Ecosystem Studies, Preschool

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

• Students will participate in active investigations, using their senses while exploring the plants and animals of the Arboretum’s ecosystems.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Length: 1 hour
Grade level: Preschool ages 3, 4, 5 years
Season: All
Student to naturalist ratio: 10:1

Option 1: An overview of all the ecosystems: forest, prairie, wetland, garden. Includes short investigations.

Option 2: Choose one of these ecosystems to focus on: forest, prairie, wetland, or garden. Includes a longer, more in-depth investigation.

PROGRAM ACTIVITES

• Hike to the chosen ecosystem.
• Use senses to make observations.
• Use tools to make observations of plants and animals in their ecosystems (sensory cards, observation cups, nets, magnification containers).
• Collect, observe, and release insects, spiders, and microorganisms from the forest floor, pond, prairie, or garden ecosystems, when possible.
• Connect text and stories to observations.

STANDARDS ADDRESSED

Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards
C. EL.1
C. EL. 2
C. EL. 3
C. EL. 4