

NATURE EXPLORERS 2017-2018

Sep 6 2017 \$5	<u>INSECTS</u> : Learn about the anatomy and adaptations of insects with an emphasis on butterflies. A visit to the Butterfly House will reinforce the lesson. (\$2 admission fee for parents, siblings, or other non-student visitors.)
Sep 20, 2017 \$4	<u>BEEES AND WASPS</u> : We will demystify the “stinging” members of the insect family and examine their importance in the natural world.
Oct 4, 2017 \$4	<u>THORNS AND THREATS</u> : We will explore the pain-producing strategic defenses that plants and animals have developed to keep them from being eaten.
Oct 18, 2017 \$4	<u>VENOMOUS OR POISONOUS?</u> : Learn venomous and poisonous animals and their use of toxins to subdue prey or repel predators.
Nov 1, 2017 \$4	<u>NATIVE AMERICAN MEDICINAL PLANTS</u> : We’ll discuss how the native Americans used plants to heal and search for some examples.
Nov 15, 2017 \$4	<u>NATIVE AMERICAN STUDY</u> : Hands-on experiences will enhance a continued study of the peoples who greeted the early voyageurs of our area.
Nov 29, 2017 \$4	<u>ANIMAL ENGINEERS</u> : We’ll learn about some of the many techniques used by animals to construct a shelter.
Dec 13, 2017 \$4	<u>BIOMIMICRY</u> : We’ll continue our study of nature’s structures and learn how they have inspired recent human inventions.
Jan 10, 2018 \$4	<u>ANIMAL SENSES</u> : Animals use the same senses as humans but sometimes in very different ways. We’ll study some adaptations and then compare ours to theirs.
Jan 24, 2018 \$4 for each skier	<u>A DAY OF SKIING OR A WINTER HIKE</u> : We’ll discuss winter ecology and, if there is snow, we’ll cross country ski. If there isn’t any snow, we’ll explore with a hike.
Feb 7, 2018 \$4	<u>HABITAT</u> : Learn what makes good habitats, how various factors can affect animal populations and search for examples of various habitats.
Feb 21, 2018 \$4	<u>BOGS, FENS AND CARNIVOROUS PLANTS</u> : Learn how Michigan’s glaciers left unique wetland features and examine some of the interesting survival adaptations developed by plants.
Mar 7, 2018 \$4	<u>WETLAND HABITATS</u> : We’ll search for examples of adaptations that allow plants to survive in the soggy soils of wetlands.
Mar 21, 2018 \$4	<u>POND HABITAT</u> : We’ll continue our study of the wetland ecosystem with an in-depth look at the organisms that inhabit the ponds.
Apr 4, 2018 \$4	<u>RIVER VALLEY/RIPARIAN HABITAT</u> : Learn how plants that grow in a river valley are adapted to flooding and dry periods.
Apr 18, 2018 \$4	<u>DUNE HABITAT</u> : Meet at Grand Mere State Park to discuss the dune formation process and explore the habitat.