

Pond Study

Kindergarten - Grade 8

Following an introduction to the pond ecosystem, students will explore the fascinating world of the pond as they dip-net and search for aquatic life. Pond creatures will be classified and grouped for close up observation to examine the amazing adaptations they have for life under water. Activities will focus on aspects of curriculum for particular grade.

Curriculum Connections

The Kindergarten Program: *Science and Technology*

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Characteristics and Needs of Living Things – Grade 1*
Growth and Changes in Animals – Grade 2
Habitats and Communities – Grade 4
Diversity of Living Things – Grade 6
Interactions Within Ecosystems – Grade 7

Species and Spaces

Grades 4-8

This dynamic exercise introduces students to the endangered species of Ontario and the reasons for their decline. Students will experience first hand the devastating impact of habitat destruction, pollution and introduced species on native wildlife as they assume the role of an endangered animal.

Curriculum Connections

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Habitats and Communities – Grade 4*
Interactions Within Ecosystems – Grade 7

Survival

Grades 4-8

Students will discover many ecological principles by assuming the roles of wild animals in this active role playing exercise. Participants will examine predator/prey relationships, the flow of energy through food chains/food webs as well as adaptations of various animals for survival. Students will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the constant struggle wildlife endures and will recognize the necessity of suitable habitat in meeting their needs.

Curriculum Connections

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Habitats and Communities – Grade 4*
Diversity of Living Things – Grade 6
Interactions Within Ecosystems – Grade 7

Tracking Wildlife

Grades 1-8

This program focuses on the categories of wild animals, their characteristics, habitats and traces. Students will become wildlife detectives to seek out signs of wildlife in their natural habitats. Adaptations of wildlife to survive the winter will be emphasized in fall/winter months. Activities will focus on aspects of curriculum for particular grade.

Curriculum Connections

The Kindergarten Program: *Science and Technology*

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Characteristics and Needs of Living Things – Grade 1*
Growth and Changes in Animals – Grade 2
Habitats and Communities – Grade 4
Diversity of Living Things – Grade 6
Interactions Within Ecosystems – Grade 7

Walk on the Wild Side

Kindergarten – Grade 8

After an interactive slide presentation, meet some of the residents of the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary up-close and personal as you join our staff for a guided tour of the site. Students will gain a better understanding of the efforts of wildlife rehabilitators as well as insight into the various plights of wild animals today. Particular interest or focus can be emphasized to meet the individual needs of your group.

III. Booking Procedure

Please book programs at least four weeks in advance by calling the Aspen Valley Sanctuary at: (705) 732-6368 or via Email at: aspen@vianet.on.ca.

We will send you a booking form that can be faxed back to us no later than two weeks before your program.

Programs are approximately 1.5 hours in duration – but we can be flexible to suit your schedule.

IV. Fees

To help us to cover our expenses, cost per program is \$150.00 per class. Fees to accommodate larger groups or extra classes the same day are flexible. Tours only are offered on a donation basis. Additional donations toward our rehabilitation and education programs are gratefully accepted. Collections of items for the animals such as apples, carrots, pet food, dishes, old towels/blankets, baby bottles etc. are also greatly appreciated. Aspen Valley is a registered charity and is funded purely from people that take an interest in our work. Thanks for your support!



ASPEN VALLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



Wildlife Education Programs

Our Mission

- We care for injured and orphaned wildlife, and once they are rehabilitated, return them to the wild.
- We provide a permanent home to animals at the sanctuary in the event we are unable to return them to the wild. These animals would not be able to survive in the wild, are hybrids or exotic species.
- We educate others in the attempt to help the animals that are facing an ever-increasing threat to their habitat by the encroachment of people.



About Wildlife Education

For over three decades the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary has educated countless visitors, school children and community groups on wildlife and the objectives of wildlife rehabilitation. Wild animals in our care serve as ambassadors for their species that enable us to instill a greater understanding and appreciation of their kind.

Program Outlines

Through interactive programming, students will discover the fascinating world of animals while meeting objectives of *The Ontario Curriculum*.

I. Outreach Programming

Creatures Great and Small

Grades 2-3

Students will determine the identifying characteristics of the main groups of wildlife while investigating their behavioural adaptations and physical features. Seasonal responses, life cycles, growth and change of various animals will also be examined through interactive exercises. Participants will recognize the survival needs of wildlife and gain a better understanding of the ways in which people can help or harm other living things.

Curriculum Connections

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Growth and Changes in Animals – Grade 2*

Rescue, Rehabilitate & Release

Grades 4 -8

Students will gain a better understanding of the role of wildlife rehabilitation and the issues facing wildlife today. After a brief slide presentation on the efforts of the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, children will investigate the impact of habitat loss, pollution (eg. pesticides) and introduced species on wildlife through a variety of role-playing exercises. Activities may vary to suit the needs of the group.

Curriculum Connections

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Habitats and Communities – Grade 4*
Diversity of Living Things – Grade 6
Interactions Within Ecosystems – Grade 7

Wild Wonders

Kindergarten – Grade 1

Through close-up observation and “hands-on” discovery, students will use their senses to identify and compare common characteristics of wild animals. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic needs of living things and investigate how animals move, change and adapt to daily and seasonal cycles through role-playing activities. Students will be encouraged to share their thoughts on how individuals can maintain a healthy environment for all living things.

Curriculum Connections

The Kindergarten Program: Science and Technology

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Characteristics and Needs of Living Things – Grade 1*
Earth and Space Systems: *Daily and Seasonal Cycles – Grade 1*

Note: Guest visitor(s) may accompany Aspen Valley staff on outreach programs. Call for availability. A brief overview of the work of the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary will also be provided – slide show optional. Programs can be modified to meet the educational needs of your group. Just ask!

II. On-site Programming

Spring through Fall programs offered

On-site programs aim to heighten awareness of wildlife and their habitats.

The Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary has over eight hundred acres that provide ample opportunity for education and exploration. All “outreach” programs can also be offered at Aspen Valley. Combine the program of your choice with a tour of the sanctuary.

Bears

Grades 1-8

Discover the fascinating world of black bears! In this program students will examine the physical characteristics and behaviour of these magnificent creatures. Through interactive exercises, students will investigate the survival needs of bears and their role within an ecosystem.

Participants will also gain insight to human impacts on black bear populations highlighting issues such as habitat loss. Human-bear encounters will be discussed with an emphasis on discouraging “backyard bears.”

Curriculum Connections:

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Characteristics and Needs of Living Things – Grade 1*
Growth and Changes in Animals – Grade 2
Habitats and Communities – Grade 4
Interactions Within Ecosystems – Grade 7

Beaver Fever

Grades 1-4

Students will transform into beaver kits to investigate the unique adaptations of our national symbol to an aquatic environment. A brief video entitled “The Beaver Family”, a visit to our beaver pond and the opportunity to meet a beaver (when in residence) at the sanctuary will give children a deeper understanding and appreciation of these industrious mammals.

Curriculum Connections

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Characteristics and Needs of Living Things – Grade 1*
Growth and Changes in Animals – Grade 2
Habitats and Communities – Grade 4

Discovery Hike

Kindergarten - Grade 2

After identifying the location and function of their sense organs, children will explore nature through experiential activities aimed to heighten awareness of the world around them. Students will also compare the use of senses in various animals and investigate ways in which animals respond and adapt to their environment.

Curriculum Connections

The Kindergarten Program: Science and Technology

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Characteristics and Needs of Living Things – Grade 1*
Growth and Changes in Animals – Grade 2
Matter and Materials: *Characteristics of Objects and Properties of Materials*

Forestry

Grades 1-8

Students will investigate the structure, ecology and importance of trees through a variety of activities. A thorough examination of the components of the forest ecosystem will give students a deeper appreciation of the significance of the forest as wildlife habitat. Activities will focus on aspects of curriculum for particular grade.

Curriculum Connections

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Characteristics and Needs of Living Things – Grade 1*
Growth and Changes in Plants – Grade 3
Habitats and Communities – Grade 4
Diversity of Living Things – Grade 6
Interactions Within Ecosystems – Grade 7

Geography (Grades 7 and 8): *Natural Resources (Grade 7)*

Interactions Within Ecosystems

Grades 7-8

Indoor discussion followed by an exploratory hike will introduce students to the study of ecology, biodiversity and the interdependence of living things by investigating the components and interactions of a forest and/or a wetland ecosystem. Students will examine how natural changes (e.g. succession) and human influences effect the sustainability of ecosystems.

Curriculum Connections

Science and Technology (Grades 1-8):

Life Systems: *Interactions Within Ecosystems*
Earth and Space Systems: *Water Systems*

Geography (Grades 7 and 8): *Natural Resources (Grade 7)*



On-Site Programming sponsored by
THE W. GARFIELD WESTON
FOUNDATION