

Audubon Center at Riverlands

Eco-Learners Programs
2019-2020



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Audubon Center
at Riverlands



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ABOUT THE FACILITIES



The Audubon Center at Riverlands

The Audubon Center at Riverlands is one of the best places in Saint Louis to connect with the Mississippi River and the Great Rivers Confluence. The Audubon Center at Riverlands, a project of the National Audubon Society, opened its doors in 2011. We are one of 41 Audubon centers across the United States, and serve the bi-state St. Louis metro region. Central to our work is education to help build the next generation of river stewards and conservation leaders. Experiential learning in nature, which is also STEM-based and aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), is central to our Education programs.

The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary

The Audubon Center at Riverlands is nestled along the Mississippi River and located in the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, a vital 3,700-acre stopover for 300+ bird species. Riverlands has been designated an “Important Bird Area” due to its rich, diverse habitats that provide food, shelter, and safe passage at the heart of the Mississippi River, one of the greatest flyways on the planet. Sixty percent of North America’s birds use the Mississippi Flyway! Restored prairie, marsh, wetland, and bottomland forest habitats with miles of hiking trails provide great opportunity for nature study. Audubon and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to restore habitat and monitor species throughout the year.

OUR EDUCATION TEAM



Michelle Wiegand
Education Manager

Emily Connor
Educator

Emily Pavlovic
AmeriCorps VISTA

A Note from our Team

Children have a natural curiosity, which allows them to ask questions and develop theories about the natural world in a way that often gets lost, as we grow older. In this sense, children have wonderful scientific minds! The Audubon Center at Riverlands' "Eco-Learners" programs draw on that keen sense of curiosity and wonder by allowing students to explore and discover nature through immersive hands-on learning outdoors. Our programs complement in-class instruction by giving students the opportunity to connect with nature and deepen their understanding of scientific topics, while developing confidence and challenging themselves in the process. We believe that as children gain a better understanding of the natural world, they also develop a passion for and commitment to the environment. In this way, our programs are designed to build future generations of conservation leaders and stewards of the environment.

Eco-Learners programs are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and all programs incorporate hands-on, experiential education that engages students in learning and discovery.

We look forward to working with you and your students! Happy trails!

TALK TO US

(636) 899-0090

<http://riverlands.audubon.org/>

mwiegand@audubon.org

SEASONAL PROGRAMS

As the seasons change, so do our programs! We offer a variety of programs that align with the types of wildlife we see year round. There is always something new to discover at the Audubon Center at Riverlands!

FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER
Amazing Eagles (K-12)			
Swans of the Confluence (K-12)			
Birds of Winter (K-12)			
Pond Ecology		Pond Ecology (3-12)	
Plants for Birds		Plants for Birds (3-12)	
Prairie Ecology		Prairie Ecology (6-12)	
Forest Ecology		Forest Ecology (6-12)	
Mammal Investigations (3-12)			
Migration Along the Mississippi (K-12)			
Birding 101 (K-12)			
Bird Survival Tools (K-12)			
Nature Journaling (3-12)			
Geocache Dash (3-12)			
Water Quality (6-12)			
Mississippi Watersheds (3-12)			

ECO-LEARNERS PROGRAMS

All individual Eco-Learners programs are \$3.00 per participant. Programs are held rain or shine (unless weather is life threatening) and all have an outdoor component. Most programs can be adapted for any age group or grade level, scout groups, home-school, 4-H, etc. Given enough time, we can create a custom program to cover special topics. *Chances for viewing wildlife are increased in the mornings. However, we cannot guarantee specific wildlife sightings.*

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Amazing Eagles.....	7
Swans of the Confluence.....	7
Birds of Winter.....	7
Birding 101.....	7
Bird Survival Tools	7
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Mississippi Watersheds.....	8
Nature Journaling.....	8
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Plants for Birds	9
Forest Ecology.....	9
Prairie Ecology.....	9
Water Quality.....	9

Amazing Eagles

K-12TH GRADE, FALL & WINTER

The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary is one of the best places in the area to view Bald Eagles. Students will learn about the natural history of the Bald Eagle, eagle adaptations, and conservation issues all through interactive and outdoor elements. Students will view Bald Eagles from inside the center and on our trails. *Program length: 1-2 hours*



Swans of the Confluence

K-12TH GRADE, FALL & WINTER

Riverlands is home to the largest inland wintering population of Trumpeter Swans in the world! Students will discover the natural history of the Trumpeter Swan, Swan adaptations, and conservation efforts through hands-on activities and outdoor viewing. *Program length 1-2 hours*

Birds of Winter

K-12TH GRADE, FALL & WINTER

This program focuses on two of our most charismatic winter migrants: the Trumpeter Swan and the Bald Eagle. Students will take a comparative look at the two species' adaptations and also explore their natural histories. Students will have the opportunity to view these birds through scopes and binoculars as we hike around the Sanctuary to get a closer look at both these beautiful species. *Program length 1-2 hours*

Bird Survival Tools

K-12TH GRADE, ALL SEASONS*

Students will discover the various tools birds have to help them survive, including structural and behavioral adaptations. Through hands-on exploration of feathers, skulls, and more, students will better understand the great diversity of birds in our region. While on a bird hike, students will identify birds while viewing their adaptations first-hand. *Program length 1-2 hours*



Birding 101

K-12TH GRADE, ALL SEASONS

Birding is an excellent way for students to exercise their observational skills while building a connection to nature. During this program, students will be given a crash course on basic bird ID and learn how to use field guides and binoculars. On a nature hike, we'll practice identifying birds that we see. *Program length 1-2 hours*

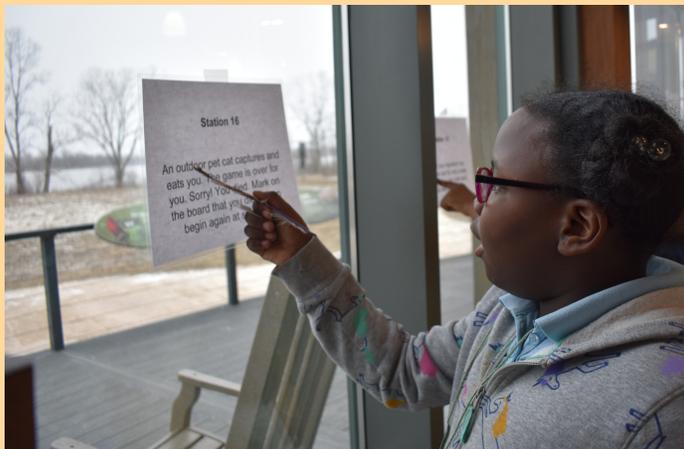


* In-school option available

Migration Along the Mississippi

K-12TH GRADE, SPRING, ALL SEASONS*

Our region is home to the largest bird migration route in North America, the Mississippi Flyway. Through hands-on activities students will “become” a bird themselves and discover why birds migrate, learn challenges of their migration, and discuss ways to create a healthier planet for migrating birds. *Program length 1-2 hours*



Geocache Dash

3RD-12TH GRADE, ALL SEASONS

Using Global Positioning System (GPS) units, students explore the sanctuary through a high-tech treasure hunt. At each station they find, they will learn about the natural wonders of this area and be challenged to work together with classmates to answer questions.

Program length 1-2 hours

Mammal Investigations

3RD-12TH GRADE, ALL SEASONS*

Mammals have many characteristics that allow them to live in a variety of habitats. By making careful observations of our surroundings, we can learn what mammals live near us as well as their adaptations for survival. Students will develop observation skills necessary to recognize and interpret signs of mammals in an ecosystem. *Program length 1-2 hours*



Nature Journaling

3RD-12TH GRADE, ALL SEASONS*

Nature journaling can help hone your students' observational skills. Your students will learn what nature journaling is, why it's helpful, and about some famous nature journals from history. Students will challenge their senses and their observation skills through various activities. Then students will be given time to use the skills they learned to make a journal entry. *Program length 1-2 hours*



Mississippi Watershed

3RD-12TH GRADE, ALL SEASONS*

The Mississippi Watershed is the largest drainage basin in North America. Using a watershed model, students will learn what a watershed is, how pollution moves through a watershed, and how this affects water quality. Students will discuss treatment and prevention methods and will be challenged to come up with their own class recommendations for positive change. *Program length 1-2 hours*

* In-school option available

Pond Ecology

3RD-12TH, SPRING, SUMMER, FALL

Using dip nets and observation skills, your students will explore pond habitats to discover an amazing underwater web of life. Students will have the chance to catch invertebrates, such as crawfish and dragonfly nymphs. Discussion topics may include invertebrate life cycles, identification, and the ways pollution affects these creatures.

Program length 1-2 hours



Plants for Birds

3RD-12TH GRADE, SPRING, SUMMER, FALL

Plants are vital in our daily lives, whether through the food we eat, the air we breathe, or the clothes on our backs. Plants also play a key role in the health of birds and other wildlife. Through plant identification, students will learn how birds and other pollinators utilize the plants around us for survival and the critical role they play in keeping our ecosystems healthy. *Program length 1-2 hours*

Prairie Ecology

6TH-12TH GRADE, SPRING, SUMMER, FALL

Prairies, which used to cover one-third of Missouri, are now one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. Students will learn about the characteristics and importance of prairies as well as the adaptations prairie plants have to survive fire, wind, and drought. Using sweep nets, students will survey the prairie for insects and discuss their important role in prairie ecosystems.

Program length 1-2 hours



Forest Ecology

6-12TH GRADE, SPRING, SUMMER, FALL

Forest ecosystems are composed of various biotic and abiotic elements. In this program, students will explore these components and how they are connected. Using field guides, students will learn to ID native trees and will explore animals found in a forest ecosystem.

Program length 1-2 hours



Water Quality

6TH-12TH GRADE, ALL SEASONS*

One way to determine the health of an aquatic ecosystem is to test the abiotic components of the water. In this program, students will conduct chemical and physical tests on water samples from Riverlands. Students will also discuss species that can be used as biotic indicators of water quality.

Program length 1-2 hours

* In-school option available

ALIGNMENT TO ACADEMIC STANDARDS



Eco-Learners programs incorporate experiential, hands-on learning which naturally lends itself to meeting both STEM-based standards and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Kindergarten	
LS1	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Birding 101, Migration Along the Mississippi, Bird Survival Tools
ESS2	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Migration Along the Mississippi
ESS3	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Birding 101, Bird Survival Tools
1 st Grade	
LS1	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Birding 101, Bird Survival Tools
LS3	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Birding 101
ESS1	Migration Along the Mississippi
2 nd Grade	
PS1	Birding 101, Bird Survival Tools
LS4	Birding 101
ESS2	Migration Along the Mississippi
3 rd Grade	
LS1	Birds of Winter, Birding 101, Pond Ecology, Geocache
LS2	Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Birding 101, Migration Along the Mississippi, Mammal Investigations
LS3	Amazing Eagles, Bird Survival Tools, Nature Journaling, Pond Ecology, Mammal Investigations
LS4	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Birding 101, Bird Survival Tools, Mammal Investigations, Pond Ecology, Plants for Birds
ESS3	Migration Along the Mississippi, Mississippi Watershed
4 th Grade	
LS1	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Birding 101, Bird Survival Tools, Mammal Investigations, Pond Ecology, Geocache
ESS3	Mississippi Watershed

5 th Grade	
PS1	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Birding 101, Mammal Investigations, Nature Journaling, Pond Ecology, Geocache
PS3	Pond Ecology, Plants for Birds, Geocache
LS1	Plants for Birds
LS2	Amazing Eagles, Pond Ecology, Plants for Birds, Geocache
ESS2	Mississippi Watershed
ESS3	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Migration Along the Mississippi, Pond Ecology, Plants for Birds, Mississippi Watershed
Middle School	
LS1	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Plants for Birds, Geocache, Forest Ecology, Prairie Ecology, Water Quality
LS2	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Birding 101, Migration Along the Mississippi, Nature Hikes, Mammal Investigations, Pond Ecology, Plants for Birds, Mississippi Watershed, Geocache, Water Quality, Forest Ecology, Prairie Ecology
LS4	Bird Survival Tools
ESS2	Mississippi Watersheds
ESS3	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Birding 101, Migration along the Mississippi, Pond Ecology, Plants for Birds, Mississippi Watershed, Water Quality, Prairie Ecology
High School	
LS1	Pond Ecology
LS2	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Migration Along the Mississippi, Mammal Investigations, Pond Ecology, Plants for Birds, Mississippi Watershed, Water Quality, Prairie Ecology
LS4	Amazing Eagles, Swans of the Confluence, Birds of Winter, Migration along the Mississippi, Bird Survival Tools, Pond Ecology, Plants for Birds, Mississippi Watershed, Water Quality, Prairie Ecology
ESS2	Mississippi Watershed
ESS3	Migration along the Mississippi, Mississippi Watershed

PROGRAM POLICIES

Programs must be scheduled at least **two weeks** in advance. To schedule an Eco-Learners program, contact our Education Manager, Michelle Wiegand at **(636) 899-0090** or email **MWiegand@audubon.org**

Group Size:

Minimum of 10 students per program on weekdays

Minimum of 15 students per program on weekends

Chaperones:

One free chaperone for every 10 students per program. * excluding teachers

Payment:

Program	Fee
1-2 hour standard program (per student)	\$3
Multi-program session exceeding 2 hours (up to 30 students)	\$100
Multi-program session exceeding 2 hours (up to 45 students)	\$150
Multi-program session exceeding 2 hours (up to 60 students)	\$200
Multi-program session exceeding 2 hours (up to 75 students)	\$250
Multi-program session exceeding 2 hours (up to 100 students)	\$300
Multi-program session exceeding 2 hours (up to 125 students)	\$375

Payments should be received five business days before a scheduled program.

Ask whether need-based scholarships are available upon scheduling.

Checks payable to:

Audubon Center at Riverlands
Education Division - School Programs
301 Riverlands Way
West Alton, MO 63386

Credit Card payments may be completed by phone at (636) 899-0090

Cancellations:

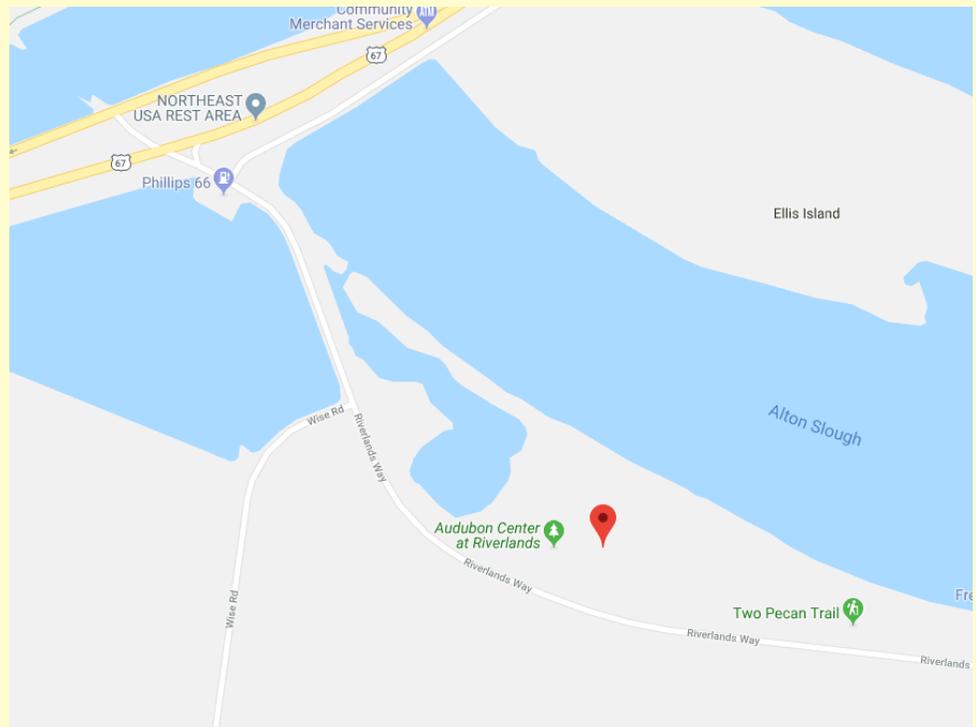
Cancellations made fewer than two weeks from the date of the scheduled program will be charged a **10% fee** of the total program price. *Weather related school cancellations not included.

Inclement Weather: Audubon holds the right to cancel a scheduled program if weather poses a threat. Programs will be refunded or rescheduled.

Liability and Media Release:

Please note: participants assume all risk, loss, damages, liability and danger for injury or damage to person or property and all hazards arising from or related to admission to the Audubon Center at Riverlands. Participants grant permission to the Audubon Center at Riverlands and its designees to utilize Holder's image, likeness, or statements in any form taken during programs at the Audubon Center at Riverlands for the purpose of promoting in perpetuity.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CENTER



From Clayton: I-170 N to I-270 E. From I-270 E, Exit MO-367 toward Alton, IL. MO-367 becomes US-67 N. Before the Clark bridge and the Mississippi River, you will see signs for Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary on Wise Rd. Turn right onto Wise Road/Riverlands Way and continue straight on Riverlands Way for about .8 miles. The Audubon Center will be on your left.

From downtown St. Louis: Take I-70 W to W Florissant Ave. Take exit 245B from I-70 W. Follow MO-367 N/Lewis and Clark Blvd. Continue on MO-367 to just before the Clark bridge, crossing into Illinois. Turn right onto Wise Road/Riverlands Way at the signs for the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Continue straight on Riverlands Way for about .8 miles. The Audubon Center will be on your left.

From Illinois: IL-3 N towards Alton, IL. Take a slight left onto IL-143 to Alton. Left on US-67 S over the Clark bridge, crossing into Missouri. Turn left onto Wise Road/ Riverlands Way just past the bridge at the signs for the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Continue straight on Riverlands Way for about .8 miles. The Audubon Center will be on your left.



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OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS ARE MADE
POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF
OUR FUNDERS.

SUPPORT OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY
BECOMING AN ANNUAL DONOR TO THE
AUDUBON CENTER AT RIVERLANDS. LEARN
HOW YOU TO GIVE BY CALLING
(636) 899-0090 OR
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
[HTTP://RIVERLANDS.AUDUBON.ORG/](http://riverlands.audubon.org/)