

# K-5 Field Programs – Animals of the Rogue Valley – Spring 2019

**OVERVIEW:** This is the fourth outdoor program in a six-program series exploring local natural and cultural history. All programs are hands-on and are taught at two levels, K-2 and 3-5, so that students may experience a total of 12 unique sequential programs through elementary school.

**THIS SEASON:** This season, students will use naturalist skills to explore the animals of our region. Young students explore the needs and behaviors of animals and learn about caring for baby animals in different environments. Older students will apply a combination of wildlife monitoring skills and entomologist tools to observe animal diversity and animal behaviors.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- ✦ To foster “sense of place” through local natural and cultural history
- ✦ To foster an appreciation of, and respect for, nature
- ✦ To model a variety of ways that students can enjoy being outdoors
- ✦ To demonstrate how people’s actions affect the natural environment
- ✦ To model a variety of ways that students can participate in local environmental stewardship



**K - 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE ROTATIONS:**

**Wild Animal Homes:** Students will learn about the different types of homes used by a variety of animals. They will then role-play being the parent of one of those animals and must find food water and shelter suitable for their babies.

**Animal Adaptations:** Students will visit two very different habitats and will get to know two animals that are adapted to life in those habitats. Then, students will consider the adaptations of several more animals and infer which of the two habitats those animals would like to live in.

**Discovering Nests:** Students will make observations of a variety of nests as they learn why and how birds build them. Students will be able to differentiate between the five major nest types. They will then go on a bird walk to observe nesting activity throughout the park.

**3<sup>RD</sup>- 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ROTATIONS:**

**Riparian Exploration:** In this activity, students will explore the Bear Creek riparian corridor and will compare a number of wildlife monitoring tools. In learning the basic needs of animals, students will conclude why riparian habitat is so valuable for wildlife.

**Birding Behavior:** After reviewing bird behaviors, students will create a short skit pantomiming bird nesting behaviors. Students will then go on a bird walk to observe these behaviors in the field.

**Insect Diversity:** Students will use beating sheets, aerial nets, and magnifying lenses to explore a variety of insects from two sites at North Mountain Park. Students will infer why a different community of insects will be found in a lawn versus a diverse meadow area.