

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 ACTIVITIES

- 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