

What is Environmental Education?

Environmental education is an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to learning! Math, science, social studies and literature are woven into a meaningful story that makes learning easy and effective. Students take a close look at their local Illinois environment to discover how it works and what role they have in keeping it safe.

What Makes Our Environmental Education Programs Unique?

THEY ARE:

- Hands-on, fun and educational.
- Aligned with Illinois Learning Standards and NGSS.
- Offered Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.*
*Night hikes are available upon request.
- Led by trained educators.

THEY PROVIDE:

- Pre and post visit student activities.
- Optimal staff to student ratios (1:15)!



THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

- For everyone! This brochure lists elementary school programs, but programs are available for scouts, high school students and others.

For more information, call Spring Valley at 847/985-2100.

Standards and pre/post visit student activities can be found at parkfun.com.

Reservations

- Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance.
- **Early Settler Life** and **Caddie Woodlawn** cost \$6.25 per person, and **Wetland Ecology & Conservation** costs \$8 per person. All other programs cost \$5.25. Minimum charge is for 15 students.
- Payment is expected on the day of the program. Checks should be made payable to Schaumburg Park District.
- A lunchroom/picnic area is available, but reservations must be made when the program is scheduled.
- All programs can be adapted for children of any age.
- Pre K/K programs vary in length from 1 to 1.5 hours.
- Programs for all other ages are 1.5 to 2 hours.
- Programs for high school ages are 4 to 6 hours.

Spring Valley

1111 E. Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg, IL 60194
South side of Schaumburg Road, 1/4 mile west of Meacham Road



GROUNDS & TRAIL HOURS

April 1 - Oct. 31.....Daily8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Nov. 1 - March 31.....Daily8 a.m.-5 p.m.

VERA MEINEKE NATURE CENTER HOURS

Year RoundDaily9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day

BISON'S BLUFF NATURE PLAYGROUND HOURS

Weather permitting

April 1 - Oct. 31.....Tue-Sun9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Nov. 1 - March 31.....Tue-Sun9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mondays are closed until 4 p.m.

VOLKENING HERITAGE FARM HOURS

April 1 - Nov. 20.....Tue-Sun10 a.m.-4 p.m.
MonClosed
Dec. 1 - March 31.....Open for Special Events & Programs Only

847/985-2100 • Website: parkfun.com
Email: springvalley@parkfun.com

SCHAUMBURG PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Daniels Sharon DiMaria David Johnson
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Spring Valley Nature Center

School Programs

Schaumburg Park District



Environmental education programs that reconnect children to the natural world.

Fall Programs

ABCs OF TREES – Pre K/K (Year-round)

"Build" a tree while learning about what a tree needs to live. Walk to the cabin and discover how animals and insects use trees as their homes.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

(Sept. 1–Oct. 31, April 1–May 31)

Help with our conservation efforts! Projects might include collecting seeds, planting wildflowers or trees, clearing brush or wood chipping.

ECOSYSTEMS (Sept. 1–Oct. 31)

Become familiar with local Illinois ecosystems through exploration, data collection, using models to simulate interactions between species and estimating biodiversity.

FALL ECOLOGY (Sept. 1–Nov. 30)

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

FOREST EXPLORERS! (May 1–Oct. 31)

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

NIGHT HIKES! (Year-round)

Use the rest of your senses and experience nature without the benefit of sight! This exploration always yields surprises. Come see for yourself!

PRAIRIE ROOTS (June 21–Nov. 30)

Walk through our restored Illinois prairie and experience its textures, sounds, sights and smells! Participate in role playing activities and learn how plants and animals survive in the prairie.

Winter Programs

CADDIE WOODLAWN (Feb. 16–March 31)

This special adaptation of the **Early Settler Life** and **Sugar Bush** programs is based on the book *Caddie Woodlawn* and is only offered to classes that have read the book. There is ongoing discussion of the story as participants card wool, weave yarn, make butter, parch corn, tap trees and more!

DANCIN' AT GRANDPA'S – Pre K/K (Oct. 1–March 31)

This program is only for the very young! Children (ages 3-5) walk to the cabin and experience a little of what Laura Ingalls Wilder writes about in this short story about pioneer life. Enjoy the warmth and smell of the fire, dancing and a taste of freshly baked apple cobbler!



EARLY SETTLER LIFE (Oct. 1–Feb. 15)

Early settlers relied on cooperation and their own skills to provide food, clothing and shelter from nature's resources. Try your hand at some of these same skills! Activities include weaving and candle dipping for grades 4-6 and making cornbread, applesauce and butter for grades 1-3.

SUGAR BUSH (Feb. 16–March 31)

When nighttime temperatures are below freezing and daytime temperatures are above, the sap begins to flow and maples are ready to be tapped! Activities include a tapping demonstration, boildown, and a maple syrup taste test!

WINTER ECOLOGY (Dec. 1–March 20)

Winter is a challenging time for plants and animals. We'll discuss their adaptations and look for evidence that they're still active around the Valley!

Spring Programs

GREEN THUMBS!

(May 1–Sept. 30)

Gardening is fun! Join us in our Kids' Education Garden and Greenhouse. Plant, transplant, weed and harvest our vegetables and flowers. Activities follow the seasonal growing calendar.

GROWING TIMES

(May 1–June 20)

Sunlight, food, water and nutrients are in high demand throughout the natural world and life is bursting out all over! Explore various habitats looking for signs of spring and

animal life. Younger students plant a seed to take home and older students explore plants and pollination.

SPRING SING – Pre K/K (April 1–May 31)

Become an expert birder! Learn to recognize the chickadee, red-winged blackbird, robin, goose and mallard by sight and sound through an interactive story, songs, fingerplays and a hike.

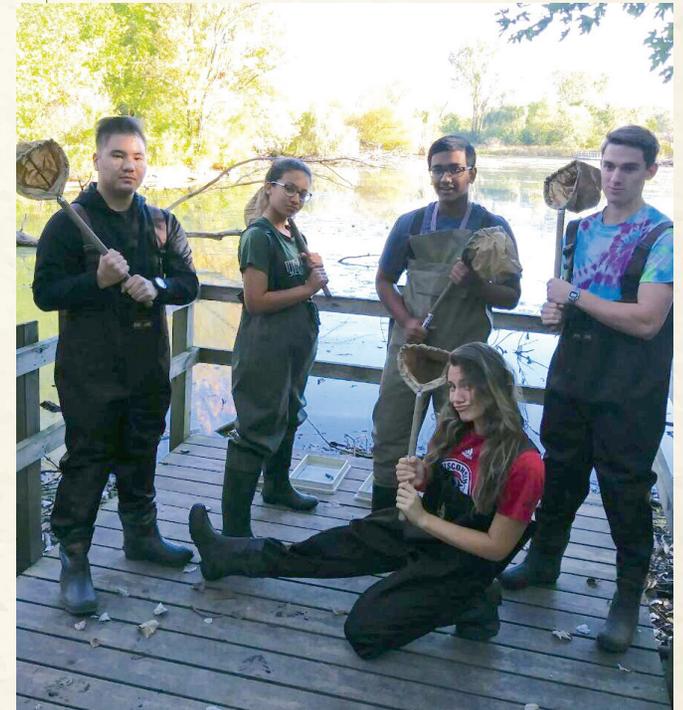
WETLANDS (May 1–Sept. 30)

Marshes, streams, rivers, lakes and ponds provide homes for wildlife and purify our drinking water. Look for animals and experience an aquatic food web. Activities center around the diversity of animal and plant life within a wetland and how wetlands are formed and changed.



This program is partially funded by a grant from the Environmental Education Association of Illinois (EEAI) and the Spring Valley Nature Club.

Cost is \$8 per student.



Other Programs

ADULT/HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ECOSYSTEMS (Sept. 1–Oct. 31)

See Ecosystems under Fall Programs.

WETLAND ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION (May 1–Oct. 15)

This program begins in the nature center with an introduction to wetlands and a wetland simulation to learn about the specific needs of the macro-invertebrates found in the pond and creek at Spring Valley. Students gather physical and chemical data, collect water samples for further testing and identify and record any macro-invertebrates they encounter. After lunch, students explore the prairie ecosystem and engage in a conservation project. This program can be adapted to fit different time frames from 4 to 6 hours.