

Ballard Nature Center - Homeschooling 2025-2026 Curriculum

Programs will be multi-grade level, but with many activities designed for grades K-4. Due to expensive equipment and for the enjoyment of all participants, programs are held in a classroom setting/structure.

Parents attend with children. Feel free to bring younger siblings, but if babies/toddlers get fussy or are distractive to the class, please take them away from the class until they are calm.

We will have a mix of lessons, games, hands-on activities, trail walks, & crafts. We try to include outside time with each class, so dress appropriately. Class size will be 15 kids or less.

The cost will be \$30 per child, starting at 5 years old. Fee covers the year (6 classes).

Registration begins August 1.

Semester 1

Unit 1: Buzzy Bees

September 17 – 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm or September 18 – 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm

There are many species of bees in IL. Learn about their different lives and the important work they do for us and nature.

Unit 2: Arachnids

October 15 – 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm or October 16 – 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm

Spiders may be a bit spooky, but they are also amazing; we'll find out why. Also, learn about some of their close relatives.

Unit 3: Migration

November 19 – 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm or November 20 – 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm

Which animals migrate to and from IL? Find out who does and why they do.

Semester 2

Unit 4: IL Owls

January 14 - 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm or January 15 – 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm

Learn to recognize our local owls by sight and sound and be amazed by their special features.

Unit 5: Beaks and Feet are Neat

February 18 – 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm or February 19 – 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm

The size and shape of bird beaks and feet vary greatly, find out why.

Unit 6: Trees are Terrific

March 18 - 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm or March 19 – 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm

How trees benefit humans and animals. We'll also touch a bit on their structure.

If class is cancelled due to winter weather, we will reschedule.

Registration begins AUG 1st

Sign-Up Sheet for Homeschooling at Ballard Nature Center

Parents Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address : _____

(*We send reminders and class cancellations via email.*)

Names and Ages of Children 5 yrs and older : _____

Names & ages of children under 5 years:

Any Special Needs or Allergies: _____

Wednesdays at 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm or Thursdays at 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm

First choice day and time _____

Second choice day and time _____

We will try to get you in your first choice, but it's not guaranteed.

***Please send form and payment to Ballard Nature Center, 5253 E US Hwy 40 Altamont, IL 62411. Any questions, call 618-483-6856, e-mail ballardnc@frontiernet.net, or Facebook message us.**