

Forsyth Nature Center Interactive Discovery Program

****Preschool through Fifth Grade****

Summary:

Students are introduced to the different animals groups through a variety of live animal exhibits and a collection of static displays and learning activities

Objectives:

The students will learn and understand the following concepts:

- Animal groups
- Animal adaptations
- Stewardship and respect for all living things
- Differences between wild and domestic animals

NYS Learning Standards:

Elementary science curriculum:

Standard 4 – The Living Environment

Key Idea 3- Individual Organisms and Species Change Over Time (3.1 and 3.2)

Key Idea 4 – The continuity of life is sustained through reproduction and development (4.1 and 4.2)

Key Idea 5 – Organisms maintain a dynamic equilibrium that sustains life (5.1 and 5.2)

Background:

The Forsyth Nature Center has 20 animal exhibits, encompassing a mix of domestic and exotic animals with several animals native to the Hudson Valley. Founded in 1937, the Forsyth Nature Center is Ulster County's only municipal nature center and zoo.

Activity:

The presentation duration is approximately 1 ½ - 2 hours. Naturalists will present a variety of animals from different animal groups. In addition to the presentation and discussion of the animal groups, the group will be introduced to a number of static displays featuring skulls, skeletons, nests, skins, and insect collections. The group will be led on a guided tour of the facility and themed gardens. Gardens include a rose, sensory, woodland and butterfly themes.

Additional Activities:

The following activities and crafts are available for an additional fee as an extension of the above standard program:

1) Build a Birdhouse

2) Pine Cone Birdfeeders

3) Nature Scavenger Hunt



Seasonal Themes:

Autumn: The FNC is a great location to witness the change of seasons; you can observe the resident animals and Forsyth Park preparing for winter

Winter: All of the residents remain on-site during the winter. See how the animals survive the cold climate. Guided snowshoe hikes are also available.

March: The maple sugaring process is demonstrated and discussed including Native American legends, historic use and modern techniques.

Spring/Summer: The Forsyth Nature Center springs to life! The residents of the FNC and the wildlife of Forsyth Park are becoming more active and our gardens are beginning to bloom.

For more information about the program or to schedule a program:**Contact:**

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