

## **Program Descriptions**

### **Homeschool Series 2017-2018**

**Rock Cycle:** Thursday, September 14, 2017  
Glacial Retreat Center

Dig into northeastern Indiana's rich geological history! Students start inside for a slide introduction explaining glaciers & their impact on this area. The rest of the program time is then spent outside experiencing the results of glacial activity firsthand. Students hike down an esker, moving through layers of top soil & glacial till until they finally reach a peat bog at the bottom. Students also explore & identify rocks in an abandoned gravel pit discovering the variety of treasures left behind by receding glaciers.

**Land Ethic:** Thursday, November 9, 2017  
Learning Center

During an extended hike, students will increase their awareness of the land and explore ways they can become better stewards of that land. Students will discover how land is a community that yields a cultural harvest. They will also explore the meaning of "land ethic". This program is based on the writings and ideas of Aldo Leopold, known as the father of wildlife management. Leopold was a conservationist, forester, teacher, writer, philosopher and outdoor enthusiast. His best-known book is *The Sand County Almanac*.

**Feathered Frenzy:** Thursday, January 18, 2018  
Learning Center

Answer questions about birds, their seasonal adaptations and behaviors! Students will inspect mounts, examine feathers, explore flight, and make nests. Outdoors, students will learn correct use of binoculars and use them to observe and identify birds in a variety of habitats.

**Exploring Nature:** Thursday, March 29, 2018  
Learning Center

Discover what's happening in nature that makes a particular season unique. Students visit several natural communities. Games, scavenger hunts & other activities using the senses help explain such concepts as adaptations, diversity of life & interactions between living things. Each grade level has a different main focus & activities.

**What's Buggin' You?:** Thursday, May 31, 2018  
Learning Center

Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the characteristics, diversity and importance of insect populations. Students will learn about life cycles, behavioral adaptations, human interactions with insects, the types and essential parts of insect habitats, and how insects fit into food webs.