PROGRAM OFFERINGS & AVAILABILITY

PROGRAM OFFERINGS	SEASONAL AVAILABILITY	GRADES				
		K	1st/2nd	3rd/4th	5th/6th	7th & up
Animal Tracks & Traces	fall, winter, spring	X	X	X	X	X
Art in Nature	fall, winter, spring			X	X	X
Beavers	fall, winter, spring	X	X	X	X	X
Birds: Migration	fall	X	X	X	X	X
Birds: Winter Survival	winter	X	X	X	X	X
Birds: Nesting	spring	X	X	X	X	X
Crayfish Ecology	fall, spring			X	X	X
Geology	fall, spring		X	X	X	X
Insects & Spiders	fall	X	X	X	X	X
Life in the Pond	spring	X	X	X	X	X
Mission Possible	fall, winter, spring			4th only	X	X
Orienteering	fall, winter, spring			4th only	X	X
Owl Adventures	fall, winter, spring		2nd only	X	X	X
Plants	spring	X	X	X		X
Skiing	winter				X	X
Snowshoeing	winter	X	X	X	X	X
Stream Study	fall, spring				X	X
Survival	fall, winter, spring				X	X
Trees	fall, spring	X	X	X	X	X
Watersheds	fall, spring	X	X	X	X	X
Weather	fall, spring		2nd only	X	X	
Winter Ecology	winter		2nd only	X	X	X

PAYMENT & CANCELLATION POLICIES

- Your balance will be due 30 days from the date of your field trip/site visit. If you would like to pay for your field trip/site visit on the day of, please ask for an invoice prior to your programming date. Program fees are nonrefundable.
- **We must bill for the number of students included in your reservation, regardless of how many students attend.**
- If you must cancel your field trip/site visit, you may reschedule if time allows.
  - In the case of a cancellation with less than 24 hours notice, you will be invoiced for a $50 fee.
  - If HNC must cancel a program for any reason, your group will not be charged.
- If ISD 709 school district or your school cancels school due to inclement weather, the program will be cancelled. HNC will attempt to reschedule your program as we are able to. You will not be charged if we are unable to reschedule.
- If we are visiting your site and weather conditions are unsafe for driving we will cancel at our discretion and attempt to reschedule.
- **Chaperones:** we highly recommend no more than 1 chaperone per 5 students. There is limited space along the trails and having too many chaperones can take away from the field trip experience.
- If you need additional chaperones to be successful, just let us know and we can work with you!

Chaperones include staff and parents/ guardians, required paras do not count

HARTLEY FIELD TRIPS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCES FOR ALL AGES

2026-2027

Hartley Nature Center

PROGRAM DETAILS

- **All programs utilize inquiry based learning and are aligned to state standards.**
- Programs are typically 2 hours (1.5 for preK and K).
  - Some classes may be extended to 3 hours for an additional fee.
- Programs begin with an introduction with the whole group.
  - This may take place indoors or outdoors depending on weather.
- Whole group sizes are limited to a maximum of 60 students.
  - The class is divided into smaller activity groups after the introduction for outdoor exploration.
- Lessons are seasonally appropriate and will take place mostly outdoors.
- HNC has a limited amount of extra outdoor gear such as hats and coats that we can lend out to your students!

In the event of severe inclement weather, programs will be held mainly indoors or rescheduled.

PROGRAM RATES

All schools qualify for the following sliding scale on a first come, first served basis:

- **0-29.9% Free/Reduced Lunch:** $7.50/participant *($70 min)*
- **30-49.9% Free/Reduced Lunch:** $3.75/participant ($35 min)
- **50%+ Free/Reduced Lunch:** **No cost program.**

Site Visit: Most of our programs can be brought to your school!
Rate: Student rate plus federal mileage rate to & from HNC.
Farther schools may have additional charge

Bus Scholarships:
HNC has a limited fund to reimburse schools bussing costs. When these funds are available we can reimburse $100 to al schools, and $150 for 50% or greater Free/reduced lunch schools.

HOW TO BOOK A FIELD TRIP OR SITE VISIT

1. Go to our website; click on the 'Programs' tab, which will bring you to our 'School/Field Trips' page.
2. Fill out our form where it says: *"To request a program, please fill out this form."*
3. For questions, reach out to our Assistant Education Director, Jenni at: edassistant@hartleynature.org.

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS

ANIMAL TRACKS & TRACES
Every animal leaves something behind! Be it tracks, scat, fur, or evidence of a home. Classes will gather clues about the lives of local animals while learning about their adaptations and habitat.
**Snowshoes may be required in winter.*

ART IN NATURE New!
In this creative program students will explore the Hartley ecosystem as both their paint and their canvas. After looking at different examples of artists who use the natural world students will create their own works of art to leave behind in Hartley park.

CRAYFISH ECOLOGY
Everybody's favorite omnivore, the crayfish, is the focus of this class. We'll take to the stream to identify suitable habitats, follow water dwellers, and search for this sometimes elusive animal. Students measure and sex crayfish to contribute data to the HNC Database.

INSECTS & SPIDERS
Learn about their bodies, behaviors, and relationships. With nets in hand, students will sweep through grass and overturn rocks and logs to catch them in action.

PLANTS
This introductory course explores the wide variety of plant life in the park while learning the names of plant parts and functions. Activities include concepts of water transport and pollination, all wrapped up in a fun package including games and exploration.

TREES
Classes vary according to your needs: little ones use senses to explore types and parts of trees, while older students identify, measure and age (using a tree borer to count rings) trees on a quest through the forest.

WEATHER
Use weather tools to collect data and make observations of current conditions. Older students will make forecasts. Activities help students to understand the water cycle, cloud formation, and changes in pressure.

WATERSHEDS New!
Create a model of our watershed to learn how all of our water is connected before observing Hartley's watershed and learning about the movement of water.

BEAVERS
Students will learn about the unique adaptations that make up beaver bodies, how dams and lodges are built, the habitat requirements of beavers, and hike to look for signs of beaver activity past and present.
**Snowshoes may be required in winter.*

BIRDS: FALL MIGRATION, WINTER SURVIVAL & SPRING NESTING
This bird class makes a great 3-season course! Explore basic bird biology, identification, and binocular use (if age appropriate), and learn about seasonal bird behaviors through observation and outdoor activities.
**May need snowshoes in winter.*

GEOLOGY
Learn about the rock cycle and Minnesota's AMAZING geologic past! Identify the types of rocks and look for evidence of glaciers in Hartley Park. Younger students will group, classify and describe rocks while learning to use hand lenses.

LIFE IN THE POND
The pond is full of life, both floating on top and deep in the mud. Use nets, identification sheets and more to catch and identify insect larvae, tadpoles and other pond dwellers.

OWL ADVENTURES New!
Whooooo is out there in Hartley park? Spend the day learning about the adaptations that make these strigiformes such a special part of our ecosystem. Students will use their skills as nature detectives to dissect and observe owl pellets and identify evidence they find!
**Includes pellet dissection.*
Extra cost of $1 per student for materials

STREAM STUDY
How healthy is Tischer Creek? Students conduct chemical analysis, record temperatures, inspect biotic quality and record habitat observations to come to a conclusion.

WINTER ECOLOGY
Conduct research and examine the snowpack. Discover the unique adaptations animals have that allow them to survive during the winter and use the snow cover to their benefit.
**Snowshoes may be required in winter.*

OUTDOOR SKILLS & TEAMWORK

ORIENTEERING
Students will gain self-confidence and the skills needed to navigate a variety of outdoor settings. Learn to use a compass, how to orient a map and how to interpret the landscape while engaging in the physical challenge of locating orienteering points throughout Hartley Park.

**Not available as a site visit.*
**We recommend one chaperone for every three students for the Orienteering program.*
**Each additional chaperone above the 1 to 3 ratio will be charged at the student rate per person.*

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING
Learn to swish with the best in this introductory ski lesson.
**Skiing is only available to small groups. We need a final attendance count and a list of shoe sizes in order to determine if this program is possible for your group.*

SURVIVAL New!
Don't just survive! Thrive! In this flexible program students will learn outdoor skills that would help them survive in any context and how to support each other along the way. We will engage with the scientific method to filter our own water, build the warmest shelters and try to start a fire no matter the conditions!

MISSION POSSIBLE
Combine teamwork, natural history, outdoor skills and adventure in this class designed to engage students in problem solving and community building. Includes group initiatives, map & compass, and ecological concepts in a giant scavenger hunt through Hartley Park.

SNOWSHOEING
Explore the winter wonderland of Hartley Park and walk into areas not accessible during the summer. Learn to high step through deep drifts in this introductory snowshoe experience.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!
Our programs can be customized to meet additional academic standards, lesson plans, scout badge requirements, time constraints, etc. Call or email to discuss how HNC can meet your programming needs.