



## Riverside Discovery Center Educational Programs

### Why Riverside Discovery Center?

Riverside Discovery Center is located along South Beltline Highway in Scottsbluff, NE and is home to over 175 animals and around 69 species including lions, tigers, chimpanzees and so much more. Students will have the opportunity to observe and learn about wildlife that they will never have the chance to see in their backyard through hands-on, cross-curriculum and age appropriate programs. All of our programs are geared towards teaching students about wildlife, their habitats and conservation through live animals, biofacts and interactive programs that meet various state standards. Classes can travel to the zoo, or the zoo can come to you for any program.

This booklet will provide you with a list of programs offered by Riverside Discovery Center. Not finding a program to fit your lesson plan? Other topics are available and we can adapt our programs to provide the best learning experience for your students. Programs last 45-60 minutes, but can be adapted to fit your timing schedule and needs.

Please contact Kim, Education Curator, at 308-630-6236 or [kim.miedema@riversidediscoverycenter.org](mailto:kim.miedema@riversidediscoverycenter.org)

### Education animals

The zoo is home to many different species of education animals. We cannot bring a tiger into the classroom, but we do have many different reptiles and mammals that can travel throughout the area. These animals are very familiar with being in front of a classroom, or even being touched by curious students, and are a great and unique way to teach students about the amazing world of animals and the habitats that they live in.

### Some of our educational animals include:

Reptiles: Snakes, bearded dragons, tortoises and more!

Mammals: Ferrets, African pygmy hedgehogs, chinchillas

Amphibians

Birds: Blue and Gold Macaw

Invertebrates



## **K-5<sup>th</sup> grade programs**

### **Body Coverings**

Students will learn about the different ‘coverings’ of animals such as birds, reptiles and mammals. They will find out about how their coverings are perfect for where and how these animals live through hands-on experiences with biofacts, posters and discussions. This program also includes visits from live animals.

Standards met: SC 2.1.1 d, g; 2.3.1 a-d; 2.3.2; 2.3.4; 2.4.2b; 5.1.1 i; 5.1.2a-c; 5.3.1a-b; 5.3.4a. LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4.1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2.

### **Fantastic Feet**

Learn about the amazing world of animals’ feet. How some animals have digging feet while others have feet that are better for swimming and why. What are the different ways that animals move and use their feet? This hands-on program includes biofacts and live animals. Your students are sure to have fabulous time learning about fantastic feet.

Standards met: SC 2.1.1 g; 2.3.1 a-d; 3.2.3; 5.1.1 i; 5.3.1 a, b; 5.3.4a; LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4.1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2.

### **Amazing Amphibians vs. Remarkable Reptiles**

What is the difference between snakes and frogs? Through this program students will have the opportunity to explore the world of reptiles and amphibians through hands-on activities that will teach them about what is unique and the same between these two groups of animals. This program includes live animals.

Standards met: SC 2.1.1 d, f, g; 2.3.1 a-d; 2.4.2 b; 2.3.2 a, b; 2.3.4; 5.1.2 a-c; 5.1.1 i; 5.3.1 a, b; 5.3.2 b; 5.3.3 c, d; 5.3.4; LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4.1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2.

### **The word on birds**

What makes a bird a bird and why are they so unique? Are all birds the same, how are they adapted to their surroundings and how do they fly? During this program student will have the opportunity to explore the amazing world of birds through hands-on activities using biofacts and discussions. You can also include owl pellet dissection in this program for a slight extra fee. This program includes live animals.

Standards met: SC 2.1.1 d, f, g; 2.4.2 b; 2.3.4, 5.1.1 i; 5.3.1 a, b; 5.3.2 b; 5.3.3 c, d; 5.3.4; LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4.1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2.

## Hats off to Bats

Bats are very mysterious creatures that not many people get to see. This program will teach students about bats unique lifestyle including their anatomy, how they hunt, where they live and so much more through hands-on activities

Standards met: S.C. 2.1.1 d, f, g; 2.4.2 b; 2.3.4; 5.1.1 i; 5.3.1 a, b; 5.3.2 b; 5.3.3 c, d; 5.3.4; LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4.1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2.

## Invertebrate – Heard of it?

Welcome to the creepy, crawly world of insects and arachnids. But what makes an insect an insect and how is it different from spiders? Through this interactive and hands-on program students will have the chance to learn about the amazing world of bugs, their adaptations, unique life cycles and especially why insects are so important for people. You'll think twice about stomping on them after this class!



Standards met: S.C. 2.1.1 d, f, g; 2.3.1 a-d; 2.3.2 a, b; 2.3.4; 2.4.2 b, 5.1.1 i; 5.1.2 a-c; 5.3.1 a, b; 5.3.2 b; 5.3.3 b, c; 5.3.4 a; LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4.1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2.

## Mammal Mania

The world is full of mammals, but what makes mammals unique compared to reptiles or amphibians? Are all mammals the same? During this program students will dive into the world of mammals to learn about how different mammals move, how their fur feels, antlers vs. horns, as well as identifying scat and tracks of mammals through hands-on activities. This program includes many different biofacts and live animals.

Standards met: S.C. 2.1.1 d, f, g; 2.3.1 a-d; 2.3.2 a, b; 2.3.4; 2.4.2 b; 5.1.1 i; 5.1.2 a-c; 5.3.1 a, b; 5.3.2 b; 5.3.3 c; 5.3.4 a; LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4.1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2.

## Homes and Habitats

Homes are very important to people, but do animals need them too? Of course! During this program students will learn through biofacts, hands-on activities and from live animals some of the unique homes that animals have and the difference between homes and habitats. Students will learn about what animals need to survive, how they are adapted to their exact home and why it would be difficult for some of them to change locations. Older students will discuss about what we can do to help make sure that we provide these need resources to animals. This program can become a multi-day program with students designing exhibit homes for animals.

Standards met: S.C. 2.1.1 d, f, g; 2.3.1 b, d; 2.4.2 b; 5.1.2 a-c; LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4. 1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2.

## Tales of Scales – All about Reptiles

Reptiles are very unique animals. During this interactive program students will learn about what makes reptiles unique and their adaptations to their exact environments. Students will also learn about the similarities and differences between the different groups of reptiles in the world (such as turtles, snakes and lizards). This program includes the use of biofacts and live animals.



Standards met: S.C: 2.1.1 d, f, g; 2.3.1 a-d; 2.3.2 a, b; 2.3.4; 2.4.2 b; 5.1.1 i; 5.1.2 a –c; 5.3.1 a, b; 5.3.2 b; 5.3.3 c; 5.3.4 a; LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4.1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2.

## K -8<sup>th</sup> grade programs

These programs are focused on habitats: what lives in different areas, how they are adapted to survival in that area as well as why different habitats are important and needed for people needs. They can be geared towards any age group.

### The Rockin’ Rainforest

Explore the world of the rainforest, why they are important, the products we get from them as well as what plants and animals live there. This program is focused on opening students eyes to the amazing world of the rainforest and why they are so important. Program includes biofacts and live animals.

Standards met: S.C: 2.1.1 g; 2.3.1 b, d; 2.3.4; 2.4.2b; 5.1.1 i; 5.1.2; 5.3.1; 5.3.3; 5.3.4; 5.4.2 c; 8.3.3; 8.3.4; 8.4.2 h; LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4.1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2; 6.1.5 a-e; 6.3.1; 6.3.2; 7.1.5 a-e; 7.3.1; 7.3.2; 8.1.5 a-e; 8.3.1; 8.3.2.

### Wonderful Wetlands

Wetlands are very important biomes to both people and animals – but why? Through this hands-on program students will learn about the different kinds of wetlands, what wildlife lives there, what products we use from the wetland as well as why we should protect them. Live animals are included in this program.

Standards met: S.C: 2.1.1 g; 2.3.1 b, d; 2.3.4; 2.4.2; 5.1.1 i; 5.1.2; 5.3.1; 5.3.3; 5.3.4; 5.4.2c; 8.3.3; 8.3.4; 8.4.2 h; LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4.1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2; 6.1.5 a-e; 6.3.1; 6.3.2; 7.1.5 a-e; 7.3.1; 7.3.2; 8.1.5 a-e; 8.3.1; 8.3.2.

## **Our Prairie Home**

Short and long grass prairies, which grow around here, are home to many different animals. They are also very important to people since they provide great agricultural areas. But what impacts do we have on these fragile ecosystems? Through this program students will learn about the animals that call this area home and their unique adaptations to surviving in areas with little water. We will also learn about the vast resources that people use from the prairie.

Standards met: S.C: 2.1.1 g; 2.3.1 b, d; 2.3.4; 2.4.2 b; 5.1.1 i; 5.1.2; 5.3.1; 5.3.3; 5.3.4; 5.4.2c; 8.3.3; 8.3.4; 8.4.2h; LA 1.1.5b,e,d; 1.1.6j; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 2.1.5 b, d; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1.5; 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 4.1.5b; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 5.1.5b; 5.3.1; 5.3.2; 6.1.5 a-e; 6.3.1; 6.3.2; 7.1.5 a-e; 7.3.1; 7.3.2; 8.1.5 a-e; 8.3.1; 8.3.2.

## **6<sup>th</sup> – high school students**

### **Cargo for Conservation**

Many different animals are endangered, or extinct, due to actions by people such as poaching, over hunting and to create different products for people. During this program students will learn about different animals that are endangered and why, the wildlife trade and what its impact is on the environment. Live animals and various objects made from animals are used in this program.

Standards met: S.C. 8.3.3 d-g; 8.3.4 a-c; 8.4.2 h; LA: 6.1.5 a-e; 6.3.1; 6.3.2; 7.1.5 a-e; 7.3.1; 7.3.2; 8.1.5 a-e; 8.3.1; 8.3.2.

### **Career days**

Is your school having a career day? We can come to your class to tell your students what it takes to work within the wildlife/ zoo field including environmental education, zoo keeping and more.

### **Want to come to the zoo?**

Bring your class to the zoo. Go on a self-guided tour and have a class in our education lab. 50% discount on admission for groups.

### **To schedule a program**

To schedule a program contact Kim Miedema, Education Curator, at 308-630-6236 or email her at [kim.miedema@riversidediscoverycenter.org](mailto:kim.miedema@riversidediscoverycenter.org)

Also, please check out our website at:

[www.riversidediscoverycenter.org](http://www.riversidediscoverycenter.org)

## **Cost of programs**

Riverside Discovery Center is a non-profit organization. Much of our budget comes from admission and programs. Therefore, in order to support the education department, we do charge for our programs. If you have any questions or concerns about the prices please contact us.

**Offsite programs:** \$40 / program

Class size limit: 50 students. If there are more than 50 a small extra fee will be charged.  
Mileage will be charged if outside of Gering/Scottsbluff city limits

**Onsite programs:** \$25/ program + admission to the zoo

**Assembly programs:** \$45/ program. These can be for a group of any size and will mostly consist of an "Animal show and tell"

**Year-long 'bundle':** If you are a teacher who has multiple classes and would like us to come and talk to all of your classes we will come up with a discounted price for the classes. Please contact us if you are interested in this.

### **Elementary school bundle:**

If your school would like to schedule 7 programs a year we offer a discounted rate of \$245 (\$35/ program).

### **Animal show and tell**

Are you interested in just having a few education animals visit your classroom or community center? This program usually is 30-40 minutes and costs \$30.

### **Please note:**

Our goal is to provide cost-efficient programs that help connect students to nature and wildlife. If there are concerns about these prices please contact us and so that we can discuss options.

Thank you so much and I look forward to hearing from you!

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"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

- Baba Dioum