



AWAKEN YOUR SENSES (kindergarten to grade 1)

This one hour program is delivered on site at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary.

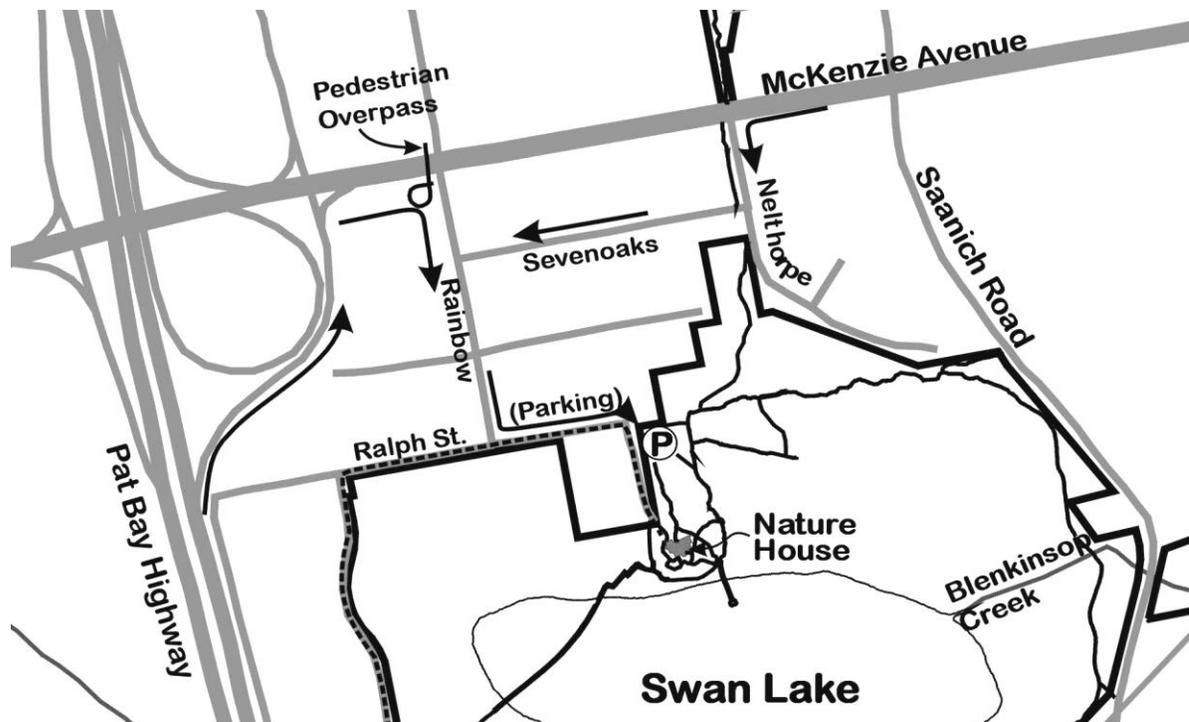
BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

1. Provide students with easily read **nametags** for both indoors and outdoors.
 2. Please encourage appropriate **clothing** for the weather.
(No umbrellas) Remember that half of your program is outside.
 3. Divide your class into **two groups** before your program.
- We welcome parents; please ask them to be responsible for their group and to help the children.

The program consists of three activities:

1. Group Introduction to Using Senses (10 minutes)
2. Nature Walk outside (25 minutes)
3. Tour of Nature House (25 minutes)

WE'LL MEET YOU IN FRONT OF THE NATURE HOUSE.



Swan Lake nature programs strive to support Teachers in the classroom:

Big Ideas from BC Curriculum:

- Plants and animals have observable features (K)
- Daily and seasonal changes affect all living things (K)
- Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment (gr.1)

Content from BC Curriculum

- Basic needs of plants and animals (K)
- Features of local plants and animals (K)
- Seasonal changes and changes that living things make to accommodate daily and seasonal cycles (K)
- Structural features of living things in the local environment (gr.1)
- Behavioural adaptations of animals in the local environment (gr.1)

Curricular Competencies:

- Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world (K)
- Experience and interpret the local environment (K, gr.1)
- Share observations and ideas orally (K)
- Compare observations with those of others (gr.1)
- Express and reflect on personal experiences of place (K, gr.1)

Our Goals:

The students will be able to:

1. Use **4 senses** to learn about their environment (not taste)
2. Meet an **animal** that lives at Swan Lake
3. Use their senses to **explore** the Nature House

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Outside the students may be introduced to the forest, the Garry Oak Meadow and the edge of the Lake. We may find animals, their homes or signs. We will explore with our **eyes, ears, noses and hands**.

Swan Lake's big attraction is **feeding the ducks**. Remember that they are free to come and go, so some days there may not be many Mallard ducks to feed. We supply **flatted oats** to feed the ducks. We encourage the children to throw only a few seeds at one time and watch the ducks eat. Mallards **dabble feed**, taking food from the lake, and straining out extra water between the bumps on the inside of the beak. If the weather is cold or wet, we should "dress like ducks". Sweaters trap warm air, like downy feathers and raincoats keep us dry like waterproof body feathers.

Other water-birds you may see and hear are the gulls, coots (black, white beaks, red eyes), great blue herons, cormorants, and maybe a kingfisher.

Around the edge of the lake, cattails, water lilies and duckweed grow. These provide a home for insects like the dragonflies and damselflies that change from aquatic larvae to flying adults in early summer. Other animals, like the pumpkinseed sunfish and the western painted turtle, eat the insects. A diving water-bird may eat the fish, then a bald eagle may eat the water-bird...a Food Chain.

Listen for the **birds' special songs**...especially the red-winged blackbird's. Nature is always changing, so be prepared for surprises.

Inside the Nature House students will meet some of our live animals and compare the animals' senses to their own. They will also have free time to explore. Our displays have both hands-on and viewing components.

Honeybee Hive: Smell, touch and listen to it in the Library.
Find the Queen among all the female workers.

Garter Snakes: The ever popular native reptile sheds its skin.

Lake Edge Displays: The aquaria show the beginning of the Food Chain...algae, tiny plants, animals, insects and fish.

Turtles, in turn, eat the aquatic animals.

Homes Display: Insect and bird homes are featured. Materials in the trays are "hands-on".

Senses Display: Children of all ages like to smell, feel, see and hear at this centre.

Hands-On Table: Skulls, skins, owl pellets, and more to see and touch.

Live Animal Displays: Western Toad, Pacific Chorus frog, Garter snakes, Alligator lizard, and Rough-skinned newts

Payment

In invoice will accompany the confirmation letter you received. **Payment** is due at the time of the program, and cheques should be made out to **Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary** and given to the programmer. **VISA or MC** can be phoned in.

Receipts will be sent by e-mail or fax upon request.

Change of Dates and/or Times:

If you wish to change the date or time of your program please contact us at **250.479.0211** or at programs@swanlake.bc.ca. We will do our best to accommodate your request, depending on available times and dates.



If you have any questions or comments about your program please don't hesitate to contact us; we always welcome your feedback.

We greatly appreciate students' feedback. If you send us artwork or writing describing their experience at Swan Lake we will display as many as we can around the Nature House.

