Outdoor & Virtual Learning Lab

Pilot Program Fall 2020
Youth entering K - 6th Grade


Howell Nature Center

1005 Triangle Lake Rd
Howell Michigan 48843
howellnaturecenter.org
(517) 546-0249
The Outdoor & Virtual Learning Lab offered by the Howell Nature Center is an educational enrichment opportunity for parents who are looking to supplement their child's school-based education and get their kids outside, exercising and socializing.

Given the current health and educational landscape, we surveyed our community and asked how the Nature Center could support the needs of our families. Through this feedback, the concept of the Outdoor & Virtual Learning Lab was developed for children entering K through 6th grade.

This pilot presents a full-day hybrid program that offers children a wide variety of adventure and recreational activities in our Outdoor Learning Lab, as well as unlimited access to our Virtual Learning Lab to attend their virtual school. We are also offering an After School Adventure Club developed by our team of outdoor educators that offers energy burning activities. Our goal is to give parents flexibility in providing their children with supplemental educational experiences.

**Outdoor**

- Utilize our 230 acres of outdoor space
- Social distancing a natural part of planned activities
- Recreational activities promote exercise and socialization

**Virtual**

- Virtual Learning Lab connects kids with their teachers using our WIFI capabilities
- Children seated 6ft apart, face masks required
- Tutors available to help with school work

ALL PROGRAM AREAS CLEANED DAILY
FULL-DAY OUTDOOR & VIRTUAL LEARNING LAB

From 3:30pm - 6:00pm, children can spend time after school enjoying outdoor adventures. Through various ENERGY BURNER activities such as rock climbing, kayaking, and high ropes, children will have fun while getting exercise and socialization!

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Parents have TWO different registration options and are able to register for SPECIFIC DAYS in order to best support their needs this fall.

1. FULL-DAY OUTDOOR & VIRTUAL LEARNING LAB

Outdoors: Rotate through our Nature H.E.R.O.E.S. adventure curriculum taught by experienced nature educators. Activities are done outside unless inclement weather.

Virtual: Children connect with their virtual classes as needed. When they don't need to be in class, kids join outdoor adventure programming.

2. AFTER SCHOOL ADVENTURE CLUB

From 3:30pm - 6:00pm, children can spend time after school enjoying outdoor adventures. Through various ENERGY BURNER activities such as rock climbing, kayaking, and high ropes, children will have fun while getting exercise and socialization!
The Outdoor Learning Lab portion is a nature- and adventure-based program that gets kids outside and active. Activities follow our Nature H.E.R.O.E.S. curriculum, which was designed by our team of highly-trained outdoor educators:

**Health & Mindfulness:** To support children’s socio-emotional and physical fitness needs as they develop in a constantly changing world.

**Environmental Studies:** To provide hands-on, inquiry-based learning opportunities using nature as our classroom.

**Recreational Fun:** To introduce new outdoor recreational activities that promote exercise and enjoyment in the outdoors.

**Outdoor Living Skills:** To teach practical skills for outdoor living that foster self-reliance, confidence, and resiliency.

**Experiential & Adventure Learning:** To actively engage students independently and collaboratively to solve problems, accomplish goals, and grow through adventure-based and perceived risk activities.

**Social & Cultural Learning:** To cultivate a deeper appreciation of the arts and other cultures that foster understanding, empathy, and a sense of place within a global perspective.

The Virtual Learning Lab connects children with their teachers in a safe and clean environment. This could be in one of our modern lodges or (weather dependent) outside and in nature utilizing our WIFI capabilities.

While kids are free to follow their own classroom schedule, our tutors will be available to assist children as needed. We will partner with parents to tailor individual schedules so that their child(ren) can meet the needs of schooling while jumping into the Outdoor Learning Lab’s adventure programming as their schedule allows.
REGISTRATION PRICING & PROCESS
For youth entering K - 6th grade

SIGN UP DAILY* | MONDAY - FRIDAY

Full-day Outdoor & Virtual Learning Lab

8:30am to 3:30pm
Drop Off: 8:00am - 8:30am | Pick Up: 3:30pm - 4:00pm
$45 per day / Additional child(ren) $25 per day
Sign up for all 5 days: $200 for first child; $100 per sibling

After School Adventure Club

3:30pm - 6:00pm
Drop Off: 3:30pm - 4:00pm | Pick Up: 6:00pm - 6:30pm
$20 per day / Additional child(ren) $15 per day
Add on to a FULL-DAY:
$15 per day / Additional child(ren) $10 per day

What to Bring
- Backpack
- Water bottle
- Sack lunch & snacks
- Face masks

A change of clothes
School supplies
Laptop & headphones
if utilizing Virtual Learning Lab

TUITION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE THAT QUALIFY FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH

*SIGN UP FOR ANY DAY WITH 48 HOUR NOTICE

Questions about registration? Not sure which program option is right for you?

CALL US!
(517) 546-0249

Register at howellnaturecenter.org

Before Care
7:00am - 8:00am
$6 per child

After Care
4:00pm - 5:00pm
$6 per child
Social distancing is required when possible as developmentally appropriate. Our Virtual Learning Lab will have work stations 6ft apart. All activities, both in- and outdoors, have been modified to promote social distancing.

Face masks will be required by children and adults. When indoors, face masks must be worn at all times. When outside in the fresh air and social distancing as developmentally appropriate is possible, face masks will not be required but strongly encouraged. Face masks will be required when groups are unable to socially distance properly outdoors. Face masks will not be required when children eat or swim. Staff will wear face masks at all times.

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Frequent breaks for washing hands or using hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the day and between activities.

All participants must go through a health screening each morning, which will include a questionnaire and temperature taking. Any child who has recently had symptoms of COVID-19 or has an elevated temperature may not attend the program.
Program Team

**ELIZABETH "LIZZY" SCHULTZ**
Community Engagement & Programs Manager
Lizzy has her M.A. in Teaching Biology and 8 years of experience in informal education. She believes in using inquiry-based learning to foster the natural curiosity children have to promote a love of science and nature.

**LAURA BUTLER**
Director of Wildlife & Education
Laura has her B.S. in Biology and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience from her 13 years at the Detroit Zoo. She is passionate about teaching children how to live in harmony with wildlife.

**RYAN GRANT**
Assistant Programs Manager & Registrar
Ryan was born & raised here at the Nature Center, and has a passion for kids, schools, families and community members alike that is unmatched! You can find him on the front lines making sure all programs run smoothly, both on-site and virtual!

**KATELYN LEWIS**
Wildlife & Education Manager
Katelyn has her B.S. in Animal Behavior & Neurobiology as well as a B.A. in Art & Graphic Design. With 10 years of experience, she has played a big role in wildlife education, especially with our summer campers.

**SHANE LEWANDOWSKI**
Outdoor Adventure Coordinator
Shane has his B.S. in Environmental Science and has a strong background in coaching, teaching, and the sciences. He takes the safety of kids in his care very seriously by always ensuring proper use and sanitization of the outdoor adventure equipment.

**KATE ST. JOHN**
Guest Services Coordinator / Environmental Educator
Kate has her B.S. in Biology, and has an amazing ability to connect children and adults with nature in an emotionally and mentally healthy way. Her high organizational skills has helped her coordinate numerous community events with great success.

**BECKY MURTUM**
Assistant Program Coordinator
Becky has a B.S. in Biology and has been teaching environmental education at the Nature Center for many years. She is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to natural and cultural history.

**MADELYN ABRAHAM**
Assistant Program Coordinator
Madelyn has her B.A. in Music Education and minor in English Education. She has an educational background in Montessori. She hopes to instill this, along with other mindfulness habits, in others using the healing powers of music and nature.

**JOHN KRAGER**
Assistant Outdoor Adventure Coordinator
James is a musician and artist who has a Basic Skills Certification and classroom experience. He has a thorough understanding of all of our outdoor adventure courses, and knows how to provide a safe and fun educational experience that helps kids grow.

**EVIN LUEHR**
Wildlife Specialist
Evin has a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation, and has been teaching informal education for over 8 years. Her passion stems from understanding that the best way to impact the world around her is to inspire the next generation through engaging programming.

**Steph Bussema**
Wildlife Specialist
Steph has her M.S. in Zoology and has been working in the field of wildlife education since 2009. She has an amazing ability to discuss advanced scientific concepts in an age-appropriate way.
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