

# Environmental Education Programs 2017-2018 School Year





Photo: Thorne Swift boardwalk by Petoskey 7th grade student

# What We Do

LTC Education Programs foster awareness, appreciation and stewardship of the environment for people at all ages, focusing on LTC lands. It is our belief that one of the greatest uses of LTC protected lands is to educate our youth. Our field trips provide students with real-life, hands-on experiences. All programs meet the current state of Michigan curriculum standards, including the Next Generation Science Standards. Let our experienced staff enhance your classroom lesson with a valuable outdoor education experience!

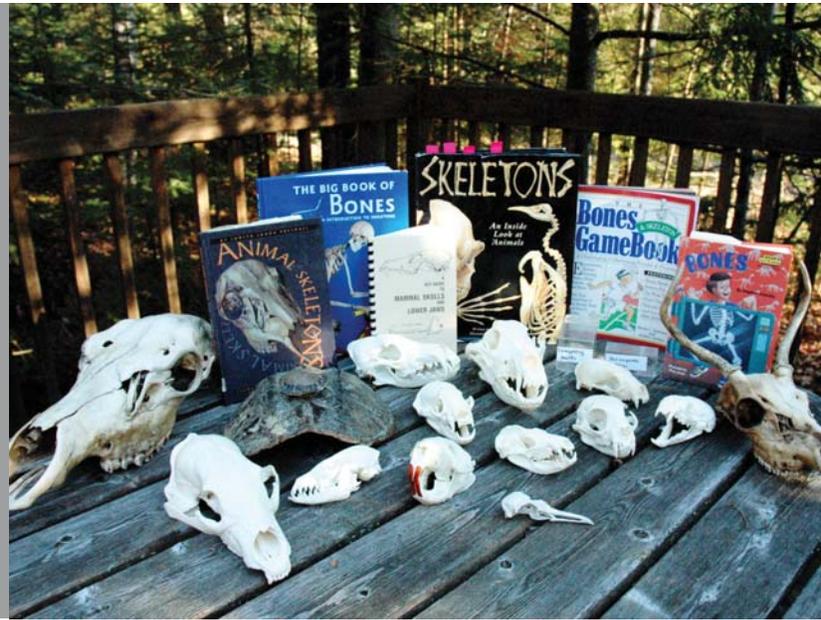
## Loanable Materials

We have a wide variety of nature-themed resources available for loan at no charge.

Items include:

- 10 different nature-themed discovery boxes
- Nature-themed library materials
- Programs To-Go  
(you conduct with our materials where you choose)

Call us today or visit our website to learn more!  
(231) 347. 0991 [www.landtrust.org](http://www.landtrust.org)



## Need Bus Funding?

We can assist schools with transportation costs!  
For more information please call (231) 347. 0991.

If your school is within Emmet County, funding is also available through the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.  
For inquiries, call (231) 348. 5820. [www.phsacf.org](http://www.phsacf.org)





# Fall & Spring

## To Be a Tree (Pre-K)

Through song and dance, children will gain an awareness of a tree's structure and functions. Children will learn how each part of a tree plays a role in helping trees function. Developmental components of this program include music, movement comparison, identifying parts, and interactive play.

Program adapted from *Project Learning Tree*.  
(45 minutes)

## Animal Home Discoveries (Pre-K)

This program is designed to engage young children's fascination and curiosity of animals and where they live in the wild. Observation skills will be used through a fun story and guided walk. While looking up, on the ground, under logs and behind trees, children will gain an awareness of why animals build homes and what materials they use.

(45 minutes)

## Falling for Leaves (K-1) \*Fall only

Fall is a perfect time to take a hike and enjoy the colors and multitude of leaves falling to the ground. During this program, students are asked to use their observation skills to categorize leaves by shape and color. We'll also share differences between deciduous and coniferous trees, and discuss how trees grow.

(45 minutes)

## Sharpening the Senses (K-1)

Students benefit from guided observation of nature. Their curiosity about everything around them is evident, and their interest in nature is keen. This nature hike is designed to enhance a student's awareness of the five senses and the ways they can be used to gather information about our natural world.

(45 minutes)



## Healthy Habitats (1-3)

We will focus on the four elements needed for a healthy habitat: food, water, shelter, and space. Students will explore and compare three or more habitats. With help from category cards, students will be encouraged to actively seek and find all of the elements required for a healthy habitat.

(1 hour)

## Buggin' Out (1-3)

Explore the world of insects, bugs, spiders, millipedes, centipedes, and crustaceans by collecting and examining a variety of invertebrates during this active hike. Students are provided bug boxes and guided on a hunt for insects and other similar creatures. The naturalist will then gather the group to look at everyone's discoveries and discuss adaptations and special habits of the many-legged critters. Discussions include habitats, comparisons of insects to non-insects, and collection techniques safe for both critter and student.

(1 hour)

## Fun with Food Chains (1-3)

This hike focuses on food chains, animal habitats, and the transfer of the sun's energy to all living things. Students are asked to take on the role of different parts of the food chain and to create a chain using other members of their class. During the hike they may search for examples of food from the different habitats they visit, and discuss the roles of both predator and prey within a chain.

(1 hour)

## Purely Plants (3-4)

This program focuses mainly on the importance of plants and their parts and functions. We may also take a closer look at the adaptations of plants and methods of seed dispersal.

(1 hour)



### **Dirt Makers (3-5)**

Roll over logs and meet vitally important members of the ecosystem—the decomposers! Learn more about the variety of critters whose job it is to transform decaying material into rich soil. A worksheet activity is included to assist students on their endeavor and facilitate closer observation.

(1 hour)

### **Life in Water (3-5) \*Spring only**

Using field guides and magnifying lenses to identify various aquatic insects, students observe the numerous adaptations of water dwellers, the diversity of life found in water, and the importance of aquatic habitats. We'll discuss how aquatic life determines water quality and how the food chain extends to underwater habitats.

(1.5 hour)

### **Spring Sprouts (4-6) \*Spring only**

Through identifying common wildflowers and spring plants, students learn the parts of a flower and their functions. Discussion includes how plants use their different characteristics to achieve pollination. Field guides and journals may also be provided upon request to increase observation and understanding.

(1 hour)



### **Spring Navigation (5-12) \*Spring only**

Use a compass to create a map while enjoying signs of spring in northern Michigan. Students will be challenged to use their self-created maps to find their way back. A nice addition to a unit on early explorers. This program is also a good follow-up to the Conservancy's fall orienteering course.

*\*Orienteering course available upon request at Ransom Preserve (Charlevoix Co.) and Offield Preserve (Emmet Co.).*

(1.5 hours)

### **Orienteering (5-12) \*Fall & Spring**

Learn how to use a compass while exploring a beautiful nature preserve. Students enjoy the challenge of "bushwhacking" through forest and field and the thrill of success when they discover their route marker. Orienteering courses are offered at two locations: Ransom Nature Preserve (Charlevoix Co.) AND the Offield Nature Preserve (Emmet Co.).

*NOTE: During this program, your class will be divided into teams of four or five students and an adult leader should be available for each team.*

*\*This program requires the completion of pre-visit activities sent with the confirmation packet.*

A classroom visit by a Conservancy Naturalist prior to your outing is also available and recommended.

(approx. 2 hours)



### **EcoStewards Volunteer Program - Citizens become scientists!**

LTC can better manage our preserves by gaining significant information about what plant and wildlife exists on the ground. As a citizen scientist volunteer, you can help us gather this information through classroom or independent projects.

### **Class Projects**

Educators can offer students a learning opportunity outside at a nature preserve to foster a better understanding of the natural world and to develop skills such as plant and animal identification. Students can engage with one another and have a direct impact on their community through Earth Day projects, documenting rare, unique or invasive species on LTC preserves, monitoring vernal pools, cleaning up trash at a preserve, and more.

Students interested in independent study can adopt a citizen science project that will provide meaningful experiential learning such as monitoring an American Kestrel bird nest box, completing a plant or bird inventory, building bat houses, conducting basic ecological monitoring, a trash clean up at a preserve, and more. We are open to ideas from students based on their time and schedule.

# Year-Long Programs

Our year-long programs integrate the changing seasons, art, science, language arts and more.



## Intro to Wilderness Survival (6+)

This course is an introduction to the skills and mind-set needed in a wilderness survival situation throughout the seasons. All sessions cover basic introduction to the following skills: Importance of attitude, self-reliance and sound decision making, being prepared and informed before venturing out, and strategies for addressing a survival situation. Each season focuses on a different topic. Fall - shelter building; Winter – fire building; Spring – water collection and wild edibles.

Take one session or all three!

(Sessions are approx. 1.5 hours long each)



## Intro to Nature Photography (5+)

This program is intended to expose students to the art of photography while providing them with an outdoor experience that will inspire an appreciation of and awareness for nature. Students will put their acquired photographic techniques into action as we hike along a path at your chosen natural area. Photography is an excellent tool for expressing creativity, as well as getting outdoors and exploring nature up close. A variety of subjects including art, science, and language arts can be applied to photography.

*\*Cameras provided. Space is limited for this program.*

(Sessions are approx. 1 hour long)



## Eco Journaling (5+)

Students will obtain a deeper awareness and understanding of a local natural community through the seasons. They'll use their senses and observation skills while recording data and practicing creative writing plus basic drawing techniques. A preparatory classroom session and field trip each season will engage students in learning more about the local flora and fauna, cyclic changes of natural phenomena and its impact on the landscape and wildlife. Session topics include winter tracks and signs and spring wildflowers. Each journaling session will include recording data, drawing and writing exercises, and "spot" time – a time period where each individual student practices techniques in a location of their choosing within the natural area.

(Sessions are approx. 1 hour long)



# Winter Programs



## Winter Wonders (Pre-K)

During this playful hike, students will be encouraged to discover their surroundings in search of all the winter wonders they can find. We will learn to make tracks, find food, and look for shelter just like the animals do. (45 minutes) - no snowshoes



## Winter Explorers (K-1)

Our snowshoes don't fit smaller adventurers, but K-1 students can still enjoy a winter hike to stimulate their senses. As we actively explore nature, we will learn about animals and their behaviors in winter. (45 minutes) - no snowshoes

## Snowshoe Adventure (2-6)

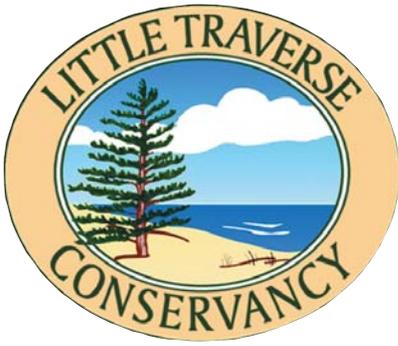
A great way to experience snowshoeing and learn about nature in winter. This program focuses mainly on the sport of snowshoeing and getting students outdoors during the winter months. Some ecology will be introduced, but the main idea is to have them enjoy physical activity in our colder months. (1 hour)



## Winter Tracks & Signs (3-8)

Searching for tracks is one of the most exciting winter activities. Snow is an excellent surface for tracking an animal and learning about its behavior. This program introduces students to common tools and techniques for identifying signs of wildlife in winter. All students will learn how to identify the tracks, track patterns, and signs animals leave behind. Older students will be exposed to a wider variety of tracking tools and encouraged to use them through cooperative learning. 1 hour (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) 1.5 hours (6<sup>th</sup> +)





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(231) 347.0991



*Little Traverse Conservancy protects the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas.*



**It's time to schedule your outdoor learning experience!**

