



CLOSING THE TECHNOLOGY GAP FOR PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN CLASSES

The coronavirus pandemic shed light on the technology gap many schools in low-income communities throughout Southeast Michigan face. With funding from the PNC Foundation, preschool and kindergarten teachers can apply for a technology and nature program scholarship.

Included in the grant:

- Choice of either a mini-projector or a document reader which will become the property of the school.
- Personal delivery and demonstration of technology equipment by a Metroparks Mobile Learning Center Interpreter.
- Choice of either an in-person nature program at your school or a live-virtual nature program.
- A follow-up virtual presentation given on a later date to reinforce concepts introduced during the first presentation.

Loads of learning fun for little ones! Age-appropriate and geared toward the developmental level of early learners, all of these programs include stories, puppets, songs and unique activities. Children are encouraged to use their senses during the up-close investigation of furs, feathers, skulls and other animal artifacts.

**School must have at least 50% of the school population participating in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program to apply for the grant*

Apply today for the scholarship:

Simply send an e-mail to lisa.parsons@metroparks.com or call Lisa at 810-227-2757 x6422 with the following information:

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • School name | • Teacher's name | • Choice of either a mini-projector or a document reader |
| • School address | • Teacher's email | • Program topic of your choice |
| • School phone number | • Teacher's phone number | |

Scholarship award winners will receive an email with further instructions for setting up the delivery of the equipment, and date and time for the nature presentation and follow up presentation. Preschool programs are best suited for children ages two through kindergarten. Preschool programs will be 30 minutes long. Group size limited to 25 students per presentation.

Grant Funding Provided by:





PROGRAM TOPICS TO CHOOSE FROM:

1. MAMMALS ARE MARVELOUS

Children will delight in learning what features make mammals unique by comparing themselves to other animals “born alive and well.” They’ll discover different Michigan mammals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

2. OUTSTANDING OWLS

We’ll explore “wide-eyed owls” with all their neat features, from hooked beaks to silent wings to oh-so-sharp talons, through movement, artifacts and taxidermy. We’ll also listen to the sounds of Michigan owls and try to mimic them.

3. SHELLS, SCALES & POLLYWOG TAILS

Children will discover frogs, toads, and salamanders through games and artifacts that illustrate their life cycles and special features. Then turtles and snakes will make their debut with further games and activities. To wrap it all up, children will meet the live animals they’ve just learned about.

4. LIFE CYCLES - WHEN I WAS A BABY

Kids will have fun relating to how different animals grow up. Whether it’s hatching from an egg, going through a total metamorphosis, or receiving a mother’s care, children will participate in several life cycle activities. We’ll focus on the strategies of familiar animals such as birds, butterflies and opossums through counting, movement, guessing games and dress-up.

5. LIFE WHEN IT’S SNOWY

Michigan winters may be cold and snowy, but these animals have special ways to survive! Children will investigate the different methods animals use to survive the cold while they compare and contrast using hands-on animal artifacts.

6. WE’RE FOND OF PONDS

Check out what’s going on down at the pond! From food webs and frog calls to amphibian and insect metamorphosis, children will get a taste of all kinds of pond life as they view and touch artifacts, participate in pond-themed activities, and interact with live animals.

7. CRAWLING CUTIES: BUGS, INSECTS, SPIDERS AND MORE!

Bugs are our friends! Children will get up close and personal with insects, spiders and more as they observe the many important jobs that these clever, captivating, crawling creatures perform. We will read a buggy story and through singing and dramatic play activities, students will discover what physical features all insects have.

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