



# Holliday Park Nature Center Environmental Education Field Trips

Available for Pre K-6th grade.  
Programs complement state academic standards.



*Enhance class  
curriculum  
with nature!*



# Welcome Teachers!

## A perfect place for Environmental Education

Holliday Park provides a unique and dynamic educational opportunity, located just six miles north of downtown. The park's 95 acres of wooded ravines, winding trails, wetlands, and dramatic stretch of the White River offer a perfect setting to spark childrens' curiosity in the natural world. Students can explore the innovative nature center, play on one of the city's best playgrounds, explore various gardens and arboretum, or take a stroll around the one-of-a-kind Holliday Park Ruins.

Honoring the wishes of donors John and Evaline Holliday, this park remains a community resource for Environmental Education. Each year thousands of school children partipate in programs, making lifelong memories. Field trips are lead by experienced environmental educators and volunteers. They are designed to complement Indiana's Academic Standards for Science, as well as, allow students the chance to learn science first-hand.



## Field Trip Options

### Year-round Field Trips

These hour-long field trips are offered year-round. Students start their program with an introduction in the nature center classroom, then head out on the trails to continue the learning first-hand. For grades Pre-K through 6th.

### Extended Field Trips

This option gives students an opportunity for a longer visit covering multiple subjects. Two-hour extended field trips are offered for grades 2nd and 3rd. Three-hour Outdoor Ecology extended field trips are offered for grades 4th through 6th which includes time for lunch between sessions.

### Seasonal Field Trips

The plants and animals of Holliday Park change dramatically throughout the year. Seasonal hour-long programs highlight the uniqueness of each season. They are great for classes looking for multiple field trips and offer new learning opportunities each visit. For grades Pre-K through 6th.

### Classroom Connections/Outreach [Offered Nov.- Mar.]

Connect on-site experiences at Holliday Park back to the classroom! During these 45-minute programs, a naturalist visits your classroom to provide an interactive lesson with live animals and natural artifacts. Perfect for pre- or post-field trips to complement your visit to Holliday Park, or as a stand-alone program. For grades Pre-K through 6th.

## Booking Information

To schedule a field trip, or for additional information, call (317) 327-7180. We recommend calling at least one month prior to your desired date. When calling, please be prepared with: 1. Program topic, 2. Approximate number of students and adults, 3. Grade/age of students, 4. Program date, time, and at least one alternative.

**Don't see a topic that works for your needs?** Additional topics and programs are available and can be taylored to fit the goals of your group. Please call our staff to discuss possibilities.

## Program Requirements & Fees

Programs are limited to 60 students per hour. Larger groups can be accommodated, please call for details. Teachers and chaperones are free with a suggested adult-to-child ratio of 1:8.

Payment is expected in full on the day of the program. Cash, credit, and checks made payable to Indy Parks are accepted.

Schools with a minimum of 40% of students receiving free or reduced lunches are eligible for discounted fees, please ask about this during your booking.

- **Year-round Field Trips**  
\$5/student, \$50 minimum
- **Extended Field Trips**  
\$5/student, add \$1/student for each additional hour of programming
- **Classroom Connections/ Outreach**  
\$35 with on-site field trip  
\$75 outreach only



## Transportation Funding

Friends of Holliday Park is proud to offer funding to help schools who are limited by the cost of transportation. This program distributes reimbursement funds in amounts up to \$300 to participating Marion County educators. Call the front desk at (317) 327-7180 for more information. Field trip booking must be made separately from the transportation application. To view specific guidelines or to print an application, visit [www.hollidaypark.org/environmental-education-field-trips/](http://www.hollidaypark.org/environmental-education-field-trips/).

## Make A Day of It

Groups are invited to spend the day at Holliday Park, there is plenty to do and all within walking distance.

- Hike the nature trails
- Explore the Habitat Hall
- Picnic in the park
- Spend time at the playground
- Stroll around the Ruins
- Play games in the grassy fields

## Cancellation Policy

Cancellations or changes to your reservation must be made at least one week prior to your scheduled field trip. **Cancellations with less than one week notice will be charged half of the expected program fee.** Nature center staff will notify teachers the morning of the program if it must be canceled due to inclement weather.

Holliday Park and Nature Center  
6363 Spring Mill Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46260  
(317) 327-7180,  
[www.hollidaypark.org](http://www.hollidaypark.org)

## Preschool

### Year-round Field Trips

#### Sensory Adventure

Students will use all of their senses while exploring nature. This program teaches about animal senses and lets students practice their own sensory awareness. The trails hold sensory treasures around every bend!

#### Wild About Wildlife

Children are naturally curious about animals. This program teaches about Indiana animals and builds nature appreciation. Students see animals up-close and while hiking through their natural habitat.

#### The Wonder of Plants

Holliday Park is home to a variety of plants. Children observe different plants first-hand, discovering their seeds, leaves, and other parts. They learn how plants grow, and plant a seed to take home!

## Kindergarten and 1st Grade

### Year-round Field Trips

#### Habitats

What is a habitat and why are they so important to animals? This program teaches about the relationship between the basic needs of animals and the places they live. Students learn how animals' bodies are adapted for survival and finding what they need in their habitats.

*Complements Life Science standards: K: observe and compare animals, 1st: basic needs of animals in habitats, diversity.*

#### Insects

Although insects are all around us, we often overlook this highly diverse and abundant class of animals. Students learn about the physical characteristics all insects share and how they grow. They will capture and observe these little critters and practice identification.

*Complements Life Science standards: K: observe and compare animals and their growth, 1st: classify and compare organisms.*

#### Sensory Adventure

Students explore animal senses and how they use them for survival. This program lets students practice their own sensory awareness as they discover the sights, sounds, smells, and textures in the park!

*Complements Physical Science standards: K: describe and compare physical properties, 1st: classify organisms and objects based on physical properties.*

#### Wild About Wildlife

Students are introduced to animal classification, learning to recognize the traits different animals share and how they are grouped together. They will observe animals up-close as well as on the trails of the park.

*Complements Life Science standards: K: observe and compare animals 1st: classify animals, animal interdependence.*

#### The Wonder of Plants

Plants have basic needs just like you and me. This program focuses on the parts of plants and how they grow. Students will observe plants on the trails and each student will plant a seed to take home.

*Complements Life Science standards: K: observe and compare plants, 1st: importance of decomposers, basic needs of plants, interdependence of plants and animals.*







## 2nd and 3rd Grade Year-round Field Trips

### Animals

Holliday Park is home to many different classes of animals. Students will explore five classes of vertebrates, the characteristics of the animals within them and what makes each group unique. They will see animals up-close and on the trails!

*Complements Life Science standards: 2nd: classify and compare animal characteristics, 3rd: animal behavior and growth.*

### Habitats

All animals need food, water, shelter, and space to survive. Students learn what animals live in the forest, prairie and wetlands, and how they satisfy their basic needs. We will hike through the park's habitats looking for wildlife as well as their food and shelters.

*Complements Life Science standards: 2nd: classify animals, determine animals needs, 3rd: animal survival and adaptation.*

### Insects

Students learn the parts of an insect and how they grow. We will also sweep through the prairie or hike the trails using nets, bug boxes, and hand lenses to capture, observe and practice insect identification.

*Complements Life Science standards: 2nd: classify and compare animals and their growth, 3rd: classify and compare organisms.*

### Lifecycles

Students will learn what a lifecycle is and how various animals grow. We will focus on the differences between the development of birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals and then go hiking in the park in search of these growing critters.

*Complements Life Science standards: 2nd: compare animal lifecycles and parents' behavior toward offspring, 3rd: animal survival and growth.*

*"The students participated in several experiments and made observations of pieces of nature inside the classroom (leaves, planting plants). They made real-world connections during the field trip...and used their experience to connect science standards in the classroom." -First grade teacher*

### Plants

What do seeds need to germinate? What part of a plant grows first? This program focuses on the parts of plants and how they grow. Students will observe and identify plants on the trails. Each student will plant a seed to take home.

*Complements Life Science standards: 2nd: compare plant life cycles and describe adaptations, 3rd: determine plant parts, basic needs, growth, and reproduction.*

**Call 327-7180 to book a field trip today!**

## 4th to 6th Grade

### Year-round Field Trips

#### Adaptations

How does a skunk's coloring help it survive? What makes an owl a good hunter? Students learn how physical and behavioral adaptations help native animals survive and adjust to changes in their habitat. We will then go hiking to observe these adaptations in the wild.

*Complements Life Science standards: 4th: adaptations, organisms' response to changes in the environment, human impact, 6th: homeostasis.*

#### Food Webs

Students identify producers, consumers, and decomposers first-hand as we look for the animals along the trails of the park. They will discover how energy moves through food chains and get to see them in action.

*Complements Physical & Life Science standards: 4th: energy transfer, 5th: observe and classify producers, consumers, and decomposers, animal interdependence, 6th: energy transfer between organisms, photosynthesis, abiotic and biotic interaction.*

#### Habitats

All animals need food, water, shelter, and space to survive. Students will investigate what animals live in the park's habitats and how they meet all their basic needs. We will hike through the forest, prairie and wetlands, comparing the plants and animals that live in each habitat.

*Complements Life Science standards: 4th: human impact on environment, adaptations, organisms' response to stimuli, adaptations to changes in environment, 5th: decomposers, 6th: limiting factors in an ecosystem.*

#### Pioneers and Their Plants

What would it feel like to live in Indiana before modern conveniences? What animals lived in forests, wetlands, and prairies in the past that can no longer be found in Indiana today? Learn what plants the pioneers depended on for food and medicine and why some of our native animals and plants no longer live in Indiana.

*Complements Life Science standards: 4th: human impact on the environment. 6th: invasive species.*



#### Predator and Prey

There are many predator and prey relationships right in our own backyards. Students will identify the carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores of Holliday Park, and how they depend on each other. They will meet animals up close and observe them in the wild.

*Complements Life Science standards: 4th: adaptations, 5th: predator-prey relationships, 6th: relationships between organisms, organisms' impact on habitats, limiting factors in an ecosystem, photosynthesis, animals' energy needs.*

#### Outdoor Ecology Program (3 hours)

Ecology is the study of the relationships between living organisms and their environment. Students explore and compare three different ecosystems within Holliday Park. They learn about animal adaptations, food webs, energy transfer, and how to gather scientific information as well as identify wildlife.

*Complements Life Science standards: 4th: adaptations, comparing plant and animal characteristics, organisms' response to human and non-human changes in environment, 5th: producers, consumers, and decomposers, predator-prey relationships, 6th: relationships between organisms, limiting factors in an ecosystem, photosynthesis, animals' energy needs.*



## Seasonal Field Trips

### Pre-K through 6th Grade

#### Maple Syrup mid Feb.-mid Mar.

Towards the end of winter, when the days are getting warm and the nights are still chilly, maple tree sap begins to flow and it is time to make maple syrup! Students learn about identifying maple trees, the syrup production process and get a taste of pure maple syrup.

*Complements Physical Science standards: K: seasonal changes, observe and compare plants, 1st: properties of liquids, needs of plants, 2nd: plant lifecycles and structures, 3rd: parts of a plant, plant growth, 4th: human impact on environment, organisms' response to stimuli, 5th: producers, consumers, and decomposers, 6th: organisms' impact on habitats, photosynthesis.*

#### Pond Study Apr.-Oct.

Holliday Park's wetlands are teeming with aquatic life. This program provides students the chance to discover first-hand what lies beneath the surface. Students use dip nets and observing tubs to look at these tiny creatures up-close. This program can get messy, so make sure everyone dresses appropriately.

*Complements Life Science standards: 2nd: observe plant and animal lifecycles, body structures of animals, 3rd: classifying animals, 4th: adaptations, 5th: food webs, 6th: abiotic and biotic interactions.*



"The field trip at Holliday Park allowed students to experience hands-on activities and gave them a real-world reference and appreciation. We had a fabulous field trip. You guys ROCK!" -Fourth grade teacher

#### Changes of Spring Apr.-Jun.

Enjoy the diverse spring show of wildflowers and learn why they bloom so early. Students also discuss what animals are doing this time of year and how they prepare for the busy spring season.

*Complements Life Science standards: K: seasonal changes, observe and compare animals, 1st: survival advantage in animals, needs of plants and animals, interdependence of plants and animals, 2nd: plant lifecycles and structures, 3rd: parts of a plant, plant growth, 5th: producers, consumers, and decomposers, 6th: photosynthesis.*

#### Fall Foliage Sep.-Nov.

The colors and cooler temperatures make autumn a wonderful time to discover the forest. Students learn what changes plants and animals make and how they use this season to prepare for winter.

*Complements Life & Earth Science standards: K: sort objects, seasonal changes, observe and compare plants, 1st: survival advantage in animals, needs of plants and animals, interdependence of plants and animals, 2nd: plant lifecycles and structures, 3rd: parts of a plant, plant growth, 5th: producers, consumers, and decomposers, 6th: photosynthesis.*

#### Winter Wonder Nov.-Feb.

Get bundled up and ready to explore the woods in winter. Students learn how animals survive the winter months. From storing food to growing a thicker coat, native wildlife have lots of tricks to help them handle the chilly weather.

*Complements Life & Earth Science standards: K: seasonal changes, observe and compare animals, 1st: survival advantage in animals, needs of plants and animals, animal shelter, 2nd: plant and animal lifecycles, 3rd: parts of a plant, plant growth, 4th: adaptations, changes in environment, 6th: homeostasis.*



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6363 Spring Mill Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46260



Get into nature with Environmental  
Education Field Trips at Holliday Park!