors: Silent Hunters		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Raptors: Of Raptors & Men		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Raptors: Through Stories	•				•	•	•	•
Voyageurs		•	•		•	•	•	•
Wolf Ecology		•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Energy Mix & Match Component Descriptions

(if choosing Energy Mix & Match, please choose class selections from below to total 2.5-3 hrs)

Conservation – Trash or Treasure (30 minutes)

Students will work in teams to answer questions about materials that can be recycled and/or composted.

How Far Does Your Food Travel? (30 minutes)

To help students experience the issue of food traveling long distances between field and table, they will be playing a choice game that requires them to travel from one question and answer to the next.

Solar Ovens (45 minutes)

Students will design a solar oven to cook an apple slice.

How Solar Panels Work (15 minutes)

This simulation helps students understand, in a simplified way, how sunlight is used to generate electricity.

Best Blade Design (45 minutes)

Students will experiment with the shape, length, and number of blades of model wind turbines using different materials in order to find which produces the most energy.

Swept Away (20-30 minutes)

Students will learn what is meant by “swept area” and what factors are the key factors that determine the amount of energy produced by a wind turbine.

Conservation – Needs vs. Wants (30 minutes)

Students explore the difference between needs and wants and consider things that can be done to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

Using Resources – How Long Will They Last? (30 minutes)

Students think about how humans have used resources over time, and how we can conserve resources today through choices we make. [*This is part of our ‘Energy for Life’, so if also taking that class, do not select this option.*]

What Does It Take to Get Our Food? (30 minutes)

Students learn how growing, harvesting and transporting foods has impacts on the Earth, esp. in regards to fossil fuels.

Classes for Grades K-3 – classes are 1-1/2 hours long

WILDLIFE CLASSES

Birds & Bird Banding

Students will learn basic bird characteristics, songs and calls, and simple field identification techniques through hands-on activities and games. Song birds captured in mist nets for banding will be observed, identified and released.

Freezing our Feathers Off

Birdy, it's cold out there... Aren't birds supposed to fly south for the winter? Learn about the crazy birds of winter who tough out the cold, snow and sleet of the North Woods.

Creepy Crawly Creatures

This is an exciting hands-on experience for students, as they are able to observe and hold live MN reptiles and amphibians. From big bull snakes to tiny chorus frogs, experience the creepy crawly world of herpetology!

ECOLOGY/ENVIRONMENT CLASSES

Animal Habitats

Discussion, games and exploration of the Audubon property allow students to explore the concept of habitat and how living organisms are adapted to their habitat.

The Forest in Fall

Autumn is a magical time of year. Liven your senses and "fall" into autumn through leaf rubbings, a discovery hike, creative writing, drinking apple cider, and listening to fall sounds as nature prepares itself for a long winter's nap.

Predator/Prey Relationships

Students experience being part of the food chain and discover the adaptations that are necessary for animals to have in order to survive by playing an intense predator/prey game.

PLANT CLASSES

Maple Syruping

The sap flows in the sugar maples from mid-March through mid-April. During this time, students can go to the sugar bush (maple woods) and learn how to identify a maple tree, tap a tree, hang a bucket, collect the sap, and see how sap is turned into maple syrup.

To Be a Tree

If a tree could talk, what would it say? Trees have the ability to live longer than humans and they have witnessed many historical events throughout their lifetime. Be inspired by trees through stories, writing and activities.

CULTURE/HISTORY CLASSES

Ojibwe Hike

Students learn about past and present-day Ojibwe culture through games, stories and a discovery hike.

Recycled Art

Garbage is art? Yes, and it is beautiful! Learn how much garbage we produce in the U.S., and think twice about throwing it away. Get creative, and make masterpieces out of "garbage."

ADVENTURE CLASSES

Climbing Wall

On the Audubon Center's indoor climbing wall, students learn about climbing equipment, etiquette and safety, bouldering and basic rock-climbing techniques. Students will have the opportunity to try a number of different climbs.

Total Team

As a member of a team, students learn about trust, communication, cooperation and logical thinking while playing games and tackling a variety of tasks, culminating with a challenging obstacle course. Allow your students to take their teamwork to the next level by combining this class with Team Challenge.

Classes for Grades 4-6 – classes are 3 hours long

WILDLIFE CLASSES

Birds & Bird Banding

Students will learn basic bird characteristics, ecology, and simple field identification techniques, and use these skills on a birding hike. Bird migration and banding studies will also be introduced. Song birds captured in mist nets for banding will be observed, identified and released.

A Bug's Life

Students explore what makes an insect an insect, practice classification techniques, collect, examine and sort live insects.

Creepy Crawly Creatures

This is an exciting hands-on experience for students, as they are able to observe and hold live MN reptiles and amphibians. From big bull snakes to tiny chorus frogs, experience the creepy crawly world of herpetology!

Freezing Our Feathers Off

Birdy, it's cold out there... Aren't birds supposed to fly south for the winter? Learn about the crazy birds of winter who tough out the cold, snow and sleet of the North Woods.

Lake Layers & Fish Function

Students explore the origins of MN lakes, get their hands wet collecting water quality data. We will study live fish and learn about their adaptations as well as learn the basics of fishing and go fishing on Grindstone Lake.

Leave it to Beaver

Students investigate the natural history of the beaver, the beaver's impact on its habitat, and signs of past beaver life at the Audubon Center.

Minnesota Mammals

Minnesotans definitely admire their home state mammals. It is apparent in our high school and college mascots and even our professional sports teams. Who are these Minnesota mammals and how do they survive here? What makes a mammal a mammal anyway? The answers to these questions will be revealed in this class!

Wolves of the North Woods

Through a variety of games and activities, students learn about basic wolf biology, pack structure, and hunting techniques. They will begin to separate facts from myths about these elusive members of Minnesota's North Woods.

ECOLOGY/ENVIRONMENT CLASSES

Animal Signs

Students learn about the natural history of the North Woods and how to interpret clues to the secret life of animals. Exploration of the Audubon property will present a variety of animal signs and surprises!

Dirt, Rocks & Worms

Students get down and dirty learning about the rock cycle, minerals, agates and WORMS!

Energy for Life

Students learn the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources, as well as being introduced to the alternative energy facilities at the Audubon Center. This class prepares them for making sustainable choices in their use of resources.

Energy Mix & Match

Choose 5-7 activities from the following (see descriptions and class lengths on page 13): 'Conservation – Trash or Treasure', 'How far does your food travel?', 'Solar Ovens', 'How solar panels work', 'Best Blade Design', 'Swept Away', 'Conservation – Needs vs Wants', 'Using Resources – How long will they last?', and 'What does it take to get our food?.'

Forest Ecology

The forest ecosystem has many layers and members. Students will realize the interdependence of the community of producers, consumers and decomposers in maintaining the health of the forest. All of these members have special jobs and functions; every one important!

Stream Superheroes

Even streams need superheroes! Students discover the mighty macro invertebrates, whose special adaptations help to indicate water quality. Students will visit various aquatic ecosystems for collection and sampling.

Predator/Prey Relationships

Students experience being part of the food chain and discover the adaptations that are necessary for animals to have in order to survive by playing an intense predator/prey game.

PLANT CLASSES

Maple Syruping

The sap flows in the sugar maples from mid-March through mid-April, and somehow the Ojibwe figured out how to use, gather, can, and cook this sweet treat from nature. During this time, students can go to the sugar bush (maple woods), identify a maple tree, tap a tree, hang a bucket, collect the sap, and see how sap is turned into maple syrup.

Classes for Grades 4-6 cont'd -

CULTURE/HISTORY CLASSES

Nature Journaling

All of the great naturalists kept a nature journal to express their feelings about nature, record seasonal changes, and draw images of plants and wildlife. In this class, students will experience the power of expression by becoming keen observers and utilizing several creative journaling strategies.

Ojibwe Hike

Students learn about past and present-day Ojibwe culture through games, stories and a discovery hike.

Porcupine Quill Embroidery

Students learn the natural history of the porcupine and the paper birch, as well as how to collect and prepare materials from these organisms to do quill embroidery. Students will create a quilled design on a birch bark medallion after observing a demonstration of quill embroidery technique.

Recycled Art

Garbage is art? Yes, and it is beautiful! Learn how much garbage we produce in the U.S., and think twice about throwing it away. Be inspired by "garbage" artists, get creative, and make personal masterpieces out of "garbage."

Twines from Plants

Students learn about the natural resources used by Native Americans and Voyageurs for making utilitarian items, such as rope or twine. Each student will make a piece of basswood twine for a bracelet or necklace, and fashion a freshwater mussel or wooden ornament to decorate it.

ADVENTURE CLASSES

Climbing Wall

On the Audubon Center's indoor climbing wall, students learn about climbing equipment, etiquette and safety, bouldering and basic rock-climbing techniques. Students will have the opportunity to try a number of different climbs.

Cross Country Skiing

In this beginning-level class, students learn the history of skiing, how to dress... and how to ski! There will be time for practicing as well as time on the Center's groomed trails.

Orienteering

Students experiment with the skills needed for orienteering by learning how to use using a compass, navigating a straight-line course, and completing an orienteering course in the woods.

Snowshoeing

Students learn the history of snow shoeing, techniques, and go out on snowshoes to explore the wonderland of winter. This class may be combined with Animal Signs.

Skywalk High Ropes Course

Students face the challenge and excitement of crossing cables and logs 20 feet off the ground, while connected in by safety lines. Safety and teamwork are highly emphasized. **Requires three adult helpers.**

Survivor: North Woods

Students learn lifelong survival skills: how to build a fire and a shelter, as well as how to put together a survival pack. A variety of health-related conditions such as hypothermia, frostbite, and heat stroke will be addressed. Students will work in small groups to build a fire and shelter outside while working as a team to succeed in surviving in the woods.

Team Challenge

This low-ropes course (no more than three feet off the ground) incorporates the individual and teamwork challenges of group initiatives, and elements of the skywalk ropes course. This class emphasizes team work and is great for building group cohesiveness and giving students the opportunity to solve problems as a team; a fantastic progression from Total Team.

Total Team

As a member of a team, students learn about trust, communication, cooperation and logical thinking while playing games and tackling a variety of tasks, culminating with a challenging obstacle course. Allow your students to take their teamwork to the next level by combining this class with Team Challenge.

Classes for Grades 7-8 – classes are 3 hours long

WILDLIFE CLASSES

Birds & Bird Banding

Students will learn basic bird characteristics, ecology, and simple field identification techniques, and use these skills on a birding hike. Bird migration and banding studies will also be introduced. Song birds captured in mist nets for banding will be observed, identified and released.

Creepy Crawly Creatures

Amphibians and reptiles are signs of spring. Learn the different amphibian calls and identify the herps of MN. Participate in a field study and help to locate herp habitat.

Freezing our Feathers Off

Birdy, it's cold out there... Aren't birds supposed to fly south for the winter? Learn about the crazy birds who tough out the winter "Up North."

Lake Layers & Fish Function

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Minnesota Mammals

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ECOLOGY/ENVIRONMENT CLASSES

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Forest Ecology

The forest ecosystem has many layers and members. Students will realize the interdependence of the community of producers, consumers and decomposers in maintaining the health of the forest. All of these members have special jobs and functions; every one important!

Predator/Prey Relationships

Students experience being part of the food chain and discover the adaptations that are necessary for animals to have in order to survive by playing an intense predator/prey game.

Reading the Landscape

Students learn and practice observation skills using ecological clues to discover the history of the Audubon Center land. These investigative skills can be transferred to other locations to gain a sense of place through an understanding of natural and human impacts on the landscape.

Stream Superheroes

Even streams need superheroes! Students discover the mighty macroinvertebrates, whose special adaptations help to indicate water quality. Students will visit various aquatic ecosystems for collection and sampling.

Classes for Grades 7-8 cont'd -

CULTURE/HISTORY CLASSES

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Ojibwe Hike

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PLANT CLASSES

Maple Syruping

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Winter Tree I.D.

Leaves on trees make identification much easier; however, it is possible to I.D. a tree in winter. Students will be challenged to identify woody plants in winter using the ABC's of Winter Tree I.D. and dichotomous keys.

ADVENTURE CLASSES

Climbing Wall

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Total Team

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Team Challenge

This low-ropes course (no more than three feet off the ground) incorporates the individual and teamwork challenges of group initiatives, and elements of the skywalk ropes course. This class emphasizes team work and is great for building group cohesiveness.

Classes for Grades 9-12 – classes are 3 hours long

WILDLIFE CLASSES

Birds & Bird Banding

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Classes for Grades 9-12 cont'd -

PLANT CLASSES

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Evening Programs

These programs are for your entire group and are scheduled for 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Most can be adapted for all grade levels.

Programs Led by Audubon Center Staff

Astronomy

Since ancient times, people have been fascinated by the night sky. Stories in the sky were the result of trying to make sense of the phenomenon they witnessed. Our program is carefully constructed to align with MN Science Standards and all programs include constellation folklore and winter star gazing.

Land Use Hearing

(Grades 6 -12) Students explore the options of developing or not developing a one-square mile plot of land. Small groups are given a role to play (i.e., land owner or timber industry). They will then decide how the land should look and be developed, and then convince a county commission that their idea is the best.

Nature Jeopardy

(Grades K-12) Students work in teams to answer questions relating to the classes they have taken during their Audubon Center visit in a game show format. It is a great review!

Nature Scavenger Hunt

(Grades K-6) Students have a chance to roam all over the Audubon grounds looking for and learning about natural and unnatural objects. This program requires one adult helper per learning group, and **you'll need to provide one flashlight per 5 or 6 students.**

Raptors: By Family

(Grades K-8) Students meet members of the different raptor families that call Minnesota home. Three of the Audubon Center's educational raptors will educate students on their differences, similarities, and adaptations for survival.

Raptors: Silent Hunters

(Grades K-12) Students will be introduced to our silent flyers, whose prey never hear them coming. Owls have unique adaptations that place them on the top of the food chain in the northern woods of Minnesota.

Raptors: Hunting from On High

(Grades K-3) These birds aren't your typical seed eatin', sweet song singin' birds. These are birds made for hunting! Raptors, also called birds of prey, have unique adaptations that make them excellent hunters.

Raptors: Through Stories

(Grades K-3) 30 Minute program. Students will get their first experience with birds of prey by reading children's books about birds of prey, then meeting 3 live raptors. Students will have the opportunity to touch and feel wings and feet from real birds of prey.

Raptors: Endangered

(Grades 4-12) Students will learn about endangered and threatened raptors throughout North America. Students will meet educational raptors, and learn what causes raptors to become endangered and what can we do to help

Of Raptors and Men

(Grades 4-12) Falconry; a sport for the ages. Students will be introduced to this ancient hunting method, which uses birds of prey as the hunter. The falconer and the raptor have a different relationship than an owner and his/her pet. Students explore this relationship by meeting live birds.

Voyageurs and the Fur Trade

(Grades 4-8) Students meet a "live" voyageur who shares the true story of the voyageur life during the fur trade era and interacts with the students through storytelling, songs, and role playing games.

Wolf Ecology

(Grades 4-12) Enter into the amazing world of wolves by seeing beyond the myths and folklore of the wolf while learning about the natural history of these endangered species.

Programs Led by Your Teachers/Chaperones

The Audubon Center will provide curriculum and materials.

Campfire

Students roast marshmallows (think S'mores!) while listening to stories around the campfire.

Dutch Auction (grades K-12)

Students bring small random items to the auction, such as a toothbrush, flashlight, bandana or pencil. In small groups they will creatively collaborate to construct an item specified by the "auctioneer."

Night Owl Café (grades K-5 only)

Discover creatures of the night like bats, opossums, raccoons, skunks and owls in this fun skit loaded with jokes, stories, and natural history.

Night Hike

Students use all of their senses to experience the outdoors at night.

Recreation

We have a large mowed field for playing ball sports, Frisbee, etc., as well as a sand volleyball court.