NEW Changes For 2018-2019

FIELD TRIP AND
FOR-MAR ON THE ROAD
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GUIDE

For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum
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GENESEE COUNTY PARKS
Get away. Right away.
FOR- MAR SCHOOL AND GROUP FIELD TRIPS

FIELD TRIPS TO FOR- MAR

For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum is the perfect place for your school or group to gain a brand new appreciation for the natural world. For-Mar field trips are led by experienced naturalists who engage participants of all ages with hands-on investigation, outdoor learning time, and interactive demonstrations with For-Mar's animal teachers. For-Mar has a new Treehouse classroom that was featured on Animal Planet's, Treehouse Masters. All field trip program options can include a visit to the treehouse.

Cost

- For-Mar Basic Hikes (1 to 1.5 hour outdoor hike) are $1.50 per person; this includes both youth and adults. Minimum fee of $30.
- Half day programs (includes one 1.5 to 2 hours program) are $3.00 per program participant with a minimum fee of $35.00.
- Full day programs (includes TWO 1.5 to 2 hours programs) are $5.00 per program participant with a minimum fee of $70.00.
- All programs are aligned to the state of Michigan’s educational standards and benchmarks in Science, English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Health.
- For-Mar can accommodate up to 90 students (3 classrooms), unless special arrangements or program modifications are made. Teachers and chaperones may attend at no additional charge. Siblings and additional children are considered program participants, and will be charged a program fee.
- For-Mar’s picnic area and pavilion may be used for lunch or snack with prior notice, when available.
- The Nature’s Nook Gift Shop is in For-Mar’s Visitor’s Center. Gift Shop time can be built into your field trip experience with prior notice.
- There is a limited amount of bussing reimbursement available for field trips thanks to the Friends of For-Mar. Ask for more information.
- For questions or reservations, please contact: Nicole Ferguson 810-789-8567 or nferguson@gcparks.org

For-Mar Hikes: (For any age)

Nature Hikes are a great introduction to For-Mar and our local flora and fauna. All of our hikes can be adapted to meet your group’s age range.

Basic Nature Hike – Take a naturalist led hike through For-Mar as we search the trails and learn about the local flora and fauna that call For-Mar home.

Superhero Hike – Become a Nature’s Superhero as we travel the Superhero Trail at For-Mar to learn how For-Mar’s superhero team ‘The Preservers’ help protect our natural habitat. (April – October). The trail and nature emphasis changes every year.
Ecosystem Hike – Travel the trails as we visit the different ecosystems/habitats that are on the For-Mar property. Learn to identify their similarities and differences.

Seasonal Hike – Come travel the trails as we enjoy the beauty of the seasons and explore the many changes each season brings.

Let’s Hike it Baby - Get outside, get active, and explore! This program is designed for parents with small children to help encourage a love of the outdoors at a young age. This program is part of the Hike it Baby program. To learn more visit hikeitbaby.com.

Pre-school & Kindergarten
Science is for all ages! Engage your young scientists with these hands-on interactive programs:

Butterfly Life Cycle – From caterpillar to butterfly, learn all about the life cycle of our beautiful winged insect friend, the butterfly.

Animal Babies – Join us as we explore animal’s life cycles from babies to adults. Observe live animals and determine whether the young resemble their parents.

Worm Investigation – Learn about our squiggly wiggly worm friends and why they play such an important role in our habitats. Touch, feel and investigate them and the animals who might call them lunch.

Backyard Animals – Find out what animals call your school yard, backyard and For-Mar home! Learn all about Michigan animals and meet many of our backyard buddies up-close.

Green Grass Grows All Around - Learn about how plants and animals depend on each other to survive in the wild. Meet some of our animal friends who need plants to survive.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear – Students will investigate live animals, go on a “bear hunt” through different habitats and become scientists in this story book inspired program.

Seasonal Programs
These programs focus on a specific season and the changes happening in the natural world.

- Spring Awakening – March - June
- Summer Explorer – June - September
- Fall Colors – September - November
- Winter Wonders – November – March
Lower Elementary Grades K-2

**Life Cycle of a Log** – It’s time to get our hands dirty as we dissect logs and investigate the animals that help them start their lifecycle over again. Learn how plants grow from a tiny seed into a great Oak and who might want to live in that Oak!

**Insects Vs. Insect Eaters** – How many legs does an insect have? Learn the characteristics of insects and then learn about the many different animals who call them lunch!

**Nature Detective** – Animal clues are all around us! Come explore For-Mar in search of the many clues that our animal friends leave behind. Students will explore the one thing that all animals leave behind... Scat! Make your own scat to take home.

**Animal Home Builders** – Animals are some of the best carpenters around! Join a For-Mar Naturalist as we investigate different types of animals and their homes. Take a look at how the new treehouse was built and practice being an animal homebuilder.

**Habitat Hiker** - Let spend a little time investigating the different habitats that For-Mar has to offer. Students will have an opportunity to flip over logs in the forest and dip in the pond in search of the diversity of life in different habitats.

**Jump into Life Cycles** - Make a splash as you jump right in and explore the life cycles of animals. Students get to investigate how young plants and animals are like or not like their parents.

**Become a Tree-Whisperer** - It’s time to learn to talk to the trees! In the treehouse, we will find out all about tree parts and the animals who love them. Then we’ll hit the trails to meet many trees that are special to Michigan.

**Animal Adaptations** – Animals will do anything to survive. Meet some of our animal friends who have amazing adaptions that allow them to survive in their habitats. Learn how humans have modified animal adaptations to help us survive better, too!

Upper Elementary Grades 3-5

**Wetlands: Who Eats Whom?** – Learn about food chains through interaction with live animals from the top predators to the greenest producers! Learn how to use scientific keys and tools while exploring the diverse micro ecosystem within a pond and all the creatures that make it unique.

**Become a Nature Superhero** - Calling all Superheroes! The earth needs your help. During this action packed program, student superheroes will learn about issues facing our local habitats and how they can help reduce, reuse, and recycle that problem.

**I Heart Michigan... Resources** – Learn what makes Michigan the best state ever. From our lakes to our trees and our amazing animals, Michigan’s natural resources makes it special in so many ways.

**Planet Protectors: Endangered Animals** – Learn about animals that are in need of our help, the reasons why they are in trouble, and how humans can help. Then learn about wildlife success stories and about one animal that never made it off the endangered species list.

**Wildlife Neighbors: Animal Encounters** – Animals are our neighbors in the community of life and they have important jobs to do. Meet several of For-Mar’s wild neighbors; learn about the work they do that benefits our community, and about their adaptations for survival.

** Become a Geologist** – Once covered by glaciers, Michigan has some of the most amazing geological history. Become a Junior Geologist and get to know your Michigan rocks and minerals at For-Mar.

**Additional cost for Rock Collections.**

**Become a Naturalist** - Being a Naturalist is more than just loving the earth and animals. Learn the basics of how to become a future naturalist through interaction with live animals and fun hands on activities and demonstrations.
Middle School/ High School

**Invasive Investigator** - Join us at For-Mar as we investigate the many invasive species, both plants and animals that are taking over our native Michigan habitats. Get your hands dirty when you meet and remove some of these invasive nuisances first-hand.

**Wilderness Survival 101** – Air, shelter, water, and food; learn the basics of surviving in the wild woods of For-Mar. Dress to get dirty because you will be going off trail to make wilderness survival shelters.

**Geocaching 101** – North, South, East, West from cardinal directions to compass work, students will learn the basics of orienteering that will help them on their real life scavenger hunt using GPS units to find and place geocaches.

**Become a Citizen Scientist** - Join the For-Mar Naturalist team as we explore the wide variety of Citizen Science projects that youth scientists can become involved in at For-Mar. Learn about invasive species, how you can help control them and about the amazing bluebird monitoring project that helps our cavity nesting birds. Becoming a Citizen Scientist is a great way to contribute to valuable research, learn about our environment, and connect with our natural communities!

**Service Learning Projects - Volunteering at For-Mar (Free)** - For-Mar hosts a variety of volunteering opportunities from trail maintenance and invasive species removal to planting, program preparation, and more. Call For-Mar to find out about a project that your students can take part in to give back to their local community.

Special Programs

**Snowshoe 101** - When: December thru March, snow permitting. Grade: Suggested for First grade and up. Join us on this winter adventure! Learn the history of snowshoeing and how to use them. Then hit the trail to try snowshoeing first hand. Dress for the weather and wear snow boots.

**Maple Sugaring: Sap to Syrup** - When: Month of March. Grade: All. Join us at the DeWaters Center off Potter Road near our Sugar Shack for a firsthand look at how one of Michigan’s most historically delicious natural resources, maple syrup, is made. From tapping and winter tree ID to boiling and pancake topping; see the entire process during For-Mar Maple Sugaring Season!

**Fishing Basics** - When: April – October Where: Buell Lake County Park or Bluegill Boat Launch. Cost: $5.00 per student for half day, $7.00 for full day. Grade: Suggested for First grade and up. Limited to 30 students. We have the poles and the bait... you bring the kids. Come join us at the lake as we learn the fishing basics from casting to fishing identification. Don’t wait; it’s time to go fishing with For-Mar!
For-Mar On The Road is continuing to offer a menu of FREE In-School programming to Flint and Genesee County K-8 grade classrooms. Our interactive programs engage children with hands-on activities, games and demonstrations. All programs reinforce concepts across the curriculum and are aligned to the state of Michigan’s educational standards and benchmarks in Science, English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Health.

- Programs are available for Fall and Spring Programming. Fall programming runs Sept. 10 – Dec. 21, and Spring programming runs Jan. 7 – June 14.
- For questions and reservations, please contact the Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator Office at 810.249.2380, Cell 810.845.6437 or fmotr@gcparks.org
- Funders: Community Foundation of Greater Flint and Stella and Frederick Loeb Charitable Trust
- Programs were developed using certified environmental education curriculums and individual program standards are available upon request.
- Programs are one hour in length

**Kindergarten**

**Habitats are Homes** – What do a plant, turtle and human have in common? They all need food, shelter, water, space and air to survive! Get up and moving while you learn how habitats provide what plants and animals need to survive and meet a few of For-Mar’s animal teachers along the way.

**Patterns in Weather** – Sunglasses or a rain coat? Using scientific tools, hands-on activities and interactive games, discover what patterns in our weather tell us about the seasons and how the same patterns help us plan our day.

**First Grade**

**Reading with Reptiles** – Slither into animal classification and literacy with For-Mar’s reptile teachers. Read a story about animal classification, play an active literacy game, meet live animals and take time to read a story to one of our scaly friends.

**Life Cycles** – Hop into this interactive program as you explore the life cycles of some Michigan native animals and meet live animals.

**Second Grade**

**Plants in Action** – Wind, water or animals, what does it take for a plant to spread its seed? Investigate the diverse world of plants by dissecting seeds, playing games and visiting Truck Farm, our mobile green house (available seasonally).

**Water Journey** – Where on earth is all the water? Transform into a raindrop as you travel through the water cycle to discover where water is stored on earth and the forms it takes.

**NEW For Grades 2-5**

**Travel the Trail to Den-drol-o-gy** – Supported through funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the United States Forest Service, the newest For-Mar Nature Superhero Adventure will encourage your students to get up and get outside to explore the science of tree-dendrology! Using a portable comic book trail focused on urban trees, students will explore the benefits of and hazards to urban trees. Environmental Educators will be using activities from Project Learning Tree and hands on science components to this literacy-rich program.
**Third Grade**

*Birds of a Feather* – A bird is not JUST a bird! Migrate through hands-on activity centers to explore bird beaks, investigate feathers, build nests and even solve a mystery as you learn about the very diverse world of birds.

*Made in Michigan* – Cast a line into Michigan’s natural resources to learn how important our natural resources are to the economy. Explore the lumber, mining and fishing industries here in Michigan and how humans have changed the landscape to harvest these amazing resources using interactive games and activities.

**Fourth Grade**

*Nature Superheroes!* - Step into the world of comic books, nature and literacy with For-Mar’s superhero team, the Preservers. Creating a comic book is more than just drawing pictures; learn how For-Mar created their superheroes and what it takes to create a comic book, then take on the challenge of creating your own nature superhero. Each child will receive a copy of The Preservers, Nature’s Superheroes comic book to take home.

*Superior Senses* – Animals have senses that are far superior to any human. Study animal skulls, meet For-Mar’s animal teachers and even put your own senses to the test as you learn about animal’s sensational senses.

**Fifth Grade**

*Where Is All the Water in the World?* – Freshwater is one of the most important resources on Earth. Using the Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS), a For-Mar educator and your students will investigate where freshwater is found on earth with hands-on activities and a special amphibian guest.

*Web of Life* – The biodiversity on Earth is amazing. Join For-Mar’s educators in an interactive hands-on exploration of how everything in nature is connected from the sun all the way down to the smallest insect and the roll humans play in the web of life.

**Middle school**

*What is a Watershed?* – We are all part of a watershed. Using the Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS) a For-Mar educator and your students will dive into the components of a watershed and how humans can impact local watersheds with live animal and hands-on activities.

*The Birds and The Beans* – Shake your tail feather! Take a journey into the natural world with a For-Mar naturalist as you explore the structures and behaviors plants and animals have developed to find a mate and protect their young to keep their species alive. Meet some live animals along the way!
For-Mar On The Road brings nature to you! Each one hour program engages learners of all ages with hands-on investigations, games and activities. Perfect for after school programs or community organizations.

Cost
First program $70, each same additional program at the same location $35. Out of county programs require additional mileage fee.

- All programs are interactive, 45 minutes long and aligned to the state of Michigan’s educational standards and benchmarks in Science, English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Health.
- Programs are limited to in-school classroom sizes of 30 participants and out-of-school, after-school and preschool groups of no more than 20 participants.
- For questions and reservations please contact Courtney Prout, Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator Office at 810.249.2380, Cell 810.845.6437 or cprout@gcparks.org

Nature Club Series Programs
Looking for something a little more in-depth? Invite a For-Mar Naturalist out for a Nature Club! For-Mar Naturalists will come to your school once a week for one hour for 5 weeks to engage your students with live animals, nature games, stories and hands-on investigations. This program is designed for a classroom size group of all ages and abilities. The cost is $300 for the 5 week session.

Pre-K/Kindergarten

- **Fantastic Flowers** - Little hands love to pick flowers! Explore colors, shapes, textures and smells while investigating and dissecting flowers. Then create a work of art with the flower pieces. (visit from Truck Farm subject to seasonal availability.)
- **Life Cycle of a Butterfly** - Metamorpho...what? Introduce young learners to the amazing world of butterflies and metamorphosis with movement activities, stories and crafts.
- **Creature Features** - Turtles, Frogs, Insects and Snakes...Oh MY! Choose a snake, turtle, frog or insect focus to engage your little learners with a story, craft and live animals!

Lower Elementary Grades K-2

- **Nature Detectives** - Calling all detectives, we have a nature mystery and need your help solving it! Sharpen your detective skills while learning about tracks and other animal clues.
- **Spider or Insect?** - Does it have six legs and 3 body parts? Learn about the differences between spiders and insects with interactive games and live animals.
- **Animals Love Trees** - Who love trees? Animals do! Learn about the parts of a tree and meet some animals that call trees home and dinner.
Upper Elementary  Grades 3-5

Worms On Wheels – How do such small creatures make a big impact on the world? Examine the red wiggler worm up close and learn about how these little creatures make one of the most nourishing resources on earth, compost! Students will get up close and personal with the worms and construct a worm bin to keep in the classroom to extend their studies and help reduce food waste.

Portable Pond – Available March thru November- We bring the pond to you! Learn how to use scientific keys and tools while exploring the diverse ecosystem within a pond and all the creatures that make it unique.

Fascinating Fossils – Step into the world of paleontology as you explore how fossils are formed, the stories they can tell us and even make your own fossil.

Middle School/High School

Under Attack! – Our ecosystems are being invaded by Aliens! Investigate why invasive species are here in Michigan and how we can be part of the solution to curb their take over.

School Yard BioBlitz – A natural features inventory of YOUR schoolyard habitat. Get outside and discover what kinds of plants and animals call your school home.

Outdoor Careers – Do you like to be outside? Do you like animals? Students will learn what kind of jobs are in the natural sciences and how they can start successful careers in the field.

Truck Farm
Dig into plant science and gardening basics with our mobile greenhouse! Truck Farm uses hands-on experiences to highlight the benefits of daily physical activity as well as growing your own produce—benefits for yourself and the environment. Horticulture programs are available year round, however, programs that include a visit from the Truck Farm are subject to seasonal availability.
Career Fair Opportunities

Our naturalists and horticulturists are very excited to share their passion with aspiring minds. Discuss careers in natural sciences and how your students can create a future in environmental education or related fields. Ideal for career fairs or college preparatory programs! We will come out to your school or talk to students here at For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum. Free for middle and high school classes.

Custom Nature or Horticulture Program

Don’t see a program that has what you’re looking for? For-Mar staff can also create unique field trip and For-Mar On The Road programs that meet your group’s specific needs. Depending on the topic, there may be an additional cost.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Nicole Ferguson  
Park Naturalist  
810.789.8567  
nferguson@gcparks.org

Courtney Prout  
Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator  
810.249.2380  
cprout@gcparks.org