



Howell Nature Center

Heal. Grow. Be Wild!

Program Offerings

The instructors at the Howell Nature Center encourage kids to become curious and inquiring students of nature, gaining the knowledge they need to become future leaders in environmental stewardship and conservation.

We can help shape your experience by aligning our curriculum with classroom standards, modifying programs to accommodate the needs of individual students, and providing support in the planning process.

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\$\$ Certain programs have an upcharge, as indicated by this symbol

Unless otherwise indicated, programs occur year-round and take place outdoors rain or shine. Please contact the reservations team regarding the availability of a program outside the listed grade and month ranges.

All program selections need to be received in advance according to the expectations set by the reservations team, to ensure we have the resources available to meet your needs. While we do our best to accommodate all our groups, programs are subject to availability and may be changed at our discretion.

Contact us at **517-546-0249** or
reservations@howellnaturecenter.org
to start your booking!

Outdoor Education

Archery *(2nd Grade - Adult)*

Available March to November

Learn the basics of archery and attempt to hit the bullseye with a recurve bow and target arrows. (1 Hour)

Camp Store and Games *(Preschool - 12th Grades)*

Visit our camp store to find a special memento of your visit to the Howell Nature Center. Play fun games outside when your shopping is complete. (1 Hour)

Canoeing *(2nd Grade and up) (Apr - Oct) **

Learn basic paddle strokes and boating safety, then secure your life jacket and develop your canoeing skills on the beautiful Pleasant Lake. (1 Hour)

****Canoeing cannot be done in poor winds or water conditions. In that event, alternative programming will be provided.***

Capture the Flag *(2nd Grade - Adult)*

Play this fun game under the guidance of our staff. (1 Hour)

Exploring Maps *(3rd - 6th Grades)*

Discover and explore the joy of reading maps. Learn about a variety of maps and their uses, then use map skills in a fun outdoor activity. (1 Hour)

Games Galore *(Preschool - 12th Grades)*

Learn new group games, expend some extra energy, and have loads of recreational fun. (1 Hour)

Outdoor Cooking \$\$ * *(3rd - 12th Grades)*

Children will start this class by learning how to build a proper fire suitable for cooking. Together in small teams, they'll then prepare and cook their food over an open fire. Along the way, they will learn responsibility by maintaining their cooking areas, utensils, and equipment. (2 Hours)

****Outdoor Cooking includes Fire Building and cannot be combined with the program Survival II.***

Orienteering *(4th Grade - Adult)*

Participants will learn how to use a compass in this hands-on program. Students will practice their new compass skills to navigate a beginner challenge course. (1 Hour)

Outdoor Education

STEM Program *(2nd - 12th Grades)*

Coming Soon! (1 Hour)

Survival I *(3rd - 8th Grade)*

Learn outdoor survival strategies using hands-on activities. Students will work in small groups to build a fire and shelter. (1 Hour)

Survival II *(4th - 8th Grade)*

Take the survival challenge to the next level by adding an extra hour of outdoor skill building. In addition to fire and shelter building, students will boil water. (2 Hours)

Wolf *(2nd - 12th Grades)*

Practice your wolf howl and get ready to move! Teams will range over the Howell Nature Center property in this adventurous game of hide and seek. (1 Hour)

Nature Education

Pond & Wetland Studies

Available April to October

Pond Discovery *(K - 2nd Grade)*

Young adventurers will discover wetland habitats, ecosystems, macroinvertebrates, and the stages of life of different living things in a pond. (1 Hour)

Pond Explorers *(3rd - 5th Grade)*

Elementary explorers will learn to identify characteristics of different macroinvertebrates, how these adaptations help them survive in their pond habitat, and the difference between observations and inferences. (1 Hour)

Pond Study *(6th - 12th Grade)*

Middle schoolers will learn to identify, compare, and contrast common macroinvertebrates found in the different areas of a pond. They will hypothesize about what they might find, test their hypothesis, form a conclusion, and share their findings. (1 Hour)

Nature Education

Adaptations *(4th - 8th Grades)*

Learn how wildlife survives in challenging environments, then design and name your own wild "discovery". (1 Hour)

Edible Plants *(4th Grade - Adult)*

Available April to October

Get a real taste of nature! Hike outdoors with our experienced naturalists and learn about some tasty woodland treats, as well as important plants to avoid. (1 Hour)

Food Webs *(3rd - 8th Grades)*

Students will explore the movement of energy through an ecosystem, and how cause and effect relationships will impact a food web. (1 Hour)

Investigating Insects *(Preschool - 4th Grades)*

Available April to October

Who is creeping and crawling in our backyards? Students will learn all about insects and their life cycles, explore the characteristics of insects, and go on an outdoor bug hike. (1 Hour)

Nature Activity Hike *(Preschool - 2nd Grade)*

Available in all seasons

Take a guided nature hike and explore nature with four of the five senses: touch, smell, hearing, sight. Students will play interactive games that practice observation skills, gaining confidence in the outdoors. (1 Hour)

Nature Scavenger Hunt *(1st - 4th Grade)*

Available in all seasons

Experience nature while working as a group to find as many objects as possible. Who will get a bingo first? (1 Hour)

Predator and Prey Games *(K - 8th Grades)*

Through fun and active games, students will learn important concepts in predator and prey relationships at an age-appropriate level. (1 Hour)

Skins and Skulls *(2nd - 8th Grades)*

See real animal skins and skulls up close! Students will learn about the amazing adaptations of herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores; and participate in a fun identification challenge. (1 Hour)

Adventure Education

All high adventure programs are available April through October, have a weight range of 50 to 250 pounds and subject to limited availability.

Climbing Tower (Team Belay) \$\$ *(4th Grade - Adult)*

Test your rock-climbing skills on our 60 foot climbing tower, one of the tallest in Michigan! Students participate in a team belay system, supervised by our trained belay staff. (2 Hours)

High Ropes Course \$\$ *(4th Grade - Adult)*

Take your adventure to higher heights on our multi-level High Ropes Course! With 14 different obstacles spread across 2 levels, this course has something for everyone, whether that means starting on the lower 15-foot level or jumping straight to the challenging 25-foot top level! (2 hours)

Zip Line \$\$ *(2nd Grade - Adult)*

Experience the thrill of a ride through the trees on our 500-foot zipline, soaring over a pond with the help of our trained staff. (1 Hour)

**If children are not 50lbs, staff have the right to switch to our Activity Alley Zipline for the safety of participants.*

Sky Tykes \$\$ *(Pre-K) for kids UNDER 48 inches*

Available April through October

Challenge your pint-sized adventure seeker(s) with a mini ropes course! As they explore the course and test their limits, they're securely harnessed in. (1 hour)

Team Building Programs

Adventure Play *(Pre - 2nd Grade)*

Play fun, interactive games to encourage cooperation and communication skills. Learn to be gentle, kind, and safe in a positive manner. (1 Hour)

Team Challenge * *(3rd Grade - Adult)*

Work with your team to get over, under, or through a series of ground games and low rope elements. Challenge yourself, support your team, and debrief the experience at the end. (1 or 2 Hours)

****Usage of low ropes is dependent on age, program duration, and maturity level of students***

Cultural Education

Drumming Around the World *(All ages)*

Students will learn about drums, the world's oldest instrument, and its uses in cultures around the world. This fun, hands-on addition to a Michigan history curriculum involves the use of real drums by students. (1 Hour)

Indigenous People's Use of Natural Resources *(3rd - 8th Grades)*

Learn about everyday life for Michigan's Indigenous People of the past through artifacts and the role of plants and wildlife in Indigenous People's cultures and games. A great hands-on addition to a Michigan history curriculum. (1 Hour)

International Explorers *(K - 6th Grades)*

Discover what life is like for kids in different countries by playing games from around the world! (1 Hour)

Nature Crafts *(K - Adult)*

Coming Soon! (1 Hour)

HEIFER GLOBAL VILLAGE Programs

In partnership with [Heifer International](#), the Howell Nature Center operates the Heifer Global Village, one of two educational training centers in the United States. Through immersive, hands-on programming, the Global Village aims to educate participants of the causes and effects of hunger and poverty, and to enable them to make a difference in the lives of those in their own communities and around the world. *Available April through November.*

Global Tour *(4th Grade - Adult)*

Take a more in depth look at what life is like for people around the world by touring the Heifer Global Village at the Howell Nature Center. (2 Hours)

Cultural Connections \$\$ *(5th Grade - Adult)*

Develop a better understanding of how culture and community influences daily life and about challenges people face like poverty and hunger. After touring the Global Village, prepare a traditional meal over a camp-stove and an open fire. (3-4 Hours)

Wildlife Education

Wild Wonders Tour I *(All ages)*

Learn about the adaptations of Michigan wildlife in an expertly guided tour of Livingston County's only teaching zoo! (1 Hour)

Wild Wonders Tour II *(6th Grade - Adult)*

Learn about the adaptations of Michigan wildlife in an expertly guided tour of Livingston County's only teaching zoo! In this extended tour, students will have the opportunity to delve deeper into the natural history of the individuals and species who reside in our Discovery Park. (2 Hours)

Zoo Enrichment* *(3rd - Adult)*

Take the challenge to enrich the lives of animal residents in Livingston County's only teaching zoo! Use expert knowledge on animal behavior to formulate a custom creation for select zoo residents, then put your creation to the test in a guided zoo tour where your enrichment is delivered to wildlife for you. Truly a one-of-a-kind experience! (2 Hours)

****Zoo Enrichment includes a tour of our wildlife park and cannot be combined with the programs Wild Wonders Tour I or II.***

Interactive Wildlife Education Programs ***Programs without live animals***

These engaging programs offer an exciting "adventure-in-learning" with biofacts, hands-on interactives, and fun educational activities.

Fur, Feathers, and Scales

Do you know why reptiles and mammals have teeth but birds don't? Birds, mammals, and reptiles all have unique adaptations to help them survive. Explore them with the help of our educators in this program full of hands-on learning.

Wildlife Detectives (3rd Grade & Up)

What clues do animals leave behind and what can we learn from them? This hands-on, interactive program explores bones, tracks, pellets, and scat to give you a better understanding of the wildlife around you. During this program, you will use your detective skills to solve wildlife mysteries!

Wildlife Education

Live Wildlife Education Presentations

Two wildlife ambassadors are featured in these programs along with biofacts, hands-on interactives, and fun educational activities.

Myth Crackers: Common Animal Myths

Are owls truly wise? Do turtles come out of their shells? You'll find the answers to these questions and more! This program addresses common wildlife myths and, together with the audience's help, we'll find out if they are "correct" or "cracked" while learning about wildlife.

Wildlife In Your Backyard

We share our world with wildlife, even our backyards! Meet some of our Wildlife Ambassadors and learn about the wildlife found around our homes, including their characteristics and behaviors, how they can benefit us, and what we can do to help them survive in the wild world.

Wild Rehab *(3rd Grade & Up)*

As Michigan's largest wildlife rehabilitator, the Howell Nature Center treats thousands of wild animals every year — from common to endangered species — with the hope of returning these animals to their homes in the wild. But what does wildlife rehabilitation entail? Learn more about threats to wildlife, what we do, and what you can do to help.

Wild Superpowers

What do Batman, Spiderman, and Cat Woman have in common? They base their powers on amazing wildlife adaptations and abilities! Learn all about wildlife "super powers" that help them survive in the wild.

Evening Traditions

Adventure Scrabble *(5th - 8th Grades)*

We take scrabble to the next level in an exciting rendition of this classic game! Race against time and other teams to get scrabble pieces for your team's 'thinkers'. Thinkers will use their creativity, imagination, and word skills to turn the scrabble pieces into words for points. (1 Hour)

Campfire and S'mores *(Preschool - 12th Grades)*

Sit back and relax under the stars while enjoying the warmth of a fire. Our talented staff will guide the group in songs and stories, and end the night with s'mores. (1 Hour)

Capture the Flag *(2nd - Adult)*

Available April to October (limited by daylight)

Play this fun game under the guidance of our staff. (1 Hour)

Dance Party *(4th - 8th Grades)*

Put on your dancing shoes! Learn classic dance moves and modern group dances in this fun evening program. (1 Hour)

Games Galore *(Preschool - 12th Grades)*

Learn new group games, expend some extra energy, and have loads of recreational fun. (1 Hour)

Improv Night *(4th - 12th Grades)*

Exercise your creativity and imagination in this laugh-filled activity! Teams will compete to earn points through song competitions and silly improv prompts. (1 Hour)

Night Hike *(3rd - Adult)*

Activities are dependent on evening light level

Whooo's moving in the dark? Explore the night-time woods through group games and activities, learning all about Michigan's nocturnal creatures. (1 Hour)

Skit Night *(4th - 12th Grades)*

Prepare for a night of fun and hilarity by working with a small group to act out a skit. Students will learn the tips and tricks to make their skits a success, while developing public speaking skills and confidence. That evening, the whole group will gather together to watch the performances. (1 hour during evening, 1 hour during day)

1 hour of preparation and practice during day, then 1 hour of performing Skits in the evening

Wolf *(2nd - 12th Grades)*

Practice your wolf howl and get ready to move! Teams will range over the Howell Nature Center property in this adventurous game of hide and seek. (1 Hour)

Program List

Outdoor Recreation

Archery
Camp Store & Games
Canoeing
Capture the Flag
Exploring Maps
Games Galore
Outdoor Cooking
Orienteering
STEM Program
Survival 1
Survival 2
Wolf

High Adventure

Climbing Tower
High Ropes
Zip Line
Sky Tykes

Team Building

Adventure Play
Team Challenge

Evening Traditions

Adventure Scrabble
Campfire & S'mores
Capture the Flag
Dance Party
Games Galore
Improv Night
Night Hike
Skit Night

Nature Education

Pond Discovery
Pond Explorers
Pond Study
Adaptations
Edible Plants
Food Webs
Investigating Insects
Nature Activity Hike
Nature Scavenger Hunt
Predator & Prey Games
Skins & Skulls

Cultural Education

Drumming Around the World
Indigenous People
International Explorers
Nature Craft
Global Tour
Cultural Connections

Wildlife Education With Animals

Wild Wonders Tour 1
Wild Wonders Tour 2
Zoo Enrichment
Myth Ctrackers: Common Animal Myths
Wildlife In Your Backyard
Wild Rehab
Wild Superpowers

Wildlife Education NO Animals

Fur , Feathers & Scales
Wildlife Detectives