OUTDOOR & VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP PROGRAM GUIDE

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM
Program Participant Expectations:

In-Person Programming:

- All program check-in will take place in front of the For-Mar Visitor Center.

- Temperature checks and screening questions required upon arrival for all programs.

- All programs will take place entirely outdoors (dress for the weather) and will be canceled if inclement weather occurs, unless otherwise noted. Participants will be notified of a cancellation.

- While we are outdoors, masks and 6 foot physical distancing are required for program participants.

- Staff will be wearing masks at all times.

- For all other questions about in-person programming please contact Park Naturalist, Nicole Ferguson.

For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum
2142 North Genesee Rd
Burton, MI 48509
810.789.8567
For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum is the perfect place for your classroom, group, or learning pod to gain a brand new appreciation for the natural world. For-Mar field trips are led by experienced Environmental Educators who engage participants of all ages with hands-on investigation, outdoor learning time, and interactive demonstrations with For-Mar’s animal teachers.

**Covid-19 In-Person Program Guidelines:**
- Programs can have no more than 20 participants
- Masks and 6 foot physical distancing is required
- Temperature Checks and health screening waivers are required upon arrival
- The For-Mar Visitor Center, Treehouse and Gift Shop are closed until further notice

**Details and Costs:**
- For-Mar Basic Hikes and half day programs (1.5 to 2 hour) are $5.00 per program participant with a minimum fee of $50.00
- Full day programs (includes TWO 1.5 to 2 hours programs or hikes) are $10.00 per program participant with a minimum fee of $100.00
- All programs are aligned to the state of Michigan’s educational standards and benchmarks in Science, English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Health
- We ask that you limit the number of teachers and chaperones. Siblings and additional children are considered program participants, and will be charged a program fee and added into your max of 20 participants
- For-Mar’s picnic area and pavilion may be used for lunch or snack with prior notice, when available

**In Person Field Trip Contact Information**
For questions or to make reservations, please contact:
Nicole Ferguson
Park Naturalist
810-789-8567
nferguson@gcparks.org
FOR-MAR OUTDOOR FIELD TRIPS
PROGRAM AND HIKE TOPICS

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 and ability level.

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.

Nature’s Superhero Hike – Become a Nature’s Superhero as we travel the For-Mar trails to learn how For-Mar’s superhero team ‘The Preservers’ help protect our natural habitat. Students will learn about invasive species and leave no trace as they become a superhero for nature too!

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.

My Cub and Me Hike (for birth to 5) - 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.

Seasonal Hike – Come travel the trails as we enjoy the beauty of the season. These hikes focus on a specific season and the changes happening in the natural world.

Seasonal Hike themes
• Spring Awakening – March - June
• Summer Explorer – June - September
• Fall Colors – September - November
• Winter Wonders – November – March

Field Trip Programs by Grade level

Pre-school & Kindergarten Hikes:
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.
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. Students will practice being an animal homebuilder first hand. 

**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! 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. 

**Habitat Hiker** - 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.

Upper Elementary Grades 3-5

**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.  

**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.  

**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. 

**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. 

**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.

**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.
FOR-MAR OUTDOOR FIELD TRIPS

PROGRAM AND HIKE TOPICS

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!

Volunteering at For-Mar

**Service Learning Projects** - (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 - March, snow permitting
Grade: 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
Grade: First grade and up

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 fish 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 School Day Virtual programming to Flint and Genesee County K-12 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.

- For questions and reservations, please contact the Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator Office at 810.249.2380 or 810.7898567 or cprout@gcparks.org
- Programs were developed using certified environmental education curriculums and individual program standards are available upon request
- Programs vary between 35-60 minutes in length

Any Grade Level

Ask a Naturalist
Available for any grade level, a For-Mar educator can Zoom with students and answer questions about Michigan nature topics that they are currently exploring. Send topics to the outreach coordinator upon scheduling program. Duration: 35 minutes.

Kindergarten

Habitats are Homes – Habitats are homes: What do a plant, a turtle, and a human have in common? They all need food, water, space and air to survive! Let’s explore how habitats provide everything organisms need to survive. Duration 40 minutes.

Patterns in weather - How can the patterns in weather help plan our day? We will explore seasons and play a game to find the answer! Duration 40 minutes.

First Grade

Reading with Reptiles – How do scientists know what makes an animal a reptile? We will explore classification and meet some of For-Mar’s animal teachers. We will read a book and create our own story to read to our reptile friends. This program is completely virtual. Duration 50 minutes.
Second Grade

Plants in Action - What does it take for a plant to spread its seeds, Wind, Water and Animals! Let’s learn how seeds are dispersed all across the landscape with a found object STEM challenge. *a collection of scrap paper, or other recyclable materials will be needed per student for a building challenge. Duration: one hour.

Third – Fifth Grades

Travel the Trail to Den-Drol-O-GY - We will become tree scientists and find the benefits to protecting our urban forests. Let’s find out how to be a super hero for nature and follow along with a Preservers comic book adventure. *Hard Copies of Comic Book will be provided while supplies last. Duration: one hour.

Nature Superheroes! - Step into the world of comic books, and learn what it takes to create a comic! Each student will receive a Preservers Comic and participate in a superhero drawing challenge! *Hard copies of comic available while supplies last. Duration: one hour.

Middle and High School

Outdoor Careers - For the career curious, learn about different paths and places one can endeavor in the fields of science. This program can be combined with Ask a Naturalist. Duration: one hour.

Virtual 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 all ages.
Duration: varies based on age.
VIRTUAL KITS WITH FOR-MAR
FEE-BASED NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Virtual Paid Private Programming for Elementary
Supplement your Virtual For-Mar experience with a program Kit. Each Kit contains materials for each student to follow along with an Outreach Educator during the presentation. Fees include material cost, virtual presentation and kit delivery to your school or community group.

- This is a virtual program that is available for face to face or distance learning classrooms
- Suggested for 2nd grade and higher
- For up to 30 participants

Nature’s Recyclers- $70.00
Ever wonder the difference between the three R’s? Did you know that worms play a part in recycling, too? Create your own worm bin and discover how vermicomposting works!
- Kits include: tub, newspaper, sand, worms and supplemental material for each classroom to create a compost bin. Teacher will keep bin/materials. Presentation will be virtual.
- Duration: 45 minutes—one hour

No Mountain High Enough- $70.00
Time for an earth-shaking geologic challenge! With an erosion demonstration to help build some foundational skills, students will create landforms while exploring what helps shape them!
- Kits include: clay, tray, and printable landform cards for challenge. Presentation will be virtual/video.
- Duration: 45 minutes—one hour

Owl Pellet Dissection- $70.00
Learn about the eating habits of the owls living that live in Michigan. Owls usually swallow their prey whole, and they regurgitate what they cannot digest, producing an owl pellet. Learn about the owls of Michigan and analyze the bones to see if we can figure out what the prey was.
- Kits include: Owl Pellet, Dissection tool, tray, and printable owl pellet dissection key.
- Presentation will be virtual/video.
- Duration: 45 minutes—one hour

Virtual Programing Contact Information:
Call or email for more details or to schedule a Virtual For-Mar Program:

Courtney Prout
Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator
810.789.8567
810.249.2380 (desk)
cprout@gcparks.org
Ask a Nature Educator -

Cost: $30 per 1/2 hour or $50 per hour  
Group Size: Max of 20 participants

Are you a homeschool or Virtual learning parent or group that is looking for help with an outdoor or science topic. Our “Ask a Nature Educator” program can help assist you with nature related science topics. You pick the topic and send us any lesson information you need covered and our staff are here to help. Topics could include: Michigan history, food chains, Water cycle, habitat, life cycles, and more.

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 opportunities both virtually and in-person at For-Mar that meet your group’s specific needs. Depending on the topic, there may be additional costs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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nferguson@gcparks.org

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