



# Classroom & Field Investigations

## Tacoma Nature Center

*Providing the best of nature education programming in Tacoma and Pierce County*

**For more information and reservations, call (253) 404-3930 Monday – Saturday 9:00am - 4:00pm**

### Tacoma Nature Center

*A facility of MetroParks Tacoma*

1919 S. Tyler Street

Tacoma, WA 98405

(253) 404-3930

[www.TacomaNatureCenter.org](http://www.TacomaNatureCenter.org)

All classroom and field investigations are aligned with **Washington State Standards**.  
**Some of our programs have recently been aligned with WA State Common Core standards.**  
**Please check them out!**

***Program requests that are not listed on the regular menu of options will be charged an off-menu fee of \$50.00 per program and are subject to approval.***

## Classroom Investigations

*(Outreach Programs)*

We offer classroom inquiries that allow students to get a close-up view of nature in the convenience of the classroom. All K-6 programs last approximately one hour and are subject to available dates.

Due to the hands-on nature of the programs, we are only able to work with one classroom per time slot. Discounted prices are offered for additional programs on the same day at the same site.

**Fee:** \$90 for first in-school session  
\$60 for each additional session\*  
*\*Booked for the same day at the same location*

**Programs located +16 miles away (RT) from the Nature Center are subject to a surcharge at the following rates:**

16-30 miles RT \$25.00 surcharge

31-45 miles RT \$50.00 surcharge

46-60 miles RT \$75.00 surcharge

***All tolls and ferry fees are also charged to the program requestor.***



# Program Choices: Classroom Investigations

## Habitat is Where It's At! - Grades K-6

Students learn about the components of habitat and what wildlife needs to survive in this highly interactive program. Also included is a survey of 3 common Washington habitat types.



## City Critters - Grades K-3

Not all wildlife lives in the wild. Many species have successfully adapted to humans and urban conditions. Students examine a number of our city dwellers through interactive stations and learn why they are thriving.

## Washington Wildlife - Grades 3-6

There is a great diversity of life in Washington. Join us in a brief survey of some of the more common wildlife species found here. Explore some of the adaptations they have for survival and investigate some of the problems facing wildlife today.



## Pre-K Classroom Investigations

Try these new classroom inquiries that allow students to get a close-up view of nature in the convenience of the classroom and schoolyard. These interactive programs use nature discovery to teach math and science literacy. Pre-K programs are available with several different time options to better suit the needs of young children.

**Backyard Birds** - What makes a bird a bird? Students learn about unique characteristics of birds and discover which birds visit their schoolyard.

**Colorful Seasons** - Students use their senses to explore the current season.



**Program length:** 30, 45 or 60 minutes

*Up to 2 thirty minute classes may be scheduled per hour and still qualify for the \$90 fee for the first hour & \$60 for each additional hour.*



# Program Choices: Field Investigations

Field investigations at the **Tacoma Nature Center** provide opportunities for learning about wetlands, watersheds, wildlife and other areas of nature study.

Programs are ideally suited for single classes to provide quality, small group experiences. A ratio of one adult for every seven students is required for field investigations. (1:4 for children under 6.) There is no charge for teachers and chaperones. Siblings and other extra participants over 2 years old are charged the regular fee.

**All programs have an outdoor component and participants should come dressed for the weather.**

Each program has a linked classroom investigation. Increase your students' learning by booking both a pre-trip classroom program and a field trip today!

**Note—***we often become fully booked months in advance for the most desirable times. Contact us early and have several date options available.*

**Teacher's Packets** for all field trip programs are available online at [www.TacomaNatureCenter.org](http://www.TacomaNatureCenter.org). Packets include pre and post-trip activities and Washington State Common Core alignment information.

## Children Ages 3 - 5

**Program duration:** 1.5 hours  
**Fee:** \$6.00 per child  
**Minimum charge:** \$60  
**Max. participants:** 30 children



### **Little Explorers: Furry Friends**

Through interactive play, a fun mask to make, and outdoor exploration, children discover what makes a mammal a mammal and how we are mammals too!

### **Little Explorers: Pond Critters**

Take a close-up look at the wet and wild animals that call Snake Lake home with stories, outdoor play, and a visit with a turtle or a toad.

# Program Choices: Field Investigations Cont.

## Grades K - 2

**Program duration:** 2 hours  
**Fee:** \$6.00 per child  
**Minimum charge:** \$60  
**Max. participants:** 30 children



### **Life in a Pond-***WA State Common Core Aligned for Grades K-1*

Learn about wetland habitats and their unique role in an ecosystem. Students will also learn about the different animals in a wetland and how they have adapted to a unique environment.

### **Creepy Crawlies-***WA State Common Core Aligned for Grades 1-2*

Think like a bug and explore the world of invertebrates through an interactive program. Learn about the life cycles & characteristics of insects.

## Grades 3 - 6

**Program duration:** 2 hours\*  
**Fee:** \$6.00 per child  
**Minimum charge:** \$60  
**Max. participants:** 30 children\*



### **Wetland Wonders-***WA State Common Core Aligned for Grade 3*

Visit a wetland habitat to see what lives there and learn about the adaptations the animals have for survival. Then, look closer using microscopes to classify and sort the smallest creatures.

### **Forest Fun-***WA State Common Core Aligned for Grade 4*

Explore the many plants and animals that live in a forest habitat and learn how each part depends on others. Investigate how people depend on the forest and take a look at related jobs.

### **Water Sleuths** (grades 5-6 only)-*WA State Common Core Aligned for Grade 5*

Discover how systems connect as students investigate a wetland habitat, then search out the links between human activity and watershed quality. Students use technology to gather data on the watershed and draw conclusions about its quality.

### **Titlow Beach Exploration-***WA State Common Core Aligned for Grade 5*

During the low tides of spring, explore the intertidal zone and marine life of the beach in teams using scientific tools and identification sheets.

**\*This program lasts 1.5 hours and can serve up to 50 students**



# Available Resources

## Prepare your students for their field trip with this free resource!

Borrow the Better Birdwatching DVD created exclusively for the Tacoma Nature Center with 20 of the most common birds found in the park.

- With 19 minutes of video, sound and simple labeling, this resource has many different potential uses to prepare for a field trip.
- It can be played in a standard TV/DVD set-up or in a computer with DVD capabilities. Pause at any point to take a longer look at a specific bird and point out distinctive features. Fast forward or rewind to seek individual species.
- Includes a bird field guide that provides additional information about each species and still photographs of other Puget Sound species.
- DVD/Field Guide loan sets may be borrowed for up to 4 weeks at a time. No deposit is required but replacement costs for damaged or lost items will be billed to the school.



**Educator Workshops** are provided year-round. Visit the website for current schedule or book your own.

### Workshops available include:

Growing Up Wild  
Project WILD  
Project Learning Tree  
NatureMapping  
Online Interactive Maps  
Northwest Animal Families  
Wild Expressions



**All workshops available for private bookings with a minimum attendance of 12 required.**