Welcome to Osprey Wilds (WOW) - Introduction Class

Every group will be welcomed to Osprey Wilds with an introductory course in scientific observation and nature exploration. This class will teach students to open their eyes to the wonders of nature through a phenology investigation, and will also include icebreakers and an orientation of Osprey Wilds.

WILDLIFE

Animal Signs

Animal Signs are clues that paint a picture; a moment in an animal's day. Discover the basics and sign-reading and investigate clues to solve a variety of animal sign mysteries.

Beaverology (fall & spring)

Just like human engineers build bridges or skyscrapers, beavers build with trees and create floods to change their environment and create their homes. Engineer your own beaver dam and lodge in this class, explore the physical adaptations of these ingenious mammals, and check out Osprey Wilds' very own beaver colony, dam and lodge!

Bird Basics & Beyond

All birds have some basic features in common, but it is their unique design and features that allows them to survive in every habitat on earth. Hike on our birding trail as you learn about bird characteristics, biology, and simple field identification techniques.

Creek Creatures (*fall & spring only*)

There is a magical world of under-water life right in front of us! How we care for our lakes, rivers and streams. has a huge impact on that life. Collect and identify macro-invertebrates (insects) in order to better understand the importance of water quality in this engaging, discovery-based class.

Reptiles & Amphibians Revealed (*fall & spring only*)

Become herpetologists in this hands-on class! Experience the creepy, crawly, and often misunderstood world of reptiles and amphibians, then go on a "hunt" for frogs, toads and salamanders and try to spot or catch them where they live.

Wildlife Meet & Greet

Native wildlife plays an important role in our ecosystems and daily life. Meet our live animal ambassadors up close to discover more about Minnesota's native wildlife and how they fit into our local environmental through a guided hike.

Predator vs. Prey (grades 4 and up)

For an animal, life and death hinges on their instincts and abilities. Experience life as a hunter, or the hunted, through a high-energy game and become acutely aware of the adaptations and strategies that are necessary for animals to survive in the wild.

Wolves of the North Woods (grades 5 and up)

Wolves are the North Woods' premier predator, yet they live a fine line between life and death; their survival is determined by their abilities and behaviors. Learn about wolf pack structure, behavior and adaptations using scientific tools and methods, such as radio telemetry.

ECOLOGY

Maple Syruping (*March & April only*)

For thousands of years, spring warmth has resulted in a sweet treat from the sap of maple trees. Visit our sugar bush, identify and tap a tree, collect sap, &taste delicious pure maple syrup!

Lake Studies (Limnology) *(grades 5 and up)*

Just like people, all lakes age! Study the aging process of lakes by examining the ecosystems of Grindstone Lake and Windmill Creek. With visual observations and chemical testing, we will determine how "old" Grindstone Lake is and what we can do to keep it and other lakes young and healthy.

Clean Green Energy *(Grades 4 and up)*

Renewable energy sources are a growing part of our energy mix, and important part of a sustainable future. How do we get energy from the sun, wind, and water? What are the benefits to the planet and society? Explore multiple renewable energy systems present at Osprey Wilds, then design your own clean, green building!

Wonders of Winter (December – March only)

Have you ever wondered how snowflakes form or how plants and animals survive the winter? Through handson activities and exploring winter's conditions, students will learn the process of snowflake and ice formation and discover what happens to plants and animals once the snow falls. Students will also engage in discussion about our changing winters and the impacts reduced snowfall & ice cover has on our native plants, animals and bodies of water.

Osprey Wild Card Hike

Let our staff of educators take you on a hike around Osprey Wilds' property to learn about a wide array of topics. This hike can take you to areas of Osprey Wilds that most classes do not get to see and can cover topics such as:

- Wildlife
- Forestry
- Ecology
- Fisheries
- Water Resources
- History
- Biomes

Wilderness Detectives New!

Come and explore our mysterious forests through the lens of a detective. Students will work together as a team to discover the past, understand the present and predict the future of our land. Learners will also take an instructor guided solo hike to put their new observation skills to the test.

ADVENTURE

Archery *(grades 4 & up)*
Over the last thousand years, the purpose of Archery and the equipment has gradually changed and been modernized for hunting and sport. Experience the ancient art of atlatl throwing, and then sharpen your skills at the archery range.

Canoeing ***Weather Dependent*** **(***grades 9 & up; requires 2 adults; fall only)* The art of paddling is more than pulling a paddle through the water. Discover the technique of paddling using the forward stroke, pry, draw, c-stroke and j-stroke. Work together in the bow and stern to practice your new skills on beautiful Grindstone Lake!

Climbing Wall
Whether climbing a real rock face or an indoor wall, there is a challenge for everyone. Experience bouldering and top rope climbing on our indoor rock wall! Teamwork and goal-setting will be emphasized during this challenging sport.

Snowshoeing (grades 4 & up; *requires 2 adults; winter only)*
Different cultures have responded in different ways to the necessity of traveling in deep snow. Experience the rich history of this 5,000-year-old North American activity through quiet, snow-covered forests.

High Ropes Course (grades 5 & up; requires 3 adults) The world looks different from a bird's eye view; challenge yourself to climb high (20 or 40 ft options) and to be brave as you soar to new heights. Osprey Wilds' high ropes course also boasts a fun zip-line ride at the end of the course.

Orienteering (grades 4 & up)
With only two tools you can navigate an unfamiliar environment. Use a compass and your own two feet to navigate Osprey Wilds' orienteering course using techniques like bearing setting, pacing, leapfrogging, and land-marking to complete the course!

Survivor
You can survive three weeks without food, three days without water, three hours without heat, but the first key to survival happens within the first three seconds. Build a shelter and a fire with a team, and recognize that teamwork is also an important factor in survival.

Low Ropes Team Challenge Course *(grades 4 & up)*
Near-ground elements provide opportunities to test participants individually and as a team in this personal growth and team-oriented challenge course. Solve problems and overcome obstacles as a team by striving for improved caring, communication, and cooperation.

CULTURE & HISTORY

Nature Journaling
What does it mean to really *see* an object in nature? Train your eye to notice things differently as you write and share your observations of the natural world. Let out your inner poet as you explore the woods and prairies of Osprey Wilds.

Ojibwe Forests
Ojibwe culture and traditions are a rich part of Minnesota's history. Through exploration, stories, and sensory experiences, students will learn about traditional Ojibwe practices and valuable uses of native Minnesota trees.

Beaded Embroidery (Mazinigwaaso)
(grades 6 & up)
We invite you to explore Ojibwe culture with us through our Mazinigwaasowin class (Ojibwe for s/he embroiders or beads something). We will investigate natural resources that have been used in traditional embroidery, such as porcupine quills, as well as how the Ojibwe impacted world trade in the region through the fur trade and their beading. You will then get the chance to make and keep your own embroidered craft using seed beads!

Wild Careers *(grades 4 & up)* New!
Come discover what different careers are available in the natural resources field. Please let us know what career path you are interested in us highlighting. The following list can help inspire what you're looking for.

- Adventure Education and Maintenance
- Gardening, Grounds, and Trail Maintenance
- Wildlife Care and Husbandry
- Farm Harvesting or Weeding– (May-Oct)
- Maple Sap Collection (March/April)
- Pulling Garlic Mustard (May)
- Bud Capping White Pines (Sep-Nov)





HAVE A REQUEST FOR A SPECIFIC TOPIC? LET US KNOW WHEN YOU SCHEDULE!

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NATURALIST-LED EVENING PROGRAMS

Evening programs are a one-hour optional all school class led by a single Osprey Wilds instructor. All groups on site share the same program. Choose a category that interests your group, and the specific topic will be decided by your instructor.

Active
Outdoor program featuring team building and other camp activities.

History/Culture
Presentation style program in the dining hall about Minnesota related topics involving culture or history.

Nature
Presentation style program in the dining hall about topics involving our local natural world.

SELF-LED EVENING ACTIVITIES

Campfire
Gathering together around a campfire ring to a crackling, warm and mesmoring fire is a perfect way to wrap up your group's experience and appreciate the beauty of Osprey Wilds. If you desire s'mores supplies, please indicate so on your Snack Request Form or feel free to bring your own!

Night Hike
See Osprey Wilds in a whole new light – with no lights! Enjoy the evening sounds and night skies with your group by utilizing our trails to open up students' curiosity and maybe get over some fears. Ask your liaisons or any staff member for their favorite trail to hike at night.

Fishing
Bring your own fishing poles and bait to try your luck in Lake Grindstone! You are free to take your students fishing during any of the breaks between classes, or in the evening. If you would like more time, let our staff know when selecting your classes and we can arrange one or more free periods for your learning groups to have 2 hours of fishing. Any fisherfolk 16 or older need a valid Minnesota fishing license.

Invent Your Own!
The possibilities are endless… Please let us know if we can help you brainstorm any other activities.

Trip Tip: Many of our classes can be adapted in both content and standards to meet your specific learning objectives and individual student needs.

More detailed descriptions and academic standards for each class is available by request.

If you have questions about our curriculum, please contact our education team. We will work with you to find the best fit for your students.







NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS

We are pilot testing new programs this year, we could use your help! If you are interested in trying out one of our new programs, please email us at schools@ospreywilds.org