

YOUTH PROGRAMS

AT VOLO BOG STATE NATURAL AREA

Volo Bog State Natural Area is home to Illinois' only remaining open-water quaking bog. The site's 1,243 acres provide a variety of natural habitats including woodlands, ponds, marshes, prairies and of course, Volo Bog itself. Our eighteen educational programs utilize the site's biodiversity to explore scientific concepts and our interrelationships within the natural environment. Pick 2 programs for a 3.5 hour visit including a lunch break in between.

GROUP SIZE & CHAPERONE RATIOS

We require at least ten age-appropriate students for our group programs. We accommodate up to 60 students for a day-long visit.

Student/Adult Ratio: The ideal S/A ratio varies and is listed with each program. In addition to assisting with discipline, chaperones are expected to set a good example by participating in the activities.

ACTIVITY GUIDES & WORKSHEETS

Our Bog programs require completion of an activity guide before arrival. Many programs involve worksheets. To encourage student involvement, teachers are expected to collect these for credit or grade.

COST

There is **NO CHARGE** for our youth programs — "The best things in life, and your state tax dollars at work." The Friends of Volo Bog, our site's not-for-profit 501(c)(3) members' group happily accepts donations. Class & school memberships are available. Grant money for bus transportation is available through the Illinois Entice Biodiversity Field Trip Program. Look for it at www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx

WHEN TO SCHEDULE

Registration for **SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS** begins at 8 am on the **FIRST Wednesday in:**

- ◆ **March** for **Fall** (September—December)
- ◆ **September** for **Winter** (January—March)
- ◆ **December** for **Spring & Summer** (April—August)

SCOUT AND OTHER YOUTH GROUPS are accommodated on weekends. Groups of less than 20 people may be combined with other groups for non-bog programs.

MHSP: Upon request, programs marked MHSP are also available at Moraine Hills State Park. **No indoor lunch facilities** at this site.



Volo Bog State Natural Area

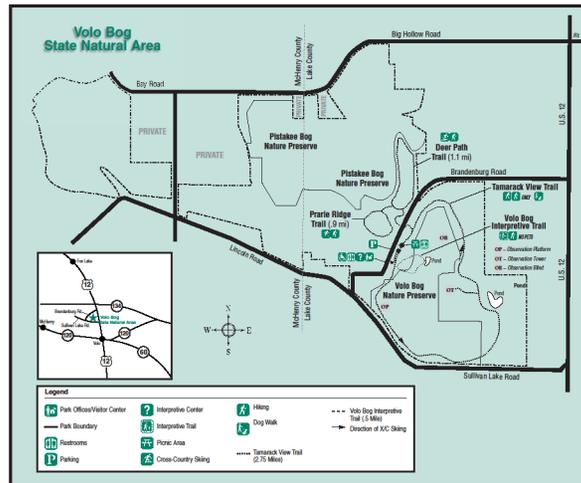
28478 W. Brandenburg Road Ingleside, IL 60041

815-344-1294 dnr.volobog@illinois.gov

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Pages/VoloBog.aspx>

<http://www.FriendsofVoloBog.org/>

An Illinois Department of Natural Resources site



Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Opportunity Officer, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-9175; 217-785-0067; TTY 217-982-9175.

YOUTH Programs



For Groups

Volo Bog State Natural Area

28478 W. Brandenburg Road

Ingleside, IL 60041

815-344-1294

dnr.volobog@illinois.gov

www.FriendsofVoloBog.org

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MHSP = Program also available at Moraine Hills State Park

TO REGISTER CONTACT

Naturalist Program Coordinator
815-344-1294

BOG LIFE: DISCOVERING VOLO BOG Year
 2nd—5th grades 1.5 hours indoor/
 outdoor Trunk



Learn the geologic history of Volo Bog then explore this unique wetland for rare and fascinating plants and secretive animals. Scary tales of boogie men and bog bodies conclude Bog Life. Activity Guide S/A = 6/1

BOG LIFE: EXPLORING VOLO BOG Year
 6nd—8th indoor/outdoor Trunk 1.5 hours
 Our middle school version includes recording observations on a data sheet as we proceed through the zones of succession. Activity Guide S/A = 8/1

THE ECOLOGY OF VOLO BOG May—Oct.
 9th—12th indoor/outdoor Trunk 4 hours
 This in-depth, interdisciplinary program utilizes our 24 page activity guide beginning with two required in-school class periods. The guide is then used during the visit for interactive data collection and creative reflection. Extensions explore the students' connections to their local community and beyond. S/A = 10/1

SMALL WONDERS OF... Pack Year
 PK (min. age 4)- 1st indoor/outdoor 45 — 90 min
Choose a Habitat: Wetlands, Woodlands, or Prairie.
 We'll look, listen, touch & smell as we explore connections. Each version has its own hero—Muskrat, Chipmunk or Pollinators, and includes a story, coloring page, song and hike. S/A = 6/1

AQUA SAFARI Trunk May—Sept.
 2nd—6th outdoor 1.5 hours
 This is a get-your-hands-wet exploration of the amazing lives of aquatic animals. Older students discuss diversity of invertebrates as environmental health indicators. S/A = 6/1

A SHOVELFUL OF EARTH May—Sept.
 3rd—6th outdoor 1.5 hours
 The formation & importance of soil is discussed. Then students get face-to-face with the secret inhabitants of the "underworld." Biodiversity is introduced through fun comparative data collection and analysis appropriate to elementary levels. S/A = 6/1

BATTY ABOUT BATS Dec—March
 1st—5th indoor 1.5 hours
 Bats aren't blind! Our bats don't suck your blood—but some do drink it! We'll learn the truth about bats through crafts, games and a video. S/A = 5/1

INSECT SAFARI Trunk June—Sept.
 2nd—6th outdoor 1.5 hours
 Using sweep nets, discover more animals than ever imagined on our "backyard" safari. Learn how insects and spiders differ, some of their survival adaptations and how they fit into our lives. MHSP S/A = 6/1

ANIMAL HOMES Oct.—April
 2nd—5th indoor/outdoor 1.5 hours
 Everybody needs a HOME! Or DO they? Through stories, real home samples and a scavenger hunt or interactive game, students learn the needs of all animals and to distinguish home and habitat. S/A = 6/1

MAMMALS Trunk Nov.—March
 2nd—6th indoor/outdoor 1.5 hours
 What do all mammals—including ourselves—have in common? How are they different from all other animals? Hands-on study skins and outdoor searches introduce Illinois' mammals. Older students are introduced to taxonomy too! MHSP S/A = 6/1

BIRDS Trunk Oct.—April
 2nd—8th outdoor 1.5 hours
 Birds are all around us—visible and familiar!



What makes a bird a bird? How and why do they migrate? What do they need and how can we help them? This program has four interactive stations to explore the world of birds, including how to use binoculars. We'll GO BIRDING! S/A = 6/1

ANIMAL TRACKING Trunk Jan.—Feb.
 2nd—12th indoor/outdoor 1.5 hours
 Learn how different animals walk and how to decode the variety of signs they leave behind. We'll discuss mammal-watching techniques, then go exploring for signs that reveal the secrets of animals' winter lives. MHSP S/A=6/1

OUTDOORS IS FOR EVERYONE! May—Oct.
 K—Adult 1 hour
 Not every disability is visible. While all our programs are adaptable to varying abilities this one makes it its goal! Touch soft fur, make mud art, leaf rubbings, and animal tracks. Plant a seed for pollinators and experience grasses taller than you! MHSP S/A=2/1

WEB-O-LIFE Trunk May—Oct.
 3rd—6th indoor/outdoor 1.5 hours
 Web-o-Life explores communities: first our hometown, next a natural outdoor community, and finally a pictorial wetland. We explore food chains and energy webs through hands-on exploration to discover the interrelationships and interdependencies of all members in a community. Final discussion addresses the most powerful animal of all... MHSP S/A = 6/1

ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS Oct.—April
 4th—8th indoor/outdoor 1.5 hours
 We'll compare animals that are similar yet different to explore how each has evolved to be uniquely adapted to their environment. Then, through activities including our *Un-nature Trail* and either our *Hawk & Rabbits* or *Bat and Moths* games, we'll reinforce the concept of animal adaptations. S/A = 7/1

TRAIL OF TWELVE TREES Trunk May—Oct.
 6th—12th outdoor 1.5 hours
 Discover twelve common native tree species, learn their identifying features, wildlife and human uses and lore. Learn how to measure the height of a tree. Older students learn how to use a dichotomous key. Solo reflection time is spent writing and/or drawing then we gather to share thoughts and inspiration with the class. MHSP S/A = 8/1 (minimum 3 adults)

DIPPING INTO ASTRONOMY Year
 4th—6th indoor/outdoor 1.5 hours
 Learn the phases of the moon, how seasons work, the planets in our solar system, and why the sun and stars appear to move across the sky. Finish with an introduction to fun constellations like Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper. All this is explored with members of Lake County Astronomical Society through a fun, interactive approach! S/A = 7/1

TOMORROW'S LEADERS Year
 9th—12th indoor 1.75 hours
 Students assume roles as members of a community to simulate a town meeting with some very important decisions to make concerning their future. This is a high-spirited program which stimulates discussion that often follows the students on the bus back to school and home! S/A = 10/1