

DO IT YOURSELF EDUCATION AT MIDDLE CREEK



SCAVENGER HUNTS (30 MINUTES)



Want to explore the visitor center as a class or on your own? Grab one of our scavenger hunts that lead you through the many interactive displays at the Middle Creek Visitor Center. There are three levels of difficulty for the scavenger hunt to ensure the right fit for any age. This is a great way to get students introduced to wildlife and take your first step in nature exploration.

DISCOVERY BACKPACKS



Welcoming all explorers! Are you interested in learning about birds? Want to develop a new hobby? Well with the Discovery Packs at Middle Creek's Visitor Center, you can do it all! Within our Discovery Packs, you will find the tools you need to become experts of the birding world and have some fun while doing so! These packs are offered for students in grades K-12 and serve as excellent learning opportunities for families here at Middle Creek. Available to rent at the Visitors Center,

Options for pack rentals:

- **Rent for the day at Middle Creek = Free**
- **Put a \$20 deposit down, take a pack home for 72 hours and receive your deposit back upon return.**

WILDLIFE DRIVE



The Middle Creek property contains around 6,000 acres of land dedicated to wildlife. There is so much to see, it may seem hard to know where to start exploring. Embark on the Wildlife Drive, a 6-mile loop through the property where visitors may drive to different designated spots to learn and observe the wonders of Middle Creek. The Wildlife Drive is open seasonally from **March 1** to **September 30**.

Wildlife Drive Map/Brochure:



Wildlife Drive Video:



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT MIDDLE CREEK



MIDDLE CREEK

MAMMALS OF PENNSYLVANIA (30 MINUTES)

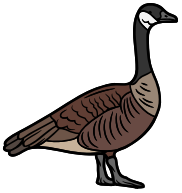


Join one of our educators as your students explore common mammals of Pennsylvania. Utilizing pelts or furs, students will learn the common names, dietary habits, and other fun facts about critters commonly found in Pennsylvania. This lesson can be modified to reach any target audience, keeping students engaged while becoming mammal experts. Prepare your students by printing out our “Critter Cards” or use these after the program to continue the learning once your students leave Middle Creek.

Critter Cards:



DECOY DETECTIVE (30 MINUTES)



Who is that flying overhead? It looks like a duck, but what kind? This lesson will allow students to sharpen their waterfowl identification skills using decoys and bird guides. Students will identify the species based on plumage and defining characteristics and determine if they are a diving or dabbling duck. This program is perfect for young or aspiring research scientists, bird watchers, or hunters. Either way, if you want to better your identification skills, you better get quacking.

LET'S WING IT (30 MINUTES)



Bird wings are one of the many wonders of the natural world, and much research has been done on how they keep birds flying. This lesson allows students to compare and identify the different types of flight feathers that make up a bird's wing. By constructing their own bird wing, students will learn why feathers are unique, and how these feathers keep birds flying high.

FEET ARE NEAT (30 MINUTES)



Have you ever noticed how bird feet vary in shape and size? That's because each species uses their feet for different purposes. In this lesson, students will explain the role of bird feet in bird survival. Students will compare and contrast bird feet adaptations, and really understand the why behind birds' funky feet.



SCATOLOGY (30 MINUTES)

Did you know that "scat" or animal poop can be an important tool when it comes to identification? Many scientists use scat to determine what animals are hanging out in an area and what they are eating. In this lesson, students will become skilled scat identifiers by molding their own scat out of modeling clay.

SKULL KING (30 MINUTES)



Herbivore, carnivore, omnivore... alright we get it animals eat different things. But did you know that you can tell the diet of an animal based on their skull? In this lesson, students will learn the habits and behaviors of an animal based on key skull characteristics. By the end, your students may even consider themselves skull kings and queens.

THE NOSE KNOWS (30 MINUTES)



From sweet spring flowers to stinky striped skunks, we can identify many things just by using our noses! This lesson will teach your students just how important our noses are by identifying different smells. They will then compare their ability to distinguish different smells to animals using their sense of smell to find mates, offspring and food.

GUIDED HIKE (30 MINUTES- 1 HOUR)

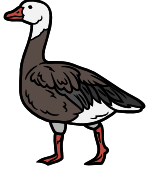


Join a Middle Creek educator on a guided hike along the Conservation Trail, located at the Middle Creek Visitors Center (100 Museum Rd, Stevens) or the Willow Point Trail, located along Hopeland Rd. Along this hike you will learn about habitats, birds, and other critters at Middle Creek.

Middle Creek Hiking Trails:



SNOW GOOSE EXTRAVAGANZA (30 MINUTES)



Middle Creek is known for the large number of snow geese that visit the management area each year during their spring migration. If you want to learn more about the life of these birds and their amazing migration, this lesson is for you. A Middle Creek educator will help you become experts on these wonderful waterfowl and prepare you for the migration of a lifetime.



ARCHERY IS FOR EVERYONE TIMELINE DEPENDENT ON GROUP SIZE



Whether you are new to shooting archery or have shot a bow since you were young, archery is for everyone! In this lesson, join NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program) certified instructors to learn the basics of archery or improve your shot placement. No matter where you are in your archery journey, Middle Creek staff are happy to help you along the way.

SCHEDULE YOUR PROGRAM TODAY

We ask that for the best experience, groups are limited to a maximum of **75** students. Often groups over 15-20 will be split into groups so they can better enjoy each topic and see up close what there is to talk about. Generally, three stations are rotated through with two to three groups. One example of this would be a mammal program, guided hike, and scavenger hunt in the Visitors Center.

If you are interested in scheduling a program with us, please contact the Middle Creek Visitor Center.

Email: middlecreek@pa.gov

Phone: (717) 733-1512

In your message, please include your **name**, **school district**, approximate **number of students**, a few **dates that work for you**, and the **program(s)** you are hoping to participate in.