



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR



PROTECTING THE NORTH COUNTRY WE ALL LOVE

Little Traverse Conservancy ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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 environmental education is a means to engage students with their curriculum. By providing students a hands-on outdoor learning experience, we are also cultivating a land ethic and promoting their physical, mental and emotional well-being.

All programs meet the current State of Michigan curriculum standards. Correlations can be found on our website www.landtrust.org.

*Let our staff support your classroom lesson
with a valuable outdoor education experience!*



HOW TO REGISTER

To register, please call
231.344.1018

Be ready with possible dates,
grade level, number of students
and theme.

We fill up quickly!

Don't forget that you may sign
up for multiple seasons!
All of our programs are
offered at **no charge**.



Need Bus Funding?

We can assist schools with transportation costs!
For more information 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 or visit
www.phsacf.org



FALL/SPRING PROGRAMS

Suggested grade levels are in parentheses. Please request if modification is desired.

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 sweep nets and bug jars as they are guided on a hunt for insects and other similar creatures. As a group students will share discoveries and discuss adaptations and special habits of many-legged critters. Discussion topics include habitats, comparisons of insects to non-insects, and safe collection techniques 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)

To Be a Tree (Pre-K)

Children will learn how each part of a tree plays a role in helping trees function. Developmental components of this program include movement, comparison, identifying parts, and interactive play.

(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 explore differences between deciduous and coniferous trees, and discover how trees grow.

(1 hour)

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.

(1 hour)



We invite you to borrow these learning materials:

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

Educational items include:

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

Call or visit us online to find more details about each box or program:
231.347.0991 www.landtrust.org



FALL/SPRING PROGRAMS continued

Purely Plants (3-4)

This program focuses mainly on the importance of plants and their parts and functions. We will 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 sketching activity is included to assist students on their endeavor and facilitate closer observation.

(1 hour)

Life in Water (4+)

Using reference guides and field equipment, students will have the opportunity to collect and identify aquatic insects. Through careful observation we will gain an appreciation for the diversity of life found in fresh water. Sketching and discussion will help students gain a better understanding of animal adaptations and how aquatic life determines water quality.

(1.5 hour)

Spring Sprouts (3+) *Spring only

Through identifying common wildflowers and spring plants, students learn the parts of a flower and their functions. We will also explore how plants use different characteristics to achieve pollination. Field guides and sketch sheets are provided to increase observation and understanding.

(1 hour)

Spring Navigation (5+) *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 orienteering program.

(1.5 hours)

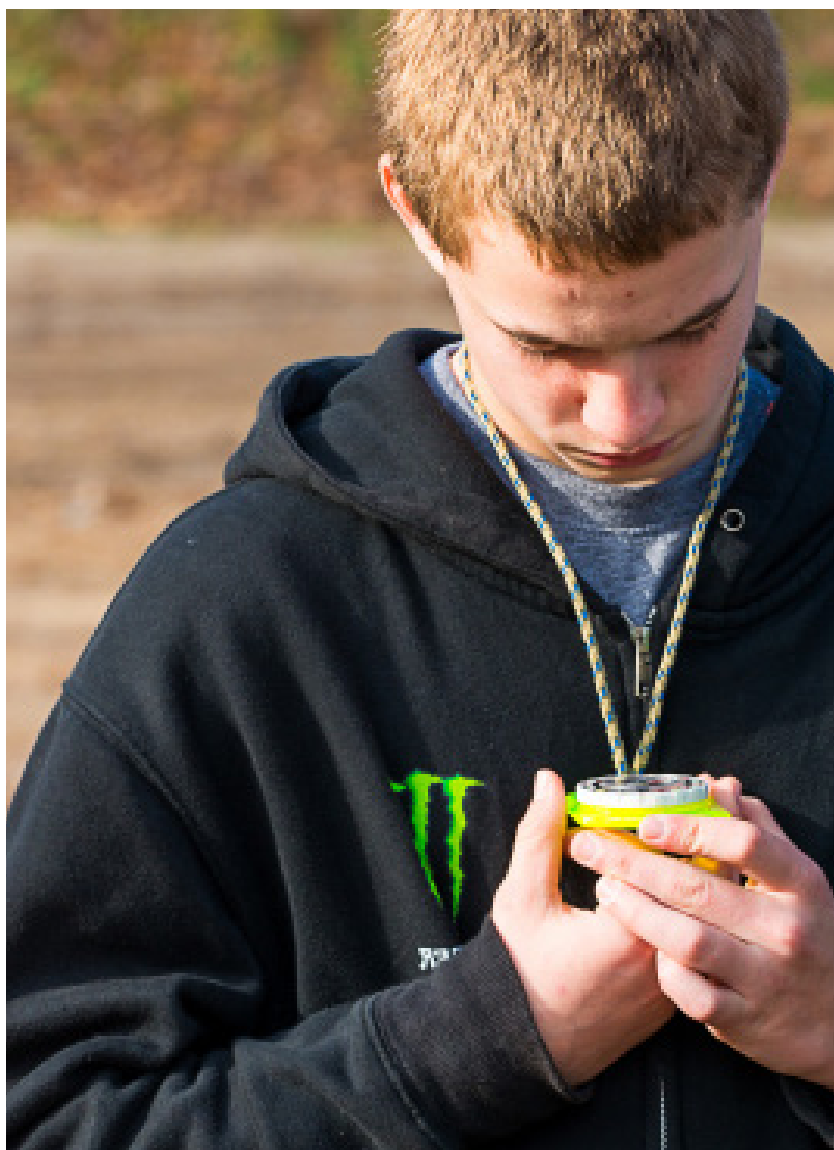
Orienteering (5+)

Learn how to use a compass while exploring a beautiful nature preserve. Students enjoy the challenge of "bushwhacking" through forests and fields and the thrill of success when they discover their route marker. Orienteering courses are offered at Charles A. wRansom Nature Preserve (Charlevoix Co.) and the Offield Family Working Forest Reserve (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 upon request.

(approx. 2 hours)





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 how 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 local animals and their behaviors in winter.

(1 hour) - no snowshoes

Snowshoe Adventure (2+)

A great way to experience nature in winter. This program focuses mainly on the sport of snowshoeing and getting students outdoors during the winter months. Ecology will be introduced, as students enjoy physical activity in our colder months.

(1.5 hours)

Winter Tracks & Signs (3+)

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.

(1.5 hours)



YEAR-LONG PROGRAMS

Our year-long programs focus on the arts, science, changing seasons and skill building.



Intro to Wilderness Survival (5+)

This course is an introduction to the skills and mindset 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 = Shelters

Winter = Fire building

Spring = Water collection & Wild edibles.

Take one session or all three!

(1.5 hours per session)



Eco Journaling (3+)

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. 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.

(1 hour per session)



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. Each session includes a classroom pre-vist presentation and field trip.

*Cameras provided. Space is limited for this program.

(1 hour per session)

DoYOU want to make an impact?

Become a citizen science volunteer!



Frog and Toad Detection

Frogs and toads (anurans) are sensitive to changes in their environment, and their populations can serve as an environmental quality index. Become a citizen scientist and join us in our effort to collect population data on local species of anurans.



American Kestrel Nesting Boxes

Partner with LTC and the American Kestrel Partnership to build, mount, clean, and check an American Kestrel nesting box. Report your observations online so researchers can analyze data and



Nature Photography

Improve your knowledge of camera settings and creative approaches to start photographing nature with confidence! It doesn't matter if you're using a camera or your phone; all devices, ages, and abilities are welcome!



Tree Planting

Last year we planted over 1,000 trees at the Consuelo Diane & Charles L. Wilson Jr. Working Forest Reserve on Earth Day, but you can make any day Earth Day! Pick a day in the spring or fall to plant your own sappling and help our planet.



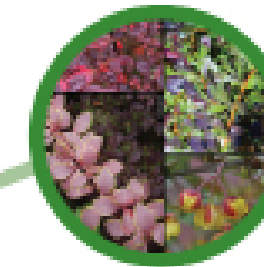
Vernal Pool Adoption

Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands and hotspots for biodiversity. Volunteers will "adopt" a vernal pool and visit it three times a year to collect data, which will ultimately aid in the conservation and management of these unique habitats.



Butterfly Monitoring

Be trained to identify and monitor our local butterfly populations! Help protect these sensitive environmental indicator species by mapping their location.



Invasive Plant Surveys

Learn to identify and combat those pesky invasives that crowd out native plants and limit biodiversity, as well as utilize iNaturalist to map invasive species.



Anyone who likes to take photos can be a citizen scientist with iNaturalist!

You can join in the data collection effort and add observations to the Little Traverse Conservancy Preserve Life database by using iNaturalist! You do not need a smartphone to participate and adding observations is a cinch!

Our EcoStewards volunteers are citizen scientists gathering data, experiencing nature in new and exciting ways, and contributing to state and nationwide endeavors. Our small actions are multiplied together by thousands of others to accomplish grand tasks, such as conserving the American Kestrel or rare habitats!

For more information, call 231.347.0991 or visit www.landtrust.org

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



Little Traverse Conservancy
3264 Powell Road
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
www.landtrust.org 231.347.0991



MEMBERS MAKE THIS WORK POSSIBLE.

(We receive no government funding for our operations.)

Consider donating to become a member. You will be joining a robust, committed community who understands, shares, and helps us achieve our mission.

