



Educational Field Trips

Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary



The mission of Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary is to protect native habitats and wildlife while providing opportunity for people to discover and connect with nature.



Visit Our Website:

www.NatureSanctuary.com



Visit Our Location:

407 N. La Frenz Rd.
Liberty, MO 64068

Call 816-781-8598 today to schedule your field trip at
Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary!



Why Choose Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary for Your Next Field Trip?

Bring your students' learning to life with a visit to Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary—a vibrant 100-acre haven dedicated to education, exploration, and conservation.

Highlights for Teachers and Students

- **Diverse Natural Habitats:** Explore 4 miles of scenic trails winding through woodland, prairie, wetland, Missouri glade and streamside ecosystems. Trails include a paved, wheelchair-accessible route, ensuring all students can participate.
- **Interactive Experiences:** Visit the trail-side bird blind on the prairie for close-up wildlife observation and exciting hands-on learning.
- **Educational Programming:** Engage your class with dynamic programs designed to meet curriculum goals, focusing on local flora, fauna, ecology, and conservation.
- **Nature Museum:** Enjoy access to classrooms equipped for group learning, a fascinating indoor bird viewing area, live animal exhibits (including zoo animals), and interactive displays that spark curiosity.
- **Additional Amenities:** Relax in the library, browse the educational gift shop, and make use of modern facilities to create a seamless field trip experience.

Perfect for All Ages & Abilities

- This sanctuary is ideal for learners of every age, accommodating groups of all abilities with accessible paths and inclusive facilities. Whether you're teaching biology, environmental science, or simply want to inspire a love of nature, this is a field trip destination your students will remember.

Make your next field trip extraordinary—connect your classroom to nature at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary!



Our Programs for Preschool to Kindergarten



Preschoolers and kindergarteners become nature explorers at The Sanctuary, digging in the dirt, chasing butterflies, and discovering amazing secrets hidden in the woods! Through hands-on adventures, they'll learn about plants, animals, and the wonders of our planet, sparking a lifelong love for the great outdoors.



Creek Neighbors

Transform your students into aquatic explorers where they'll wade into a world of wonder, netting fascinating water insects, slippery frogs, and other amazing critters to discover the vital importance of water to all life!



Sensory Safari

Embark on a sensory adventure where students will dive into the natural world, uncovering its sounds, smells, sights, and textures through hands-on exploration.



Reptiles vs. Amphibians

We'll explore the cool world of reptiles and amphibians, discovering what makes them the same and what makes them different through fun, hands-on activities. Then, we'll become explorers on a nature hike, looking for remarkable creatures.



Insect Intrigue

Get ready to explore the amazing world of insects, from ants to zebra swallowtails, discovering what makes them unique. We'll even grab nets and head out on a bug-catching expedition before releasing our buggy friends back to their homes!

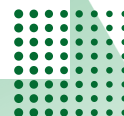


Meet the Animals: Entry-Level

Let's have fun sorting animals into two big groups— invertebrates (no bones) and vertebrates (with bones) —and then divide each group into their own special classes, like insects, birds, mammals, and more, just like real animal detectives! If you want, we can also learn how plants are grouped!



Preschool – Kindergarten



Length, Fees, Time of Year, and Learning Standards

Program	Length (hours)	Minimum Fee	Fee Per Individual	Time Of Year
Creek Neighbors	1	\$90.00	\$7.00	April 15 – Oct. 20
Sensory Safari	1	\$90.00	\$7.00	Year Round
Reptiles vs. Amphibians	1	\$90.00	\$7.00	Year Round
Insect Intrigue	1	\$90.00	\$7.00	April 15 – Oct. 20
Meet the Animals: Entry	1 / 1.5	\$90.00	\$7.00 / \$8.00	Year Round

Learning Standards: All the Programs offered for Preschool to Kindergarten incorporate the Missouri Early Learning Standards for Life Science

II. Life Science

A. Explore, Investigate, and Solve Problems of Living Things

1. Ask Questions
2. Make Predictions based on experiences
3. Experiment
4. Reflect on results

Missouri Learning Standards Kindergarten: K.LS1.C.1, K.ESS2.E.1, K.ESS3.A.1, K.ESS3.C.1

Children may...

Observe living things in the environment.
 Use their senses to investigate the environment
 Name familiar animals
 Look at plants
 Participate in stories about living things
 Participate in nature activities
 Learn how to help take care of plants and animals
 Look for insects
 Compare plants and animals
 Describe what they know about animals

Adults will...

Provide opportunities for children to observe and explore nature
 Point out animals and plants
 Describe plants and animals
 Discuss how animals make different sounds
 Take the children outside on a hike
 Discuss what animals and plants need to survive
 Observe models, pictures, and living organisms to observe animals in various stages of their life cycle
 Go on a nature walk with the child
 *For a small extra fee (call for details), kids can plant seeds to take back to school!

Our Programs for 1st - 3rd Grades



First to third graders become junior scientists and adventurers at The Nature Sanctuary, building animal feeders, tracking animals, and conducting cool experiments in the wild! They'll dive deep into ecosystems, uncover nature's mysteries, and learn how to protect our amazing planet while having a blast.



Feathered Friends

Get ready to spread your wings and soar into the fascinating world of birds, where we'll become expert birdwatchers, build our own feeders, and learn to identify robins, cardinals, hawks, and more feathered friends in their natural habitats.



Colossal Fossil Intermediate

Unearth the past and become junior paleontologists as we trek to Rush Creek, where we'll dig through shale and limestone to identify rock types, discover amazing fossils, and uncover ancient secrets.



Habitat Homes

Your 1st-3rd graders will become habitat heroes, discovering what plants and animals need to thrive, exploring prairie, forest, and wetland ecosystems using cool biofacts, and even meeting a live animal friend along the way!



Creek Neighbors

Grab the nets and dive into a world of tadpoles, fish, and wiggly aquatic insects at our pond or Rush Creek! We'll uncover the secrets of these amazing wetland habitats and discover how we can all be water-saving heroes, keeping our water clean and sparkling for everyone.



Meet the Animals: Experienced

On our field trip, we'll explore the animal kingdom by sorting animals into two main groups: vertebrates (animals with bones) and invertebrates (animals without bones). Then, we'll dive deeper and split each group into their major classes—like mammals, birds, insects, and more—and if you're interested, we can also learn how scientists group plants!



1st – 3rd Grades



Length, Fees, Time of Year, and Learning Standards

Program	Length (hours)	Minimum Fee	Fee Per Individual	Time Of Year
Feathered Friends	1.5	\$160.00	\$8.00	Year Round

Learning Standards: 1.LS1.A.1, 1.LS3.A.1, 2.LS2.A.2, 3.LS1.B.1, 3.LS3.A.1, 3.LS3.B.1

Colossal Fossil Intermediate	1.5/ 2	\$160.00 / \$190.00	\$8.00/ \$10.00	April 15 – Oct. 20
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Learning Standards: 2.ESS1.C.1, 2.ESS2.B.1, 3.LS3.D.1

Habitat Homes	1.5	\$160.00	\$8.00	Year Round
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Learning Standards: 1.LS1.A.1, 2.LS2.A.1, 2.ESS2.A.1, 3.LS3.A.1, 3.LS3.B.1, 3.LS3.C.1, 3.LS3.D.1,

Creek Neighbors	1.5	\$160.00	\$8.00	April 15 – Oct. 20
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Learning Standards: 1.LS1.A.1, 2.ESS2.A.1, 2.ESS2.B.1, 2.ESS2.C.1, 3.LS1.B.1, 3.LS3.A.1, 3.LS3.B.1, 3.LS3.C.1, 3.LS3.D.1

Meet the Animals: Experienced	1	\$90.00	\$7.00	Year Round
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Learning Standards: 1.LS1.A.1, 2.LS2.A.2, 3.LS1.B.1, 3.LS3.A.1, 3.LS3.B.1, 3.LS3.C.1, 3.LS3.D.1

Our Programs for 4th - 6th Grades



Unleash your inner explorer and join us at The Nature Sanctuary! Discover amazing wildlife, conduct real scientific investigations, and create unforgettable memories in the great outdoors!



Birds of a Feather

Embark on a thrilling adventure as a bird detective—uncover the mysteries of flight and song! Explore The Sanctuary, build your own bird feeder, and take home the joy of birdwatching. Marvel at the amazing adaptations that help birds thrive: from specially shaped wings for agile flight, to unique beaks and feet designed for their habitats, and even feathers that keep them warm and help them blend in. Each discovery reveals how birds are perfectly equipped for survival and adventure!



Wild About Wetlands

Become a wetland explorer and dive into a world teeming with incredible creatures! Use nets and scientific tools to uncover the secrets of these vital ecosystems and the amazing animals that call them home!



Colossal Fossil Advanced

Transform your students into real-life paleontologists with a thrilling fossil hunt and rock identification, revealing ancient secrets hidden in the earth! Imagine the excitement as they discover incredible fossils, piecing together clues to unlock the mysteries of prehistoric life!



Ecosystem Investigations

Give your students an unforgettable hands-on experience exploring Missouri's diverse ecosystems! They'll become young scientists as they investigate forest, grassland, and wetland habitats, discovering the unique plants and animals that thrive in each environment and gaining a deeper understanding of ecological balance.



4th – 6th Grades



Length, Fees, Time of Year, and Learning Standards

Program	Length (hours)	Minimum Fee	Fee Per Individual	Time Of Year
Birds of A Feather	2	\$160.00	\$9.00	Year Round
Learning Standards: 4.LS1.A.1, 5.LS1.A.1				
Wild About Wetlands	2	\$190.00	\$8.00	April 15 – Oct. 20
Learning Standards: 4.E.SS3.A.1, 5.ESS3.C.1, 6–8.LS2.A.2				
Colossal Fossil Advanced	1.5/ 2	\$160.00 / \$190.00	\$8.00/ \$10.00	April 15 – Oct. 20
Learning Standards: 4.ESS1.C.1, 4.ESS2.A.1, 6–8.LS4.A.1				
Ecosystem Investigations	1.5	\$160.00	\$8.00	Year Round
Learning Standards: 6–8.ESS3.C.2, 6–8.LS1.B.1, 6–8.LS1.B.2, 6–8.LS2.A.2, 6–8.LS2.B.1, 6–8.LS2.C.1				

Our Recommendations



Preschool

All Preschool programs are recommended for this age range.

3rd Grade

All of the programs are an excellent fit for the Missouri State Learning Standards, and **Meet the Animals: Experienced** stands out as the very best match!

Kindergarten

Meet the Animals: Entry Level with Plants added to the program covers all the Kindergarten Learning Standards.

4th Grade

Colossal Fossil: Advanced aligns best with the Missouri Learning Standards for 4th Grade.

1st Grade

Feathered Friends is a great fit for this grade level, and matches many of the Life Science Standards.

5th Grade

Wild About Wetlands is a good fit for aligning with Missouri State Standards.

2nd Grade

Colossal Fossil: Intermediate is a fantastic match for 2nd graders and the Missouri Learning Standards.

6th Grade

Ecosystem Investigations is a strong recommendation for the 6th grade Missouri State Standards.

Wild in the Classroom

Invite nature to your classroom with a visit from a Wildlife Naturalist from Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary—choose from exciting programs like Meet the Animals, Feathered Friends, or Colossal Fossil! For an even more unforgettable experience, the Colossal Fossil program includes an optional hands-on fossil-making activity for a small additional fee per student. Details and pricing available upon request for Wild in the Classroom.

Custom Field Trips for Your Classroom

Bring your curriculum to life with a customized field trip to Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary! We design programs tailored to your classroom's learning goals, making each visit meaningful, memorable, and aligned with your standards. Let's work together to spark curiosity and support your teaching objectives. Contact us to plan your personalized experience—details and pricing available upon request.

Call 816-781-8598 today to schedule your field trip at
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