

Students Experience A Day In The Marsh Learning About The Western Lake Erie Basin With The Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, & Magee Marsh Wildlife Area

Wetland Investigation Network (WIN)

Providing a full day of hands-on, outdoor experiences for students, including songbird banding research and migration studies, marsh habitat investigations, and in-depth studies of Ohio's local plants and wildlife. The WIN program engages students in grades K-12, providing the tools allowing them to make educated decisions about conservation and natural resources. The day's activities help foster stronger scientific literacy and a



greater appreciation for the natural world.

During each visit, students encounter a "day in the marsh" experience that includes interdisciplinary lessons and activities with the research and education staff at BSBO, Ottawa NWR, and Magee Marsh WA. All three locations are within minutes of each other. Classes are able to visit all three sites for the full Wetland Investigation Network field trip experience, or each location is able to host separate field trips. Each of the programs generally lasts 45-minutes.

The Wetland Investigation Network field trips allow flexibility for reaching various education standards without compromising on the overall quality of the experience. To ensure adherence to Ohio Department of Education Content Standards, the WIN program was designed under the guidance of a team of teachers.

WIN Programs are FREE

Topics Covered Include:

- Songbird Banding Research
 - Interdisciplinary lessons and migration studies
 - Hands-on experience with wild birds
- Marsh and Woodland Habitat Investigations
 - Inquiry based learning of ecosystems
 - Student-led discoveries with marsh seining
- Ohio Natural History
 - Life history and habitat of the Bald Eagle
 - Historical significance of the Lake Erie Marsh Region



Interdisciplinary Learning Suitable for Students K-12

Each WIN program is tailored to individual classroom curricula. We are able to accommodate all ages, and deliver interdisciplinary lessons.

- Geography
- Science
- Ohio History
- Social Studies
- Math
- Creative Writing

Black Swamp Bird Observatory

Students learn about the natural cycles associated with bird migration and the physiological and behavioral adaptations of birds. Programs incorporate geography, math, and science curriculum benchmarks. Students participate in a bird banding demonstration where wild birds are safely caught, fitted with aluminum ID leg-bands, and released unharmed after essential data about each bird is recorded. Also, we are well-equipped with study specimens for rainy day activities. The interactive aspects of this program cannot be replicated in the laboratory or classroom.



Northern Cardinal

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Students will discover many of the diverse habitats of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, including grasslands, forests, wetlands, and marshes. Activities can include a nature hike, journaling, and seining in the marsh sampling aquatic invertebrates. Inquiry-based programming encourages students to enhance their exploration skills and develops creativity as they enjoy the great outdoors.



Widow Skimmer

Magee Marsh Wildlife Area

Students will explore the habitat area and exhibits inside the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center. The focus will be on the benefits of wetlands and identifying wetland wildlife, with a special emphasis on the Bald Eagle. Students will also have an opportunity to get outside for Field Investigations using multiple observations skills to get a firsthand look at the marsh ecosystem and the wildlife that live there. Handouts are provided reinforcing the main topics learned and to provide opportunities for extended learning experiences.



Bald Eagle

CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH NATURE



The need for children to spend time interacting with the natural world is now widely recognized. Nature Deficit Disorder, as defined in the influential

book, *Last Child in the Woods*, by child advocacy expert Richard Louv, shows the staggering separation between children and nature. Louv directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's "wired generation" to alarming childhood trends, such as rises in obesity, attention deficit disorders, and depression. The educators of the Wetland Investigation Network program have energetic ways to unplug kids, take a break from books and computers, and allow their roots to grip the fascinating world around them.

"We were most impressed with the Wetland Investigation Network field trip sessions last year and how well the program curriculum fits with the Ohio Academic Content Standards."

Dot Priesman
2nd Grade Teacher
Stamm Elementary



Wetland Investigation Network
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by a grant from
Toledo Community Foundation.

CONTACT US

To register for the three-part WIN program, contact scheduling coordinator
Kate Zimmerman
at 419-898-4070

- or -

Contact any of the individual organizations below to arrange a specific field trip.



Black Swamp Bird Observatory

13551 West State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449
(419)-898-4070
katezimmerman@bsbo.org



Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

14000 West State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449
(419)-898-0014
justin_woldt@fws.gov



Magee Marsh Wildlife Area

13229 West State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449
(419)-898-0960

WETLAND INVESTIGATION NETWORK

Hands-on learning in Northwest Ohio's wetland ecosystem with the education staff at:

BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY
OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
MAGEE MARSH WILDLIFE AREA



"Students who had never been 'off the pavement' still talk about what it was like to hold a wild bird in their hands, and how amazing it is that something so tiny can fly that far. This program provides the opportunity to make the connections between the classroom and the real world that truly leads to increased awareness, appreciation, and ultimately action to preserve and protect our diminishing natural resources."

Tim Bollin
Chair, Ohio Educator Standards Board
Toledo Public Schools