

Find the Right Activity for Your Class

Bold words highlight science curriculum connections.

Earthkeepers

4th-5th grade

3 days in Fall + year-round classroom visits

A non-residential earth education program, Earthkeepers helps students develop a positive personal relationship with the natural world through **outdoor experiences** and **conserving natural resources** while also teaching key ecological concepts such as **food chains**, **interrelationships**, and **cycling of earth resources**. To become Earthkeepers, students earn four keys representing Knowledge, Experience, Yourself and Sharing.

Students begin their Earthkeepers journey by spending three consecutive school days outdoors at Emily Oaks. Emily Oaks staff continue the Earthkeepers experience throughout the school year, visiting your classroom and providing materials to students.

Activities “Munchline Monitors” and “Connection Inspection” are included in the complete program. Typically only one class can be scheduled at a time. A detailed program brochure is available upon request.



Enhance Your Curriculum

Curriculum Standards

Each of our activities for school groups is aligned with the science curricula of local schools and meets at least one of the Illinois State Standards in Science/Common Core Standards.

Children and Nature Movement

Various studies show that children benefit physically, mentally and emotionally from spending time outdoors. Place-based education also enhances classroom learning. Emily Oaks is a valuable local resource for children to play and learn in the natural world.



Bilingual Classrooms

Please advise our staff how we can accommodate your bilingual students and families. Many of our activities can currently feature vocabulary words in Spanish.

Apply for a Grant to Visit for Free!

Schools may apply annually for the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant, which is offered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to completely cover the cost of field trips to native Illinois habitats. Download the application at: www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx

Plan Your Visit

Scheduling

Reservations are required for all groups. Please make reservations *as early as possible*, but no later than one week in advance of the desired activity date. **To schedule an activity, call Emily Oaks Nature Center at (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500.** For more information, e-mail School Program Coordinator Cassie Schaeffer at CSchaeffer@skokieparks.org.

Group Size & Fees

Group size is limited to 30 participants per activity. Minimum fees apply to groups of 10 students or less. Payment is due prior to your visit unless otherwise arranged with nature center staff. Failure to pay before your activity will result in a self-guided experience.

ON-SITE ACTIVITIES

Skokie/Dist. 65	Out-of-District
\$5.00/student	\$6.00 student
MINIMUM FEES	
\$50.00/class	\$60.00/class

EARTHKEEPERS PROGRAM

Skokie/Dist. 65	Out-of-District
\$48/student	\$60/student
MINIMUM FEES	
\$480/class	\$600/class

In the Event of Rain...

Please note that when on-site activities take place outdoors, no alternative indoor activities are available in the event of rain or inclement weather. We will do our best to reschedule your visit should you need to cancel due to weather.

Lunch

Groups may bring lunches and eat at tables located in the playground, though picnicking is not permitted within the Nature Center.



About Emily Oaks Nature Center

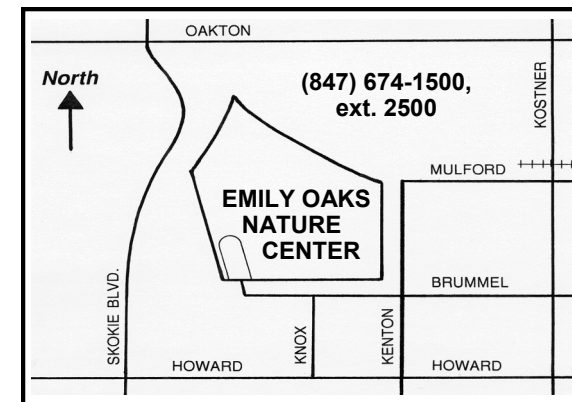
Philosophy of Earth Education

Our educational programs follow the principles of Earth Education, which is the process of helping people live more joyously and harmoniously with the natural world. Our dynamic staff create engaging outdoor learning adventures that motivate students to actively pursue these outcomes:

- Understanding key ecological concepts
- Developing positive feelings for the natural world
- Promoting lifestyles that are more in harmony with the earth and its life

Native Illinois Habitats & Species

Emily Oaks Nature Center is a natural oasis in a suburban setting, featuring pond, prairie, and woodland habitats. Native plant and animal species thrive here, including a variety of wildflowers, grasses, trees, reptiles, mammals, amphibians, birds and fish.



4650 Brummel Street
Skokie IL 60076
www.skokieparks.org



EMILY OAKS
NATURE CENTER

*Building Relationships
with the Natural World*

School Activities



Enhance your science curriculum with our dynamic, hands-on outdoor experiences!

Visit our website! www.skokieparks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center

SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
(847) 674-1500, ext. 2500

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Mousewalk

Preschool (ages 3-4) ¾ hour
Fall, Winter, Spring

Explore and play outdoors, after being transformed into a mouse! We will be busy making a mouse house, finding mouse food and hiding from foxes—just like the real animals living in the woodland. *Two classes can be scheduled at the same time.*



Time for Wonder

Preschool-Kindergarten 1 hour
Fall, Spring

When the clock sounds, it is time to touch, see, hear or smell the wonders in the woodland. Guided by an Emily Oaks Timekeeper, you will use special tools in four fun activities designed to develop **sensory awareness** of the natural world. *Two classes can be scheduled at the same time.*

Welcome to the Woodland

Preschool-Kindergarten 1 hour
Fall, Spring

Get to know this special **habitat** by visiting with our woodland puppet friends! Grasshopper, Tree, Squirrel and Wildflower are waiting to make your acquaintance and will help you explore their exciting home, the woodland. *Classes can be scheduled at 30-minute intervals.*

Pumpkin Patch

Preschool-Kindergarten ¾-1 hour
Fall

Observe real pumpkins in our magical pumpkin patch, and choose one to take home! Sing the **plant parts** song, read a **pumpkin life cycle** story, and get hands-on with the **needs for plant growth**. *This activity takes place indoors and outdoors. Only one class can be scheduled at a time. There is an additional fee for the pumpkins required for this activity.*

Can also be scheduled as outreach at your school!

That's a Living Thing!

Kindergarten-1st grade 1½ hours
Fall, Spring

Discover the **characteristics and needs of living things**. Prepare a plate with an animal's favorite foods, listen to a "Breath-O-Meter," and chart **plant and animal life cycles**. Then sing the "All Living Things" song as we explore the woodland in search of living plants and animals. *Classes can be scheduled at 30-minute intervals.*

Groundhog's Winter Tale

Kindergarten-2nd grade 1½ hours
Winter

Visit a 5-foot-tall, talking groundhog to hear **Groundhog's life story**, then head outdoors to explore the woodland in **winter**. Look for plants under the snow, visit Groundhog's burrow, and use the sunshine to make your own predictions about the coming of spring. *Classes can be scheduled at 30-minute intervals.*

Robin & the Recyclables

Kindergarten-2nd grade ¾ hour
Fall, Winter, Spring

Help Robin learn **how and why we recycle** in this entertaining puppet show. Follow each **recyclable item** (including plastic, paper, metal, and glass) on its round-trip journey from the manufacturer to the recycling bin and back again! The show concludes with an interactive recycling activity. *This activity takes place indoors.*

Can also be scheduled as outreach at your school!

Fledge's Springtime Story

1st-2nd grade 1¼ hours
Spring

Play along with the **life-cycle** adventure of Fledge, a baby Red-winged Blackbird who lives in the marsh **habitat**. Interactive games illustrate how **birds** claim a territory, find a mate, build a nest, and care for their young. *Classes can be scheduled at 30-minute intervals.*

Earthwalk

1st-2nd grade 1 hour
Fall, Winter, Spring

Reawaken your **senses** on an Earthwalk in the woodland! Use Rainbow Chips to see incredible colors outdoors, share Prickly and Tickly touches with a friend, and Scratch 'n Sniff the wonderful smells outdoors, among other activities. *Two classes can be scheduled at the same time.*



Meet Wind & Thundercloud

1st-2nd grade ¾ hour
Fall, Winter, Spring

Wind and Thundercloud will share their roles in the amazing world of **weather** and air! Find out how wind and thunderstorms are formed through interactive science demonstrations and a story about the **water cycle**. Then learn how to be safe during threatening weather conditions. *This activity takes place indoors.*

Can also be scheduled as outreach at your school!

Sun, Seeds & Salads

1st-2nd grade 1½ hours
Fall, Spring

Explore the wonders of plants! Learn about the **parts of a plant**, and find out what **plants need** to live and grow. Eat a plant snack, give special gifts to Grandma and Grandpa Tree in the woodland, and plant your own vegetable seeds to watch the **plant life cycle** at home! *Classes can be scheduled at 30-minute intervals.*

Keys to Life

3rd grade 1½ hours
Fall, Spring

Discover the four key elements of an ecosystem that make **plant and animal life** possible. See a student-sized drop of water, participate in the Great Air Exchange, discover the benefits of sun energy, and enjoy a soil banquet as you learn about the Keys to Life! Then unlock the Life Box to find out what's inside. *Two classes can be scheduled at the same time.*



Munchline Monitors

3rd-4th grade 1¼ hours
Fall, Spring

Investigate **food chains** at Mama Nature's Munch Room! Here you will train to become a "Munchline Monitor," **exploring the woodland** for evidence of sun, plant and animal munchers, and assembling food chains found in Munch Bags. *Only one class can be scheduled at a time.*

Home Sweet Home

4th-5th grade 2 hours
Fall, Spring

Become a **native Illinois plant or animal** with a specific **job and habitat needs**, then set out with the Mayor to find a community in which to live. Visit the Emily Oaks pond, prairie, and woodland to learn about their **unique habitat features**. But when the marsh changes into a field, some plants and animals must find new homes. Form a community jury to decide the fate of the Web-footed Bug Bagger and others! *Classes can be scheduled at 30-minute intervals.*



Solarville

5th-6th grade 1½ hours
Fall, Spring

Journey from the sun to the earth, where you'll have lunch in Solarville. While ordering your pizzas, you will discover the energy involved in **food chains**, food production and transportation, including **solar energy** and **fossil fuels**. Because sunlight energy is not taken for granted in Solarville, you must **use energy resources wisely** to pay for the true costs of your pizza! There is an additional fee for pizza lunch, if eaten on-site. *Only one class can be scheduled at a time.*

Nature Journaling

5th-8th grade 1-1½ hours
Fall, Winter, Spring

Deepen your sense of wonder and connection to the natural world by engaging with a nature journal. Learn to hone your observational skills and explore your local environment through nature drawing, field science, and immersion activities. *Workshop can take 60-90 minutes depending on teacher preference. 2 classes can be scheduled at a time.*

Call today to schedule your visit! (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500