

## NATURE EXPLORERS Fall 2018

Students should bring a notebook to use as a journal. We will record key facts and illustrations about the day's topic as well as field observations.

September 26 \$4	<u>SOIL SURPRISES</u> : We'll learn how soil types, percolation rates and compaction of soils affect the plant and forest community then explore the animal kingdom that extends beneath the leaf litter of the forest.
October 10 \$4	<u>MIGHTY MINERALS</u> : Minerals, the building blocks of rocks, are identified by studying their properties. We'll perform simple tests to discover the identity of some common minerals.
October 24 \$4	<u>ROCK CYCLE</u> : Planet Earth is the ultimate recycler. Rocks are never destroyed; the bits and pieces are used to make "new" ones. Students will learn how the three rock groups are formed from other rocks.
November 7 \$4	<u>ROCKS FIELD STUDY</u> : We will meet at a beach (either Warren Dunes or Grand Mere State Park) to discuss techniques to identify the main types of rocks. We'll then put those skills to use to build a basic rock collection.
November 21 \$4	<u>FOSSILS</u> : Students will learn how fossils are formed, what can be learned by fossils and the main types of fossils that can be found in Michigan. They will practice identification by sorting fossil samples.
December 5 \$4	<u>ORIENTEERING</u> : A compass is the fail-safe tool for navigation in the wilderness. Students will learn the basic techniques of using an orienteering compass, complete some practice activities and try some navigation on the trails.
December 19 \$5	<u>GEOCACHING</u> : Learn how to take part in this outdoor treasure-hunting game using the Global Positioning System (GPS).
January 9 Ski: \$6 Hike: \$4	<u>SKIING OR WINTER HIKE</u> : Students will hike or use cross-country skis to explore nature in winter.