



Clermont County Park District School Programs

Fur Feathers and Scales (Spring/Fall/Winter)

Grade Level: Pre-K—5

Park Locations: Chilo Lock #34 Park, Sycamore Park, Shor Park, Pattison Park

Take a closer look at animals who call Clermont County home. During our animal talk – students will meet some of our live animals and learn how their adaptations help them survive in our local habitats that students will explore during a guided hike.

Key concepts: Adaptations, animal structures, senses, behavior, observations, habitats

Get in Touch with Trees

Grade Level: Pre-K – 1st

Park Locations: Chilo Lock #34 Park, Sycamore Park, Pattison Park

Students will explore their sense of touch and discover different textures in nature through an exploratory hike in one of our specified park locations. Students will use their senses to describe the different parts of a tree and how these parts work together. At the conclusion of our program, students will discover WHO else uses trees for their home during our animal talk.

Key concepts: sensory development, observations

From Sap to Syrup (February— March)

Grade Level: Pre-K—6

Park Locations: Pattison Park

Take a tour of our sugar bush as you follow the process of maple syrup making. Students will learn how to identify a sugar maple tree and what it takes to turn the clear, sweet sap into delicious maple syrup! Students will also have the opportunity to tap a Sugar Maple tree and sample the sweet treats straight from the sugar bush.

Key concepts, photosynthesis, tree identification, history of maple sugaring

Native Americans: Cultures of the Past and Present (Spring/Fall/Winter)

Grade Level: 1—5

Park Locations: Chilo Lock #34 Park, Sycamore Park, Hartman Log Cabin

Discover early Ohio before the Pioneers and Cincinnati was settled. Students will step back in time and learn how Native Americans worked, played and lived in the great forests of Southern Ohio. Program includes interactive games, hike and activities that focus on the tribes of Southeast Ohio.

Key concepts: culture, traditions, social studies

Mud Pie Magic

Grade Level: K – 2

Location: Sycamore Park, Pattison Park (Lakeside)

What is soil? What color is it? How does it sound? Feel? Smell? Does soil change from place to place? Why is it important to us? Students will explore these questions and discover the importance of Earth's thinnest layer.

Key concepts: Soil quality, food chain, ecosystems, physical properties of soil, Earth materials, soil types, textures, biodiversity, erosion

Bees, please! Pollination (Spring/Fall)

Grade Level: 1—6

Park Locations: Shor Park, Chilo Lock #34 Park

Discover the pollination life cycle, pollinators and the roles they play in our own lives. Program includes, hands-on activities, and a hike where students learn how to identify local pollinators and their important roles.

Key concepts: pollination life cycle, pollinators, basic insect structure, metamorphosis, adaptation

The Secret World of Plants (Spring/Fall)

Grade Level: 1—6

Park Locations: Pattison Park, Sycamore Park, Shor Park

It's a jungle out there and plants are not defenseless. Students will learn clever strategies that plants use in the battle for survival. Explore the basic structures of flowers and some simple tricks to plant identification during a guided hike.

Key concepts: plant structures, adaptations, plant identification, dichotomous key, life cycle, seed dispersal

Home Sweet Home (Spring/Fall/Winter)

Grade Level: 1—8

Park Locations: Chilo Lock #34 Park, Sycamore Park, Pattison Park (Lakeside)

This program will introduce students to our local habitats and the animals that live within them. Throughout the program students will explore three different types of habitats, meet our live animals and participate in fun activities and gain a better understanding of the world around us.

Key concepts: Habitat, basic needs for survival, carrying capacity, habitat fragmentation, structures and behaviors that allow animals to meet basic needs, ecosystem, adaptation

Weather: Wild or Mild? (Spring/Fall/Winter)

Grade Level: K—6

Park Locations: Chilo Lock #34 Park, Sycamore Park, Shor Park, Pattison Park

Weather can be unpredictable at times, but learn how meteorologists can make predictions about the weather through our hands-on experiments! Through this hands-on program, students will have a better understanding of weather systems and what causes them.

Key concepts: Weather patterns, changing seasons, Meteorology, water cycle, weather terminology, properties and states of water, natural disasters, human impact on weather

Earth Rocks (Spring/Fall/Winter)

Grade Level: 3—5/6 (with a focus on rocks and minerals)

Park Locations: Sycamore Park

Through interactive studies on the rock cycle, glaciation, soils and fossilization students will become expert Junior Geologists. An exploratory hike takes students on a journey back in time before dinosaurs roamed. Program concludes with a fossil hunt where students can take home their very own fossils from the Little Miami River!

Key concepts: geology, rock cycle, rock ID, earth materials, erosion, land formation, fossils, minerals

Water, Water Everywhere? (Spring/Fall)

Grade Level: 4 –6 or 7—12 focus on River Chemistry

Park Locations: Chilo Lock #34 Park, Sycamore Park (no museum tour)

Students will become scientists and investigate an important natural resource - water. Through this hands-on program, your scientists will learn how the water cycle works and test their own predictions using different methods water quality testing. The history of Chilo Lock # 34 will be shown through a short presentation and tour through our museum.

Key concepts: water cycle, properties of liquids, surface and ground water, erosion, physical and chemical properties of water, water quality, conservation

Settling on the Ohio (Spring/Fall/Winter)

Grade Level - 4—6

Locations: Hartman Log Cabin or Chilo Park #34 Park

This interactive program will have students discover what early life on the Ohio was really like. Students will prepare their flatboats for the journey west to Cincinnati. Tough decisions will be made along the way and they may even run into a fellow pioneer!

Key concepts: social studies, decision-making skills, math

Who's for Dinner?

Grade Level: 3 - 8

Locations: Sycamore Park, Chilo Lock #34 Park, Shor Park

Students will explore the basic concepts of food chains and food webs through hands-on activities. Students will learn how energy cycles through Ohio's ecosystems and identify food chains in action during an interactive hike.

Key concepts: Food webs and chains, energy flow in ecosystems, recycling, decomposers, herbivores, carnivores, producers, consumers, photosynthesis, stability of system

Inquiry in Nature (Spring/Fall)

Grade Level: 6 – 12

Park Locations: Sycamore Park, Chilo Lock #34 Park, Pattison Park (Lakeside)

Students learn the QUEST model for inquiry investigation and learn how scientists use the model to make a new discovery. A hike through the forest will allow students to explore their curiosities and work together with their team to develop a comparative question, then design and implement an investigation to answer their question. In small groups, students report their results, methods, and future modifications. It is highly recommended to bring two adult chaperones per group of 8 students due to the highly individualized nature of this lesson.

Key concepts: Inquiry learning, data collection

