



DARING DUCKS (kindergarten to grade 1)

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

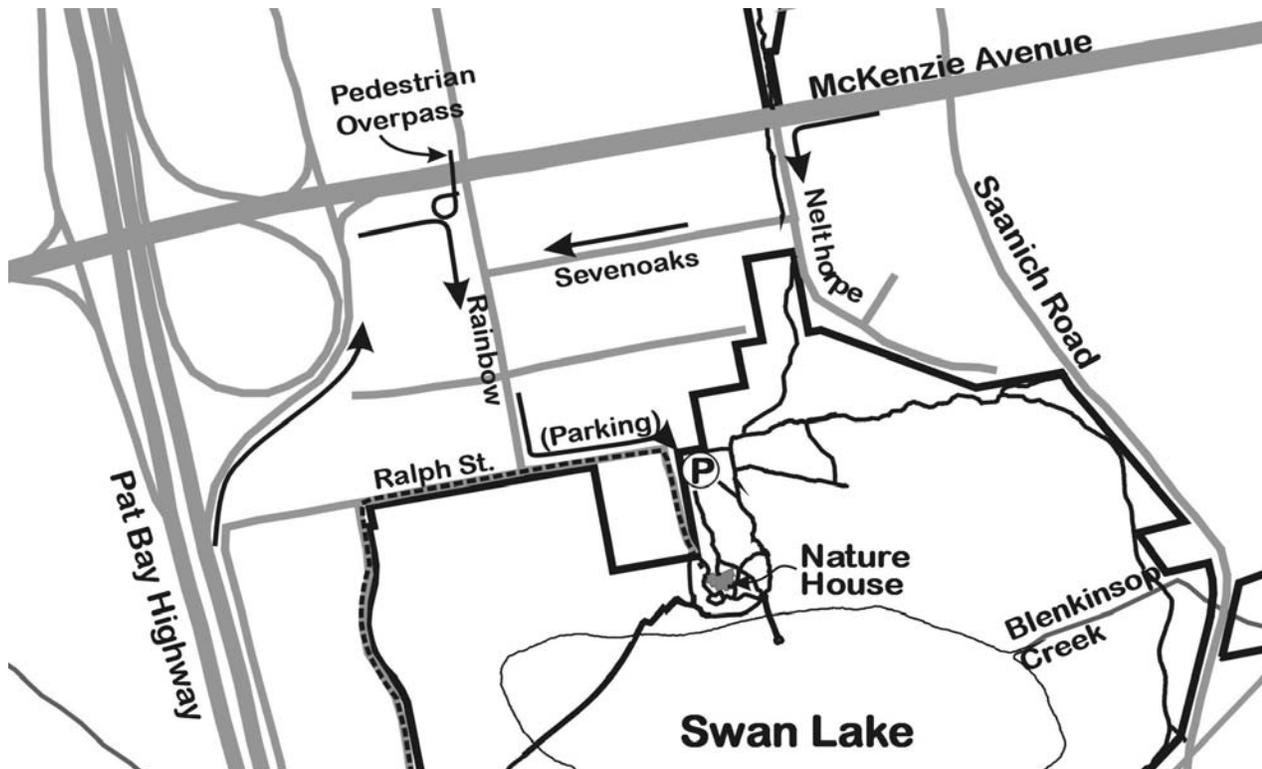
BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

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 these activities:

1. Indoor explorations and experiments (25 minutes)
2. Outdoor explorations and feeding ducks (35 minutes)

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



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

Big Ideas:

- Plants and animals have observable features (K)
- Basic needs of plants and animals (K)
- Features of local plants and animals (K)
- Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment (gr.1)

Content:

- Behavioural adaptations of animals in the local environment (gr.1)

Curricular competency:

- Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world (K, gr.1)
- Experience and interpret the local environment (K, gr.1)
- Identify simple patterns and connections (gr.1)



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Inside activities:

What's a duck?

What makes a duck a duck and not some other kind of animal? We will use pictures to explore the qualifications of a duck (feathers, webbed feet, and bill).

How do ducks get their food?

We will split the kids into three groups and explain that each will get a turn trying out a tool representing a different type of beak.

We'll have some basins with different food-type items floating on the surface or in the water (styrofoam chips, duck food, pipe cleaner "worms"). The students will try out three different types of implements to collect all of the items which will lead into a discussion about what works best for each food type and why. We will also look at real duck bills. Ducks eat many things (fish, roots, shoots, insects, worms), but their favorite food is seeds, like the flatted oats. Therefore, they have lamellae on their beaks that strain out the seeds and leave behind the water.

Water off a duck's back

We will take turns squirting water on the feathers. What do the students observe? It forms beads rather than soaking into the feather. Fluffy inner feathers absorb the water and that is why they are tucked underneath the waterproof ones. We will have a brief talk about how this works.

Outside activities:

Why are ducks different colours?

Camouflage game: feathers are hidden in an area with specific boundaries. Some are brightly coloured, others cryptically coloured. The students will try to see how many feathers they can actually find. Then we compare their numbers with the actual number we've hidden and show them where each feather is. This leads into a talk why males are brightly coloured and females are camouflaged.

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How fast can you fly?

Most birds are built for flying (although there are some exceptions namely ostriches, emus, and penguins). Let's find out how fast we could flap. We will try to flap our arms as fast as the flapping wings of different birds to see if we can keep up.

Walk like a duck

Has anyone ever noticed a duck walking around? Doesn't it look like their knees bend backwards? These "knees" are actually their heels so that they are actually walking on their tiptoes, with most of their leg hidden, and warm, under their body feathers.

Feeding the ducks

We will observe the ducks as they come in for food. What kind of ducks do we see? Are they males or females? We will also explore dabbler vs diving ducks.

Our Goals:

The students will be able to:

1. Differentiate ducks from other types of animals and learn about duck species other than the Mallard.
2. Discover some of ducks adaptations for their lifestyle and habitat.
3. Use their senses to explore the Nature House and our outdoor setting.

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 artwork and writing describing your experiences at Swan Lake we will display as many as we can around the Nature House.



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