

Additional Programs

Spring Valley has many programs for the Home School audience. To find out what is current, visit www.parkfun.com and look in the Spring Valley section for the Home School Naturalist Programs. If you don't find the topic you're looking for, call Spring Valley. We may already have that program or will be willing to develop it for you.

Reservations

- Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance.
- With the exception of *Farms and Food*, which is \$5 per person, prices are per family. A family includes one adult and two children. Additional participants are extra.
- With the exception of *Early Settlers of Illinois*, *Owls: Predators of the Night* and *Caddie Woodlawn*, which are \$10 per family (\$50/minimum, additional participants \$4.50 each), programs are \$8 per family (\$40 minimum, additional participants \$3.50 each).
- With the exception of *Owls: Predators of the Night*, *Early Settlers of Illinois* and *Caddie Woodlawn* which are 2 hours in length, programs are 1½ hours in length.
- Payment is due the day of the program. Make checks out to the Schaumburg Park District.
- A lunch room is available at no extra charge. Reservations must be made when the program is scheduled.
- If you are interested in a drop off program, cost is per person. With the exception of *Owls: Predators of the Night*, *Early Settlers of Illinois* and *Caddie Woodlawn* which are \$5 per person, all other programs are \$4 per person.



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PARK DISTRICT

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Spring Valley Nature Center & Heritage Farm
1111 E. Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg, IL 60194



Home School

Education Programs
Spring Valley
Nature Center & Heritage Farm



Hours

Nature Center Daily: 9AM-5PM

Heritage Farm Daily: April-October, hours vary.

Telephone 847/985-2100

Fax..... 847/985-9692

Email..... springvalley@parkfun.com

Website www.parkfun.com

Education at Spring Valley

Take a close look at Illinois through its diverse habitats and history, and discover what makes it unique! Math, science, social studies and literature will be woven into a meaningful story that makes learning enjoyable, easy and effective.

Program Topics

Prairie

July - Oct.

Travel back in time while walking through Spring Valley's restored Illinois prairie. Feel it, smell it, enjoy the colors, and listen to the sound of grasses blowing in the wind. Hike on hidden trails, sketch or write poetry, become an animal in a predator/prey game, and learn how plants and animals survive in our climate.

Cycling

Sept. - Nov.

Fall is a time of great activity in the natural world as plants and animals prepare for winter. Search for seasonal changes under logs, in holes and just about everywhere.

Winter Ecology

Dec. - March

How do plants and animals survive the challenges of winter? We'll focus on their adaptations and look for evidence that they're still active. Depending on the weather, we may make a bird feeder, play winter games, go snowshoeing, look at skulls and furs or go tracking.

Gardening

Late April - Sept.

Gardening is fun! It can also be delicious! Join us in our Kid's Garden and greenhouse. Depending on when you come, you can plant, transplant, weed, or even eat our vegetables and flowers!

Springtime Growth

Late April - May

Spring is a time of awakening and life is bursting out everywhere! Explore different habitats looking for signs of spring and animal life. Young children see a puppet show, but everyone plants a seed to take home and goes on a hike.

Wetlands

May - Oct.

Marshes, streams, rivers, lakes and ponds provide homes for wildlife and purify our drinking water. Do a pond dip, then look at the animals you caught with a hand lens or a microscope. Become a part of an aquatic food web and see whether you survive!

Historical Programs

Farms and Food

Year round

Follow your nose, open your ears and eyes, and watch your step as you explore a working 19th century farm! Find out what people and animals ate and how it was produced. Visit the barn, farmhouse and gardens, meet the animals, and make connections between your life and those who lived before you.

Early Settlers of Illinois

Oct. - Feb.

Settlers were hardworking people who used nature's resources to provide food, clothing and shelter. Try your hand at some of these same skills: weaving and candle dipping for older children or making cornbread, applesauce, and butter for younger ones. Choose either the older or younger version.

Caddie Woodlawn

Feb. 16 - March 31

This program is offered to those who have read *Caddie Woodlawn*. It begins with a discussion of what life was like during the time of the Woodlawns. See tapped trees and a real maple syrup boil-down. Card wool, weave, make butter, pancakes and parched corn, then eat the results.

Maple Syrup

Feb. 16 - March 31

When nighttime temperatures are below freezing and daytime temperatures above, the sap begins to flow and maples are ready to be tapped! Try your hand at tapping, smell the boil-down and taste two kinds of syrup.



Available Year Round

Conservation in Action

Help Spring Valley's conservation efforts! Projects include collecting seeds, planting wildflowers and trees, clearing brush or wood chipping.

Woodlands

Explore one of the wooded areas at Spring Valley! Choose one of the following: a leaf collection, tree identification, forest ecology or trees as micro-habitats.

Owls: Predators of the Night

Venture into the habits of owls! Examine their pellets, identify their bones and skulls, analyze the results, and graph the data. Hear owl calls and see actual owl specimens. Even become an owl in a predator/prey game.

Nighttime Nature

When was the last time you went for a walk at night? Experience nature without the benefit of sight and use the rest of your senses. This exploration always yields surprises.