



# Severson Dells Nature Center Field Trips



**Fall 2025**



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS





# Table of Contents



- 1** Meet Severson Dells Nature Center
- 2** Planning the Perfect Day
- 3** Standards Alignment
- 4** Our Programs
- 5** Field Trip Descriptions
- 6** Traveling Naturalist Descriptions
- 7** What to Expect & Bring: Schedules and Lunch
- 8** What to Expect & Bring: Packing Lists and Weather
- 9** What to Expect & Bring: Chaperones
- 10** Letter to Families
- 11** What to Wear to Severson Dells
- 12** Letter to Chaperones
- 13** Photo Release Form



# Meet Severson Dells Nature Center

## Who We Are

Severson Dells Nature Center sits on 369 acres of prairie, savanna, and forest and features a winding creek lined with ancient rock walls. The land and lodge were donated to the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County by Harry and Fannie Severson in 1975, and the Nature Center was established in 1976. Our mission is to link people to nature through education and research.

Your group leaders will include our staff, Americorps service members, and fabulous volunteers.

## What We Do

The better question is: what don't we do? In addition to field trips, we offer guided hikes, lectures, workshops, canoe trips, homeschool classes, scout programs, photography exhibits, musical and dance performances, family activities, and so much more.

## Types of School Programs

We offer Field Trips at Severson as well as In-school Field Trip Programs where we come to schools! Our Field Trips are \$8/student/one program and \$14/student for two programs, and our In-School Programs start at \$100 for the first session and \$50 for each additional session. All of these programs are tailored to their grade levels and meet Illinois Learning Standards and NGSS.



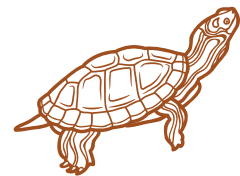
## Why Choose Severson Dells?



369 acres of distinct habitats



Minutes from the heart of  
Rockford



Over 30 years of experience



Small Group Sizes



Aligned with NGSS Standards



Grove Nature Playscape



# Planning the Perfect Day

We pride ourselves in collaborating with teachers to plan amazing experiences for their group! Our staff will work with you to answer questions and optimize your field trip's schedule. We are happy to propose suggestions and accommodate some special requests within reason. Here's a step-by-step start to planning a field trip with us.

1. Choose how many days your group will need.
  - a. We can accommodate up to 60 students a day. Consider your class sizes to determine if your group will need one or more days.
2. Choose at least 3 date options for your group.
  - a. The form listed [here](#) will ask for three dates, or you can always email [elly@seversondells.org](mailto:elly@seversondells.org).
3. Choose the number of programs.
  - a. You can book 1 or 2 programs per day.
  - b. Plan for a lunch break with 2 programs. Lunch is optional with one program.
4. Choose your program(s)
  - a. Check out the table on page 4 to select a program or two that are appropriate for the grade(s) of your students.
  - b. If booking 2 programs, we highly suggest pairing the Discover Nature Hike with another program! That pairing is a great blend of structured learning and hands-on exploration.
  - c. If booking 2 programs and one is an "O" or Outdoor Program, choose an "M" or Mixed Program to make sure your students have a blend of high-energy and low-energy activities.
  - d. Keep in mind that Pre-School and Kindergarten programs are 40-60 minutes long.
5. Submit a Field Trip Request
  - a. Our website has a handy field trip request form.
  - b. Make sure to fill out as much information as you can so we can streamline your registration process!
6. Finalize with Severson Dells
  - a. We will reach out to you via email or phone to confirm your group's plan.
7. Prepare for the field trip
  - a. Think ahead about how you will group your students. We recommend groups of 10-15.
  - b. Tell your students about the upcoming field trip to get them excited!
  - c. Select chaperones. We require 1 chaperone/teacher for every 8 students for elementary and older groups, and have a maximum of 3 chaperones/teachers per field trip group. If your group might differ from this, please let us know!
  - d. You'll get letters to send out to families and chaperones to let them know how to dress their student and what to pack for their day.
  - e. Return photo-release forms to Severson Staff
  - f. Read our What to Expect + Bring Section**
8. Plan for payment
  - a. Severson Dells can take payment in the form of a check, credit card or cash. We are happy to provide an invoice and receipt for payments if needed. We prefer payment to be made on the day of the field trip or before, but understand that some district finance offices work differently. All outstanding balances must be paid within 30 days of the date of your field trip.
9. Get excited!

# Standards Alignment



The following codes are used to indicate how our programs align with the Next Generation Science Standards. For more information on Illinois Learning Standards, please go to the following website: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Standards-Courses.aspx>

## Engineering Design Standards, K-12

- ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions

## Elementary (K-5) Science Topic

### Arrangements

- Kindergarten: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems (KLS1-1, KESS2-2, KESS3-1, KESS3-3)
- First: Structure, Function, and Information Processing (1LS1-1, 1LS1-2, 1LS3-1)
- Second: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems (2LS2-1, 2LS2-2, 2LS4-1)
- Third: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems (3LS2-1, 3LS4-1, 3LS4-3, 3LS4-4)
- Fourth: Structure, Function, and Information Processing (4PS4-2, 4LS1-1, 4LS1-2)
- Fifth: Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems (5PS3-1, 5LS1-1, 5LS2-1)

## Middle School (6-8) Science Topic

### Arrangements

- Life Science: Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems (MSLS2-1)
- Life Science: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems (MSLS2-2, MSLS2-5)
- Earth Science: Human Impacts (MSESS3-3)

## High School (9-12) Science Topic

### Arrangements

- Life Science: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems (HLSL2-1, HLSL2-2, HLSL2-7, HLSL4-6)
- Earth Science: Human Sustainability (HSESS3-1, HSESS3-4, HSESS3-6)

## Mathematics

- M1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- M2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- M3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- M4. Model with mathematics.
- M5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
- M6. Attend to precision.
- M7. Look for and make use of structure.
- M8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

## English Language Arts

### Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

At Severson Dells, we like to use the BEETLES method of environmental education, which "Provides opportunities for students to engage in meaning-making discussions that build on prior knowledge and promote divergent thinking, and is key to helping them develop deep understandings about the natural world." BEETLES is a program of UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science. The following ELA standards can be met through our classes in this way.

### Comprehension and Collaboration

- CC1: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and
- collaborations with diverse partners
- CC3: Evaluate a speaker's point of view

### Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

- PK14: Present information, findings, and supporting evidence
- PK16: Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks



# Our Programs

This handy chart shows all of our current offerings, their time length, location, and most appropriate grade levels. All Outdoor and Mixed programs can only happen at Severson Dells Nature Center. In-school field trip programs are designed to come to schools but can be done at Severson Dells Nature Center as well.

Most groups will select 1-2 programs for their field trip. Refer to the step-by-step registration guide on page 2 for more information on structuring your day. Program descriptions can be found on pages 7 and 8.



## Types

O= Outside Only

M= Mix of Indoor and Outdoor

T= Traveling Naturalist

K= Can be an indoor option for Kindergarten

R= Can be indoors-only if bad weather

| Location | Time (min) | Programs                               | PS | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | MS | HS |
|----------|------------|----------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| O        | 90         | Discover Nature Hike                   |    |   | X | X | X | X | X | X  | X  |
| O        | 40-60      | Nature's Alphabet                      | X  | X |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| M        | 90         | Animal Homes and Habitats              |    |   | X | X | X | X |   |    |    |
| M, R     | 90         | Predator-Prey Palooza                  |    |   | X | X | X | X |   |    |    |
| M, R     | 90         | Bird Beak Mystery                      |    |   | X | X | X | X |   |    |    |
| M, O     | 90         | Outdoor Skills                         |    |   |   | X | X | X | X | X  | X  |
| O        | 90         | Aquatic Studies- Sept, April, May only |    |   |   |   | X | X | X | X  | X  |
| O        | 90         | Stewardship and Conservation           |    |   |   |   |   |   |   | X  | X  |
| O        | 90         | Finding Your Way                       |    |   |   |   |   |   |   | X  | X  |
| T, R     | 40-60      | Outstanding Owls *Added Fee            |    |   | X | X | X |   |   |    |    |
| T, R, K  | 40-60      | Backyard Animals: Skins and Skulls     |    | X | X | X |   |   |   |    |    |
| T, R     | 40-60      | Outdoor Skills: Knots and Cordage      |    |   |   | X | X | X | X | X  | X  |
| T, R, K  | 40-60      | Beautiful Bats                         |    | X | X | X | X |   |   |    |    |
| T, R, K  | 40-60      | Fantastic Frogs                        |    | X | X | X | X |   |   |    |    |
| T, R, K  | 40-60      | Winter Animals and Tracking            |    | X | X | X | X |   |   |    |    |

# Field Trip Descriptions



Grades 1-12 | Outdoors | 90 minutes

## Discover Nature Hike

This classic program is also our most requested. Explore nature with hands-on, sensory-based, guided activities. Each hike is different as we discover all that nature has to offer. Many standards apply, and hikes can be tailored to subjects being taught in the classroom.

Grades Preschool-K | Outdoors | 40-60 minutes

## Nature's Alphabet

Nature is filled with letters, numbers, shapes, and colors! Join a hands-on scavenger hunt as we recognize patterns and more in nature. KLSI-1; CCI; PKI4, M5

Grades 1-4 | Mixed | 90 minutes

## Predator-Prey Palooza!

Students learn the traits of predators and prey animals, and then test their ability to "fill the shoes" of these animals in fun activities. Includes sneaking and stalking games out in the field. ILSI-1, ILSI-2, 2LS4-1, 3LS4-3, 3LS4-4, 4LSI-1, 4LSI-2, CCI, CC3, PKII, PKI6, M1, M3

Grades 1-4 | Mixed | 90 minutes

## Animal Homes and Habitats

Discover how animals interact with and rely on our prairie, forest, pond, and creek through an interactive habitat-building experience and outdoor investigation. ILSI-1, ILSI-2, 2LS4-1, 3LS4-3, 3LS4-4, 4LSI-1, 4LSI-2, CCI, CC3, PKII, PKI6, M1, M3

Grades 1-4 | Mixed | 90 minutes

## Bird Beak Mystery

Use clues about bird beaks, feet, and feathers to solve a mystery. During the second half of the program, students learn how to use binoculars and do a short bird walk. ILSI-1, ILSI-2, 2LS4-1, 3LS4-3, 3LS4-4, 4LSI-1, 4LSI-2, CCI, CC3, PKII, PKI6, M1, M3

Grades 2-12 | Mixed or Outdoors | 90 minutes

## Outdoor Skills

Outdoor Skills can be used every day! Put engineering principles to the test when building a shelter, see chemistry in action when starting a fire\*, think critically about survival skills, and use fine motor skills to tie knots. \*Content varies by age, time, and season. ETSI.B, MESS3-3, CCI, CC3, PKII, PKI6, M1, M2, M3, M5

Grades 3-12 | Outdoors | 90 minutes | Sept, April, May

## Aquatic Studies

Students and teachers should be prepared to get wet in this ultimate "immersion" program about what lives in our waters! Activities include sampling macroinvertebrates, determining water quality, and learning about watersheds. If the temperature is above 70°F at the time of the field trip, we will go in the creek for this program. If the temperature is below 70°F, we have a variety of options to choose from, including water cycle and property of water activities, as well as pond-side macroinvertebrate sampling. 3LS4-3, 3LS4-4, 4LSI-1, 5LS2-1, MSLS2-1, MSLS2-2, MSLS2-5, MS-ESS3-3, HSL2-1, HSL2-2, HSL2-7, HSL4-6, CCI, CC3, PKI4, PKI6, M1, M2, M4, M5

Grades 6-12 | Mixed or Outdoors | 90 minutes

## Compasses: Finding Your Way

Apply math and geography skills as we learn how to use compasses and maps to navigate the old-fashioned-way. ETSI.B, CCI, CC3, PKII, PKI6, M1, M2, M3, M5, M6

Grades 6-12 | Outdoors | 90 minutes

## Stewardship and Conservation

Experience what it is like to work in the field of Ecology and Environmental Science while helping us with research and conservation efforts. Activities vary based on season. MESS3-3, HESS3-1, HESS3-4, HESS3-6, ETSB.1, CCI, CC3, PKI4, M1, M5, M6



# In-School Field Trip Descriptions

Let us bring nature to you with hands-on, standards-based lessons that will foster inquiry and excitement! The In-school field trip programs can accommodate up to 30 students (usually one class) at a time, unless otherwise noted. The In-school field trip program fee is \$100 for the first session and \$50 for each additional class.

We require teachers to remain in the classroom at all times during our presentations. Teachers are asked to monitor their students to be sure they are getting the most out of our programs.

5th Grade | Indoors | 90 Minutes

## NEW: Water Management Program

Watch the water cycle to life and explore watersheds with state-of-the-art models! Students will learn all about their local watershed and what they can do to protect it.

Funded by Four Rivers Sanitation Authority and the City of Rockford Public Works. 5-ESS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, SS.5.G.1., SS.5.G.3, SS.5.G.4., SS.5.CV.1.

Grades 1-5 | Indoors | 40-60 minutes

## Outstanding Owls - added fee

Owls are masters of the night for a reason! Our team will guide your class through an owl vs human field-day style activity set to see how their adaptations stack up to ours. We'll bring mounted owl specimens, owl feathers, and other incredible items to help students imagine what life is like as an owl. This lesson has an optional 30-minute owl pellet dissection add-on for \$5 a student. (K-LS1-1, K-LS1.C, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS2.E, K-ESS3-1, K-ESS3.A, K-ESS3-3, K-ESS3.C, 1-LS1.A, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS1.B, 1-LS1.D, 2-PS1.A, 2-LS4-1, 2-LS4.D, 3-LS1.B, 3-LS2.C, 3-LS2.D, 3-LS4.D, 4-LS1.A, 4-LS1-2, 4-LS1.D, 5-PS3.D, 5-ESS3.C)

Grades 1-5 | Mixed | 40 - 60 minutes

## Animal Homes and Habitats

Discover how animals interact with and rely on our prairie, forest, pond, and creek through an interactive habitat-building experience. 1LS1-1, 1LS1-2, 2LS4-1, 3LS4-3, 3LS4-4, 4LS1-1, 4LS1-2, CC1, CC3, PK11, PK16, MI, M3

Grades 1-5 | Mixed | 40 - 60 minutes

## Predator-Prey Palooza!

Students learn the traits of predators and prey animals by solving a mystery using our collection of skulls and pelts. 1LS1-1, 1LS1-2, 2LS4-1, 3LS4-3, 3LS4-4, 4LS1-1, 4LS1-2, CC1, CC3, PK11, PK16, MI, M3

Grades 1-5 | Mixed | 40-60 minutes

## Bird Beak Mystery

Use clues about bird beaks, feet, and feathers to solve a mystery.

walk. 1LS1-1, 1LS1-2, 2LS4-1, 3LS4-3, 3LS4-4, 4LS1-1, 4LS1-2, CC1, CC3, PK11, PK16, MI, M3

Grades 1-5 | Indoors | 40-60 minutes

## Beautiful Bats

Beyond being the world's only flying mammals, bats have specialized features that will blow your mind! Our team will guide your class through a bat vs human field-day style activity set to see how their adaptations stack up to ours. We'll bring replicas of bat skeletons and some other surprising items that are associated with bats!

(K-LS1-1, K-LS1.C, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS2.E, K-ESS3-1, K-ESS3.A, K-ESS3-3, K-ESS3.C, 1-LS1.A, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS1.B, 1-LS1.D, 2-PS1.A, 2-LS4-1, 2-LS4.D, 3-LS1.B, 3-LS2.C, 3-LS2.D, 3-LS4.D, 4-LS1.A, 4-LS1-2, 4-LS1.D, 5-PS3.D, 5-ESS3.C)

Grades 1-5 | Indoors | 40-60 minutes

## Fantastic Frogs

We know that frogs are fantastic critters, but do you know just how wild their adaptations are? Our team will guide your class through a frog vs human field-day style activity set to see how their adaptations stack up to ours. Students will also learn how to identify local frogs based on their calls. (1-LS1.A, 1-LS1.B, 1-LS1.D, 2-PS1.A, 2-LS4.D, 3-LS1.B, 3-LS3.B, 3-LS2.C, 3-LS4-4, 3-LS4.C, 3-LS4.D, 4-LS1.A, 4-LS1-2, 4-LS1.D)

Grades K-2 | Indoors or Mixed | 40-60 minutes

## Winter Animals and Tracking

Where do animals go in the winter? We'll answer that question and more as we learn what it takes to survive the winter and how to track some four-legged friends in the snow. KLS1-1, 1LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, CC1, CC3, PK16, MI

Grades 2-5 | Indoors | 40-90 minutes

## Outdoor Skills Indoors

Learn how to tie essential everyday knots and make your own cordage out of natural materials! We'll also discuss outdoor preparedness and basic survival skills to make sure your students know how to hit the trail safely. ETSB.1, CC1, CC3, PK14, PK16





# What to Expect + Bring

## Sample Schedules

We are happy to accommodate your schooling and transportation scheduling needs! These are just some examples of what the day could look like. Your group is welcome to stay and play in the Grove Nature Playground as long as they want after scheduled programming is over, but Severson staff will not supervise those activities. Please note that Aquatic Studies field trips will require extra time to change clothes if needed.

| Half-Day Field Trip |                  | Full-Day Field Trip |                    | Half-Day Kindergarten Field Trip |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 9:00-9:15           | Introduction     | 9:00-9:15           | Introduction       | 9:00-9:15                        | Introduction     |
| 9:15-10:45          | Morning Programs | 9:15-10:45          | Morning Programs   | 9:15-10:15                       | Morning Programs |
| 10:45-11:15         | Lunch Break      | 10:45-11:30         | Lunch Break        | 10:15-10:45                      | Grove Time       |
| 11:15-11:45         | Grove Time       | 11:30-1:00          | Afternoon Programs | 10:45-11:15                      | Lunch            |
| 11:45-12:00         | Send-Off         | 1:00-1:15           | Send-Off           | 11:15-11:30                      | Send-Off         |

## Lunch at Severson Dells

Lunch looks a little different at Severson Dells, so we want to make sure your group is prepared!

Lunch breaks involve a waste-sorting presentation by Severson staff, time to play in our Grove Nature Playscape, and of course, time to eat! **You are expected to supervise your group during their eating and recess time so Severson staff have time to prepare your next program.** The usual lunch break goes as follows:

- 5-minute low-waste lunch presentation
- 15 minutes to eat
- 5-minute lunch waste sorting session
- 20 minutes of Grove recess

On good weather days, we spend our lunch break in our Grove Nature Playscape. There are no formal tables or chairs, but there are plenty of spaces for both students and adults to eat. We spend some of our lunch in our classroom on poor weather days. We can set up tables and chairs in the classroom depending on group size and programs requested. If the weather allows, students can still enjoy recess in the Grove Nature Playscape. Otherwise, we have floor puzzles, coloring pages, and books for an indoor recess.

We try to promote low-waste-lunches as much as reasonably possible! Encourage students to bring re-usable containers and water bottles in their lunches. There are so many benefits to low-waste-lunches: limiting plastic in the environment, cutting back on carbon emissions, restoring soil nutrients, saving space, saving money, and so much more! Your students will sort their lunch waste into garbage, recycling, and compost. Teachers who share the Low-Waste-Lunch resource in the appendix with their class normally get a lot out of the experience.

# What to Expect & Bring



## Packing Lists

We recommend students come with the following items to have an amazing experience at Severson.

Teachers, be sure to bring any medicine or medical devices your students need, as well as emergency contact information.

### Standard Program

1. Closed-toed shoes
2. Clothes that can get a little dirty
3. Layers
4. Reusable water bottle
5. Lunch (if needed)

### Cold Weather Program

1. Water-resistant or waterproof boots
2. Plenty of layers
3. Warm socks
4. Coat
5. Thick mittens or gloves
6. Snowpants
7. Hat
8. Reusable water bottle
9. Lunch (if needed)

### Aquatic Studies

1. Closed-toed creek shoes
  - a. Old tennis shoes
  - b. Adventure sandals with strap
  - c. Water shoes
2. Shorts (preferably an athletic material)
3. Extra pair of clothes, socks, and shoes in backpack
4. Reusable water bottle
5. Lunch (if needed)

## Weather

We try to be outside as much as we can! However, in the event of a storm, we are required to wait under cover for thirty minutes after the last lightning strike before we can resume outdoor activities. If there is cold rain, we will consider the comfort level of your class and your adults. Wind advisories will keep us out of the forest, but don't prevent us from going outside. We may have to switch up your programs or program locations in the event of inclement weather, but do our best to keep the original schedule. We understand that cold days with a lot of rain can be a challenge if groups don't have the right gear.

The best option for any kind of bad weather is to dress for it. We encourage you to communicate with your students and their families to make sure they are dressed for hours outside. We do have a limited amount of rain gear, gloves, and hats for students to borrow if they need them, but we do not have enough to equip a whole class. We find that well-prepared groups can handle cold, windy, or wet weather with no problem!

We reserve the right to cancel and refund or reschedule field trips in the case of extreme weather. If you have concerns about upcoming weather, don't hesitate to contact us so we can make an action plan that is best for both parties! Rescheduling may be difficult in September, October, April, and May due to high demand.

If you book a field trip from November to March, know that cold, windy, wet weather is a strong possibility. In addition to making sure your students dress for the weather, it's best to plan for some indoor programs to give them time to thaw.

If you have a field trip on a day with potential for thunderstorms, reach out to us so we can have indoor options ready for your group in case we are forced inside.



# What to Expect & Bring

## Chaperones

Chaperones play an important role in the success of your visit to Severson Dells! We have some tips for making the most of their service.

- Send Chaperones the letter included in this brochure
- We require 1 chaperone/teacher for every 8 students for elementary and older groups, and have a maximum of 3 chaperones/teachers per field trip group (groups of 10-15 students not field trip class as a whole).
- We require 1 chaperone for every 5 kids for kindergarten and younger groups have a maximum of 5 chaperones/teachers per field trip group.
- Chaperones are expected to help facilitate programs through active participation, supervision, and behavior management.
- Chaperones may be excused if they are inhibiting the program through excessive background conversation or other distracting activities.

## Additional Resources

The next pages contain documents to share with your students, families, and chaperones. It also contains our photo-release waiver that must be completed before each field trip.

- Getting ready for a field trip to Severson Dells (Letter to Family)
  - Send out a week before
- What to Wear to Severson Dells
  - Send out a week before
- Chaperones at Severson Dells (Letter to Chaperones)
  - Send out a week before
- Photo release form
  - have completed by day of field trip





# Getting ready for a field trip to



SEVERSON DELLS  
NATURE CENTER



Dear Family,

We are so excited to have your student out to Severson Dells Nature Center for a field trip! They will have a lot of fun exploring nature with hands-on activities and guidance from great leaders.

Severson Dells Nature Center is a nonprofit nature center located minutes from downtown Rockford at Severson Dells Forest Preserve. We want to make sure your student has the best time at Severson Dells. You can help us by following these tips:

- Check the forecast and dress your student appropriately. We have a handy picture guide on what to wear that can give you ideas. Keep in mind that your student will be outside for multiple hours, so they should have comfortable shoes and enough layers to keep them warm. They might come back a little dirty, so it's a great idea to send them in old clothes! We have some extra layers available upon request.
- If you pack a lunch for your student, keep in mind that we will be sorting their lunch waste into compost, recycling, and garbage. This limits the amount of waste going to landfills, allows us to recycle man-made materials, and gives us the chance to turn food waste into healthy soil. Try to pack their food in reusable containers and limit the amount of single-use items going in their lunch (juice pouches, wrappers, plastic cutlery, ziploc bags, etc) as much as reasonably possible. We understand that not everyone has access to these materials.
- Help your student get excited by telling them about fond memories you have of the outdoors or asking them what they are looking forward to. Try to follow up after the field trip and ask them about what they learned, saw, and did!

Severson Dells hosts a variety of community programming beyond field trips, like free Science Saturdays with fun activities for the whole family, guided hikes, summer camps, presentations, and more. Our trails are open every day of the year and include a 2/3 mile paved loop that's perfect for families! We also have the Grove, a nature playground, and a nature center with exhibits and a gift shop that is open 8:00 am-4:30 pm Monday-Saturday. Severson Dells is always free to visit, so we hope your family comes out after the field trip!

We are looking forward to your school's visit and hope that you and the students have a memorable experience. Thank you ahead of time for helping make the trip a success. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your student's teacher or myself!

Thanks,

**Elly Salazar**

School Programs Coordinator

[elly@seversondells.org](mailto:elly@seversondells.org)

815-335-2915

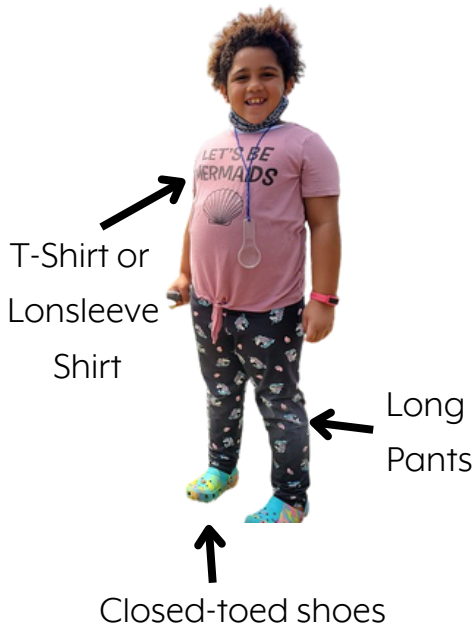
# What to Wear to



SEVERSON DELLS  
NATURE CENTER



## Warm Weather



## Cold Weather



## Rainy Weather



## Aquatic Studies



## Snowy Weather



# Chaperones at



SEVERSON DELLS  
NATURE CENTER



Dear Chaperone,

Thank you for volunteering to chaperone a field trip to Severson Dells. If this is your first visit here, we hope you have an extra wonderful time and will come back again with your friends and family! As a chaperone, you play a vital role in the field trip experience, and the following guidelines can help make the trip enjoyable for all.

- Please feel free to participate in the lessons and activities. In fact, we encourage it! We only ask that you remember that we are focusing on the kids, so please give them every opportunity to answer the questions without help from the adults.
- A large part of the chaperone's duty is to ensure that things run smoothly - in other words, crowd control. If there is a child who is having difficulties, and the teacher is not available to handle the situation, please step in so we can continue the lesson for the other students.
- We appreciate that for many adults, chaperoning can be a bit of a social occasion – you get a chance to spend time with the parents of your child's friends. We do ask, however, that you keep side conversations to a minimum because background chatter is often distracting for the students and the instructors.
- Bring lunch. We do a Low-Waste Lunch program with the students, encouraging them to reduce their waste. We compost and recycle what we can, and strongly encourage the use of reusable containers and taking food back home that one does not eat. Please feel free to participate in the program by setting an example with your own low-waste lunch if possible!
- Dress for the weather! We go out rain or shine, so please be prepared. We ask participants not to bring umbrellas, however, because these can be a challenge in the woods in close proximity to a group of children. Raincoats and wide-brimmed hats are great. Rain pants can also be a plus.
- Insects are rarely a problem in the fall or early spring, so insect repellent is often not necessary. If you choose to use repellent, please apply outdoors away from the group or at home before you arrive. If you are chaperoning an aquatic study program and you plan to be in the water, please do not apply insect repellent – the chemicals are detrimental to aquatic life.

We are looking forward to your school's visit and hope that you and the students have a memorable experience. Thank you ahead of time for helping make the trip a success.

Thanks,

**Elly Salazar**

School Programs Coordinator

[elly@seversondells.org](mailto:elly@seversondells.org)

815-335-2915





# Photo Release Form

I hereby give permission for images of my students and myself, captured during our Severson Dells Field Trip through video, photo or digital camera, to be used solely for purposes of Severson Dells Nature Center promotional material and publications, and waive any rights of compensation or ownership thereto. Students are covered via photo release forms signed for the school. Students who are exempt from permission are listed below and will be pointed out during our field trip so staff/volunteers do not include them in any shots.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Severson Dells Nature Center does not have permission to photograph the following people:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_