



Field Trips to the Farm



Let Nature be your Classroom!

Join The Conservation Foundation's team of experienced educators as we guide your class through science and social enrichment in the safest place possible in any season,

>>> the Great Outdoors!

The Conservation Foundation's McDonald Farm headquarters in south Naperville is an oasis in the suburbs that provides a unique place to explore nature and a working organic farm.

Our 90-minute field trips are multi-disciplinary and developed to align with Next Generation Science Standards, incorporating STEAM themes (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art or Agriculture, and Math) and environmental stewardship.

Programs are \$12 per student with a minimum of 10 participants. There is no charge for adults and scholarships are available for those that need assistance.



Call to schedule your visit today!

The Conservation Foundation

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Seasonal STEAM Themes & Exploratory Enrichment



Early Elementary (Grades K-2)

-  **Insect Investigations.** Take a look at insects up close. Learn about their great diversity and the interdependent relationships they have with plants and other animals. ☀️ 🍂
-  **Animal Superpowers.** Investigate the different ways wild animals have adapted to our area and learn how the structure of their bodies helps them find food, shelter, and water. ☔ ☀️ 🍂 ❄️
-  **Energy Exchange.** Play a game to illustrate how energy on the planet starts with the sun and moves throughout all life. Take a short hike through different ecosystems at the farm and discover patterns of energy movement in nature. ☔ ☀️ 🍂
-  **Seeds and Plants.** Identify the structure and function of different parts of a plant and learn how seeds travel through their special adaptations. Investigate pollinator partnerships between plants and animals. ☔ ☀️ 🍂
-  **Patterns in Nature.** Examine patterns found in different natural objects, from seeds to leaves, and create your own piece of art inspired by nature. ☔ ☀️ 🍂 ❄️
-  **Healthy Habitats.** Explore nature with all of your senses and learn how local animals contribute to healthy habitat. ☔ ☀️ 🍂 ❄️
-  **Compost is Cool.** Recognize the importance of decomposers in nature by delving into their microscopic world and discover their vital role in creating healthy soil. Learn how to start your own compost bin! ☔ ☀️ 🍂 ❄️


Pre-K (Ages 3-6)

-  **Green Thumbs.** Discover how seeds grow, plant seeds to take home, and dig in the garden or compost bin. During farm season, explore how food is grown and taste a colorful variety of fruits and vegetables. ☔ ☀️ 🍂

Late Elementary (Grades 3-5)

-  **Web of Life.** Examine relationships among various organisms in their environment by observing plant and animal interactions in the prairie, wetland, and woodlands. ☔ ☀️ 🍂
-  **Earth's Changing Surface.** Set up experiments using the River Cutter Model to investigate the geoscience processes involved in the changes in the Earth's surface. ☔ ☀️ 🍂 ❄️
-  **Where does a Watershed Shed?** Experiment with sources of pollution in a watershed and learn how you can lessen your impact through every day actions. ☔ ☀️ 🍂 ❄️
-  **Plant Partners.** Discover the positive impact of organic agriculture on the earth's systems and learn why eating food grown locally helps create a healthy body, healthy community and healthy planet. In season, taste our veggies for yourself! ☔ ☀️ 🍂
-  **Animal Architects.** Explore the intricate homes and habitats local animals create, and create your own habitat using natural materials. ☔ ☀️ 🍂
-  **Water Quality and Ecosystem Health.** Analyze the plants and animals specially adapted to living in a wetland. Determine the health of the water by identifying the presence of certain kinds of macroinvertebrates. ☔
-  **Nature's Heroes: Conservation in Action.** Explore seasonal themes at the farm or at a natural area near your school and get your hands dirty while working to restore healthy, native habitats. ☔ ☀️ 🍂 ❄️

Groups with Special Needs

-  **NatureRx.** Students of all abilities are welcome at the McDonald Farm! Our Sensory Garden is partially handicap accessible and hosts multi-sensory experiences tailored to children and young adults with special needs. ☔ ☀️ 🍂

Ask us about our after-school Club Nature, Scouting Activities and Summer Camps!