



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Willamette National Forest
McKenzie River Ranger District

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Natural Resource and Conservation Education Program

The F5-Experience: Fur, Feathers, Fins, Flames and Flora: Connecting Youth to the Outdoors

To: Preschool, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle and High Schools and Community Organizations with a focus on Natural History, Biology, Geography and Other Sciences.

Dear Teachers, Instructors and Coordinators:

This year the Willamette National Forest will be offering conservation education talks and field trips again. Programs are available for pre-school, kindergarten, elementary, middle and high schools and may be of particular interest to Biology, Conservation Education, Geography and Other Science classes.

Svea-Sophie Zimmermann, our International Visiting Wildlife Biologist from Germany, will coordinate and implement these activities. She has a degree in Biology and is about to finish her master's program in Environmental Sciences with focus on Wildlife and Biodiversity. Throughout the years, she has volunteered and worked in the field of animal and plant ecology in a variety of places such as the tropics and the Arctic.

Our Nature Watch program, **The F5 Experience**, emphasizes providing outdoor learning opportunities to youth through field trips and active restoration projects. The theme for 2019 is "Celebrating Diversity," because (bio-) diversity is what makes our planet such a beautiful and exciting place. While we are happy to offer one-time visits, we strongly encourage outdoor, hands-on learning opportunities that may take place over more than a single learning session.



During the past thirteen years that we have been offering these education programs, many schools and organizations have taken advantage of them, including Bauman's Tree Farm, Lane County Audubon Society, the McKenzie School District, Springfield School District, Eugene 4J School District, Jefferson, Camp Creek, Oakhill Schools, Lane Community College, University of Oregon, and Oregon State University.

The attached program flyer provides more information about these programs. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require more details, or if you have any specific requests. We may be able to also offer programs about other topics such as fisheries, water, botany, archeology and forestry. These programs can be offered at your school or organization meeting place or as field trips on the Willamette National Forest. For more information please contact Svea directly at email: svea-sophie.zimmermann@usda.gov or call her at 541-822-7251, or contact Ruby Seitz ruby.seitz@usda.gov.

With kind regards,

Darren Cross, District Ranger

6/6/2019

Date

Enclosure: Education activities offered May through November 2019.



Caring for the Land and Serving People

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NATURAL RESOURCE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES



JUNE – NOVEMBER 2019

The McKenzie River Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest invites you to participate in natural resource activities presented by Svea-Sophie Zimmermann, visiting Wildlife Biologist from Germany.

Activities are free of charge and may be conducted in English, German or both.

Contact us soon to reserve a program date!

Svea-Sophie Zimmermann

Email: svea-sophie.zimmermann@usda.gov

Phone: 541-822-7251





The Wonderous World of Insects and other Critters

Let's discover the wonderous and diverse world of insects. Learn about their life cycles and survival strategies. Find out how insects are important to us and learn about the problems they face in today's world. Can we come up with ideas to help our 6-legged friends? It's possible to extend the lesson with hands-on activities such as insect identification.

Grade: All grades

Time: 45 - 90 minutes depending on grade and activity



All about Birds

What makes a bird a bird? Students will learn all about feathers, beaks, egg laying and bird songs. They will further get to know some of the common bird species in the Pacific Northwest. This will include fun, hands-on activities such as looking at real feathers and skulls and playing bird song bingo.

Grades: Preschool – 6th Grade

Time: 45 - 60 minutes depending on grade



Wildlife Trees

Enjoy this talk about the many ways that animals use trees. For many animals, dead trees in the forest are as important as live ones. Students will learn the value of snags and down logs.

Grades: All grades

Time: 30 - 45 minutes depending on grade



Sally/Sammy the Snag (Puppet Show)

Sally/Sammy is a Douglas-fir tree that has been hit by lightning and is now "just a snag" or standing dead tree. Students will learn through an interactive puppet show how snags are important to wildlife and how they help maintain a healthy forest. Program includes many wildlife puppets.

Grades: Preschool - 3rd Grade

Time: 30 - 45 minutes depending on grade



Wildlife Tracks and Signs

Every living creature leaves its mark – not only footprints, there is a lot more. As many animals are hard to find in the wild, we can gain useful information from their marks. Students will learn how to determine a species by looking at tracks and other evidence. Including fun hands-on activities.

Grades: 3rd - 10th Grade

Time: 45 - 90 minutes depending on grade and hands-on activity



A Day as a Biologist

Students will learn what it is like to be a biologist. They will explore different types of field work including managing habitats and researching wildlife. Students will also compare how this profession has changed over time and the upcoming challenges.

Grades: All grades

Time: 30 - 60 minutes



Climate Change

We will investigate what climate change is. How do people's actions affect the earth's temperature? How are plants and animals impacted? What can we do to minimize our impact on the environment? These are all very relevant questions in today's world.

Grades: 5th Grade and up

Time: 45 minutes depending on grade



Experience Nature (Field Trip)

Come one, come all for a wild adventure! Students will discover the wonders of an Old Growth Grove at the **Delta Nature Trail**. Equipped like explorers we discover nature and look for tracks or conduct a mini bio-blitz. Funny stories and games in between will awake their interests and playfully teach students about nature.

Grade: All grades

Time: 1 - 3 hours depending on grade; additional travel time