

Effective September 2023

FOR-MAR FIELD TRIP OUTREACH & VIRTUAL PROGRAM GUIDE

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE & ARBORETUM



GENESEE  COUNTY PARKS
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FOR-MAR FIELD TRIPS

PROGRAM DETAILS AND PRICING

Field Trip To For-Mar

For-Mar Nature Preserve and 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.



Field Trip Details & 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 \$60.
- Full day programs (4+hrs in total length and include TWO 1.5 to 2 hours programs or hike) are \$10.00 per program participant with a minimum fee of \$100.00.
- 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 chaperones. Siblings and additional children are considered program participants, and will be charged a program participant fee.
- Due to limited covered space For-Mar Field Trip limit our field trip to 3 classrooms/group or 90 students per field trip.

For questions or to make reservations, please contact:

Nicole Ferguson

Park Naturalist

810-789-8567

nferguson@gcparks.org

FIELD TRIP EXPECTATION

READ BEFORE YOU VISIT

Commonly Asked Field Trip Questions & Information:

- All programs will take place rain or shine and it will be up to the group leader to make any cancelations due inclement weather. In cases of inclement weather programming will be brought indoors.
- Payment for programs can be made in cash, credit or check. Checks are to be made out to: Genesee County Parks.
- We ask groups to arrive 10—15 minutes before their scheduled start time.
- Bus Parking is along the service drive in front of the stop signs.
 - Students should be dropped off in the parking lot drop off area not in front of the building.
- All program check-in will take place at the Front Desk of the For-Mar Visitor Center.
- For-Mar’s picnic area and pavilion may be used for lunch or snack with prior notice, when available. Please request during booking.
- *Things to remind your students and parents:*
 - Dress for the weather
 - Closed toed shoes are best for hiking
 - Put on sun screen and bug spray before your come, as needed
 - Clean hands washed with soap & water—bug spray, sun screen and sanitizer free. (Some of your live animal are sensitive to chemicals. This will allow your students to be able to touch different animals during their visit.)
 - Refillable water bottle

For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum **Genesee Road Entrance:**

2142 North Genesee Rd
Burton, MI 48509

Potter Road Entrance:

5360 Potter Rd
Burton, MI 48509



FOR-MAR OUTDOOR FIELD TRIPS

PROGRAM AND HIKE TOPICS

For-Mar Themed 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 you can be a superhero for nature and help protect our natural habitat. Students will learn about invasive species, leave no trace and make a special visit to our Superhero Treehouse headquarters!

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 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.

FOR-MAR OUTDOOR FIELD TRIPS

PROGRAM AND HIKE TOPICS

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.

Tree Treasure Hunt - 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 on a tree treasure hunt to learn about the different treasures our Michigan Tree give us.

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.

Upper Elementary Grades 3-5

Wetlands: Who Eats Whom? – Learn about food chains and the transfer of energy from the sun to animals food, 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.

Wildlife Neighbors: Suited for Survival – 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 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.

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.

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.

Erosion Investigators— WATER, WIND, VEGETATION! Let’s investigate the different forces that cause erosion, explore how we can help reduce erosion and become a erosion investigator on our hike through For-Mar!

Become a Geologist – Once covered by glaciers, Michigan has some of the most amazing geological history. Become a Junior Geologist as you learn to identify different rocks, how they formed and the different fossil you may discover while exploring in Michigan.

**Additional \$2/ student cost for Rock Collections.



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.

Seasonal Programs for ALL ages

Snowshoe 101

When: December - March, snow permitting. Grade: Kindergarten 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 fishing identification. Don't wait; it's time to go fishing with For-Mar!



Genesee County Parks' Outreach

FREE PROGRAMS FOR GENESEE COUNTY STUDENTS

2023-2024 FREE GENESEE COUNTY SCHOOL DAY PROGRAMS

For-Mar On The Road is continuing to offer a menu of FREE School Day 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.
- Programs were developed using certified environmental education curriculums and individual program standards are available upon request.
- Programs vary between 35-60 minutes in length.



For questions or to make reservations, please contact:

Courtney Prout
Park Naturalist
810-249-2380
cprout@gcparks.org

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 or questions to the outreach coordinator upon scheduling program.

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.

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!

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.

Lifecycles- Hop into this interactive program as you explore the life cycles of some Michigan native animals and meet live animals.

Genesee County Parks' Outreach

FREE PROGRAMS FOR GENESEE COUNTY STUDENTS

Second Grade

Plants in Action- Wind, Water and Animals, what does it take for a plant to spread its seeds? Wind, water or animals, what does it take for a plant to spread its seed? Investigate the diverse world of plants by dissecting seeds, and exploring seed dispersal with games. We will create a window greenhouse!

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

Third Grade

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.

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.

Fourth Grade

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

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.

Fourth and 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.



Genesee County Parks' Outreach

FREE PROGRAMS FOR GENESEE COUNTY STUDENTS

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 & High School

The Watershed Game – We are all part of a watershed. Using teamwork and real-life tools, students will find balance for their local watershed and their community without breaking the bank. This program exercises critical thinking, budgeting, civics, and conservation. The program is great for upper middle or high school.

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! about animal's sensational senses.

Places We Live– (Best for Highschool) Does sense of place sway decision making? Use this scenario based game to observe how stakeholders use the same resource differently.

Career Fairs or Assemblies

At your site or at For-Mar our environmental educators 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.



Genesee County Parks' Outreach

FEE-BASED NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2023-2024 FEE-BASED GENESEE COUNTY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Genesee County Parks 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 \$80, each same additional program at the same location \$40.

- 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 25 participants
- For questions and reservations please contact Courtney Prout or the Park Naturalist Office at 810.249.2380, Cell 810.845.6437 or cprout@gcparks.org

Program Topics:

Pre-K/Kindergarten

- Fantastic Flowers
- Creature Features

Lower Elementary Grades (K-2)

- Nature Detectives
- Creature Feature

Upper Elementary (Grades 3-5)

- Worms On Wheels
- Portable Pond



Nature Club Series— 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.

Virtual For-Mar Field Trips

FREE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR GENESEE COUNTY STUDENTS

Free Virtual Programs for Genesee County Students

Genesee County Parks 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 Park Naturalist 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.

Program Topics:

Any Grade Level

- Ask a Naturalist
- Creature Feature

Kindergarten

- Habitats are Homes
- Patterns in Weather

First Grade

- Reading with Reptiles

Second Grade

- Plants in Action

Third- Fifth Grades

- Travel the Trail to Den-Drol-O-GY-
- Nature Superheroes

Middle and High School

- Outdoor Careers



Virtual KITS WITH FOR-MAR

FEE-BASED VIRTUAL NATURE PROGRAMS

Virtual Fee-Based 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 delivery to your school.

- For questions and reservations, please contact the Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator Office at 810.249.2380 or 810.7898567 or cprout@gcparks.org
- Kits are available for both in-person and distance learning classrooms.
- Suggested for 2nd grade and higher
- For up to 30 participants.

Worms...Nature's Recyclers- \$80.00

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!

Kit includes: 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: 45minutes—one hour

Owl Pellet Dissection- \$80.00

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



CUSTOM FOR-MAR PROGRAMS



Custom Nature Programs

Don't see a program that has what you're looking for? For-Mar staff can also create a unique field trip, outreach, or virtual program that meets your group's specific needs.

Cost: The fee varies depending on the program.

Contact Information

Programming at For-Mar:
Nicole Ferguson
Chief Park Naturalist
810.789.8567
nferguson@gcparks.org

Outreach & Virtual Programming:
Courtney Prout
Park Naturalist
810.249.2380
cprout@gcparks.org