



Education Programming

Marion SWCD is proud to offer in-class education, guided outdoor field trips, and program bin check-outs to Marion County residents.

How do I set up a Field Trip? Visit www.marionswcd.net/teacher-resources/ for the Educational Program Request Form and email jenny.ammon@marionswcd.net or call 503.391.9927 ext.334

How do I access CLEAR Grant funding for Field Trips/Projects?:

www.marionswcd.net/funding/#clear Read the grant instructions thoroughly and complete the grant application online and submit the completed application to jenny.ammon@marionswcd.net

How much will this cost? There is no cost for education, program bin check-out or field trips with Marion SWCD.

What subjects do you cover? The list below has our program offerings and our program bin check-out topics. These include pre and post activities as well as lesson plans. Yes, no charge for these!

Programs:

How Did That Get in My Lunchbox? (Grades K-4): This is the story of food. Students will explore the question 'Where does our food come from?'. Grocery store is not the correct answer! This read-aloud book will educate students on how food is produced and how it gets on our plates. Littlegreenthumbs.org provides extension activities for this book which makes the lessons fun and accessible.

Observation Hike (Grades K-4): Students will use all their senses to encounter outdoor habitats. Hands-on observation will lead them to make new discoveries about their connection to nature.

Plants & Trees for Me! (Grades K-4): Learn about the characteristics of plants and trees. Compare different types of plants, learn about their lifecycles and how they make their own food!

Furs & Skulls (Grades K-12): Students will discover how to identify local wildlife species through furs and skulls. Touch the fur of an American beaver, touch North America's only marsupial, and learn about habitat and adaptations of Oregon wildlife through this fun hands-on program.

Powerful Pollinators (Grades K-5): Why are insects important? This program utilizes books, movement, participation to teach students about the importance of insects and their role in the

ecosystem. Students will discover what adaptations insects have to survive, they will learn how some insects communicate, and discover how insects connect the food web.

Geology Rocks! (Grades K-5): Students can really rock during this experiential class! Students will determine characteristics of metamorphic, sedimentary, and igneous rocks. They will understand the rock cycle and discover our bedrock and soil types based upon local geology.

Soil Secrets (Grades K-12): Dig-in to the exciting world of soil! Students can discover the soil horizons, conduct the ribbon test, and uncover the living soil. Students will observe soil samples and use tools to identify living organisms and uncover the secrets in healthy soil.

Birding Basics (Grades K-8): Learn the very basics of being a good bird watcher. Learn how to use binoculars, how to identify local bird species, and how birds fit into the ecosystem.

Native or Noxious? (Grades 4-12): Plants are the foundation in which our ecosystems are built. Students will learn the terms: native, non-native, noxious, invasive. Students will identify 8 invasive species in the valley and discover 3 native species that benefit wildlife and habitat. An interactive game will help students understand how invasive plants can outcompete for resources.

Benthic Macroinvertebrates (Grades 4-12): Learn about aquatic habitats, insect lifecycles, food webs and water quality through hands-on exploration of macroinvertebrates (insects you can see without a microscope). Students will learn to use field guides, understand metamorphosis, link the importance of macros to salmon and other animals, describe water quality indicators and calculate a rating/score for stream health.

What is a Watershed? (Grades 5-12): This is a classroom-based tour of a virtual watershed. Students will learn about stream ecology, water quality and their own connection to a watershed through testing, data sheets, and games.

Salmon Watch (Middle & High School): September only. Four outdoor educational stations: riparian habitat, salmon lifecycle & biology, macroinvertebrates and water testing allow students to participate in the collection of data in a local watershed. Students will contribute to data collecting for chemical parameters for the North Santiam River, test for indicator species of macroinvertebrates, understand the role of riparian habitats, and understand the biology of the amazing salmon.

CONTACT:

Jenny Ammon

Natural Resource Educator

Jenny.ammon@marionswcd.net

503.391.9927 Ext 334