



# Class Menu

*All classes are aligned with MN & WI  
Academic Content Standards*

## Anywhere Class Menu

### **OUT OF PLACE? GRADES 3 – 8**

#### **Essential Understanding**

Have you ever been the new kid and felt a little out of place? Sometimes in nature, animals and plants are introduced to an ecosystem where they are considered out of place, and they have to figure out a way to thrive and survive. And sometimes, those out of place animals and plants figure out a survival strategy that works too well and they make it hard for the animals and plants that have always lived in that ecosystem to survive. Students will experience this concept through an interactive Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) game as part of this class.

### **DISCOVERY HIKE, GRADES K – 5**

#### **Essential Understanding**

We don't think much about how we use our five senses in daily life, but if we were an animal we would be acutely aware of how much we rely on our senses for survival. Students will experience how their five sense compare to that of MN and WI wildlife through a variety of sensory activating activities that attune them to nature and their surroundings.

### **LET'S GO SNOWSHOEING, GRADES K – 12 (WINTER ONLY)**

#### **Essential Understanding**

Let's find out why people have been using snowshoes for over 6,000 years by putting on and practicing using snowshoes. Students will be introduced to snowshoeing through experiential learning, exploration and snow fun.

### **RIVERS ARE ALIVE, GRADES 3 – 8**

#### **Essential Understanding**

The ponds, streams, creeks, rivers and lakes in our communities are full of life, big and small and we play a direct role in keeping them that way. Students will observe macroinvertebrates that were collected ahead of time. They will be introduced to the role these macroinvertebrates play in the river ecosystem and how they can be an indicator of the health of a body of water.

## **RIVER WEB OF LIFE, GRADES 3 – 8**

### **Essential Understanding**

Interactions in your daily life include eating food, playing with friends, and sleeping; the living and non-living members of a river ecosystem experience similar interactions in their habitat. This activity introduces students to the living and non-living members of an ecosystem, and demonstrates their interconnectedness.

## **SENSORY SCAVENGER HUNT, GRADES K – 3**

### **Essential Understanding**

Our eyes are not the only tool we can use to make observations of the natural world. We can use all five of our senses to experience and explore nature. This sensory scavenger hunt activity will activate students' sense of awareness and encourage them to notice new sights, sounds, and smells.

## **SNOWSHOE SLEUTHS, GRADES K – 12 (WINTER ONLY)**

### **Essential Understanding**

Winter is a cold and quiet time of the year, but animal life is active all winter long. Many animals migrate or hibernate during the winter months but many animal species are toughing out the cold weather and we can tell who is still around by the clues and signs of life they leave in the snow. Students will put on snowshoes and discover how rivers are alive, even in the winter!

## **THE WRITTEN RIVER, GRADES K – 12**

### **Essential Understanding**

Rivers captivate us, move us, and inspire us. Many people have written about rivers throughout history, and this class will explore the written river. From children's literature (K – 3) to poetry (4 – 6) to conservationist writing to protect rivers (7 – 12), the words written about rivers live on in articles, books, and in the hearts and minds of people who love rivers.

## **TURTLE TROUBLE, GRADES 5 – 8**

### **Essential Understanding**

Turtles have many adaptations that help them to survive in the wild but the future for turtle populations and species native to the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is unknown. In this class students will be introduced to the turtle species that make their home in the Riverway, their unique adaptations, and design a turtle crossing that could help reduce turtle fatalities in the watershed.

## **WHAT IS A WATERSHED? GRADES 4 – 8**

### **Essential Understanding**

The ponds, streams, creeks, rivers and lakes in our communities are full of life, and they are all connected to each other. Students will be introduced to watersheds by constructing their own watershed and experimenting with a watershed model. They will understand that we all live in a watershed and are connected by them, and how we care for the water in our communities can positively or negatively impact our downstream neighbors and the quality of water within a watershed.

## **WILD AND SCENIC RIVER RECIPE, GRADES 3 – 8**

### **Essential Understanding**

Just like you use a list of ingredients to make your favorite recipe, there are a list of ingredients or requirements necessary to create a National Wild and Scenic Riverway. Students will take on the role of scientists and specialists to determine if they think the St. Croix or Namekagon River qualifies as a National Wild and Scenic Riverway through investigation and exploration.

# **At the River Classes**

## **BECOME A JR. RANGER, GRADES K – 5**

### **Essential Understanding**

You don't have to wait to grow up to be a Park Ranger; the National Park Service Jr. Ranger program welcomes all young stewards to participate and protect our wild places. We will send you Jr. Ranger Activity Booklets and Certificates to complete ahead of Rivers Are Alive experience. Each new Jr. Ranger will be celebrated with a certificate and a badge. Best for students under the age of 12.

## **LET'S GO MUCKING, GRADES 3 – 8**

### **Essential Understanding**

Sometimes it's the smallest creatures in an ecosystem that tell us the most about its health. It doesn't get any more hands-on than mucking in the river for macroinvertebrates. In this class, students become biologists and use a variety of tools and materials to collect, observe and identify the tiny creatures that are big indicators of how healthy a body of water is.

## **VISITOR CENTER SCAVENGER HUNT, GRADES 3 – 6**

### **Essential Understanding**

We do not have to travel too far to visit a National Park or Monument. An interactive scavenger hunt during your field trip to the Namekagon or St. Croix Visitor Center will inspire your students to learn more about this incredible Riverway. Students will also view a short film that tells the story of the St. Croix and how it became designated as a Wild and Scenic River through the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

## **WHAT IS A RIVER? GRADES K - 12**

### **Essential Understanding**

We all essentially know what river is, but what is it really and what causes it to bend, flow and wind? This class explores a river from the river's edge for younger grade levels and potentially from the river for high school students. Students will learn about how the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers were formed, river hydraulics, and river ecology through a number of hands-on activities.

## WHAT IS IN THE WATER? GRADES 6 – 12

### Essential Understanding

Sometimes you can tell how healthy water is just by looking at it, but sometimes you can't. In this class, students become hydrologists and use a variety of tools and materials to measure the quality of water.

# Classroom Only Menu

## HABIT-ART, GRADES K – 5

### Essential Understanding

Just like we have a home that provides shelter, space, food and water, there are tiny creatures who make their home in a stream or river and this habitat provides everything they need to survive. Students will be introduced to macroinvertebrates by observing them in their aquatic habitat and then recreating their habitat through art.

## HANDS-ON-HISTORY, GRADES K – 5

### Essential Understanding

Special places, such as the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, have been shaped over time by the animals, plants and people that have made their home here, as well as the natural and human caused events that have occurred throughout its history. In this class, Teachers can choose for their students to learn about the fur trade or logging era. As a result, students will better understand how these historic eras shaped the future of this Riverway.