



## **Backyard Safari (grades 1 - 5)**

The Backyard Safari school program is a one-hour presentation that can be delivered either in your classroom or at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary.

### **For classroom presentations please provide the following:**

- \* Large easy-to-read student **nametags**
- \* A table for display objects
- \* An open space for the students to move around during activities
- \* A list of student questions, if it is appropriate for your students (optional but useful)

### **For presentations at Swan Lake please provide the following:**

- \* Large easy-to-read student **nametags**
- \* Students dressed for the weather (there will be a walk outside no matter the weather)
- \* A list of student questions, if it is appropriate for your students (optional but useful)

### **Curriculum links:**

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

### **Big Ideas:**

- 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)
- All living things have a life cycle (gr.2)
- Water is essential to all living things, and it cycles through the environment (gr. 2)
- Living things are diverse, can be grouped, and interact in their ecosystems (gr.3)
- All living things and their environment are interdependent (gr.4)
- Multicellular organisms have organ systems that enable them to survive and interact within their environment (gr.5)

### **Content:**

- Basic needs of plants and animals (K)
- Features of local plants and animals (K)
- The classification of living and non-living things (gr.1)
- Structural features of living things in the local environment (gr.1)
- Behavioural adaptations of animals in the local environment (gr.1)
- Biodiversity in the local environment (gr.3)
- The ways organisms in ecosystems sense and respond to their environment (gr.4)

**Description:** Book a trip to explore your own backyard and discover the wildlife wonders all around us! Learn about the most common birds at your feeder, hard-working insects in your garden and slithering snakes basking in the sun. Explore ways to attract more amazing animals to your yard and meet a couple potential neighbours.

## **GOALS**

The goals of this program for your student are to:

- a) Identify local species and their benefits to the environment
- b) Determine the needs of our local plants and animals and explore their interconnectedness
- c) Learn about ways to attract native species to your yard
- d) Become more comfortable with local animals through direct interaction (with a Northwestern garter snake and worms)

## **PRESENTATION**

This presentation to the whole class covers the following general topics:

- a) **Wildlife needs 4 things for survival**
  - 1. Water
  - 2. Food
  - 3. Shelter
  - 4. Space
- b) Importance of plants and non-human animals in urban areas and overall message of kindness towards living things even if you feel scared or “grossed out”
- c) **Beneficial insects**
  - 1. Difference between wasps and bees
  - 2. Butterflies and their host plants
  - 3. Ladybugs
- d) **Mammals**
  - 1. May speak of any or all of the following: bats, squirrels, deer, raccoons or rodents as time and interest permits
- e) **Backyard Birds**
  - 1. Identification through sound, sight and nests
- f) **Decomposers**
  - 1. Worms
  - 2. May speak of any or all of the following: slugs, snails, ants
- g) **Reptiles**
  - 1. Snakes
  - 2. May speak of turtles and lizards as time and interest permits

- h) Throughout the presentation, the Naturalist will list ways to attract these animals to your yard or green space (a water feature or bird bath, rocks, exposed soil, heavy untouched ground cover, growing native plants, etc.)

In addition to storytelling, games and hands on activities, we will use materials such as:

1. A live Northwestern garter snake
2. A Who Am I? game for local wildlife identification
3. A Ladybug life cycle matching game to help students identify ladybugs at all life cycles
4. Photographs of bird species, real nests and recordings of bird calls
5. Live dew worms or red wigglers
6. A butterfly and caterpillar matching game to help with species identification
7. When the program takes place at Swan Lake, a short nature walk will be included to show students examples of bird feeders (seed and nectar), rock and water features, bee and bat houses and examples of native plants in a garden setting

### Payment

An invoice will accompany the confirmation letter you receive. 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** payments may be phoned in.

**Receipts** will be sent by fax or e-mail as requested.

### 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](mailto:programs@swanlake.bc.ca). We will do our best to accommodate your request, depending on available times and dates. Programs cancelled with **less than 2 weeks'** notice will require payment of **half** the invoice fee. **No shows** will require **full payment**.

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

