



Private Nature Program Guide

Dakota County Parks offers both nature and recreation based outdoor education programming. Most programs are held at Lebanon Hills Regional Park, but many can be conducted at other Dakota County Parks. Unless otherwise stated, all programs available for all ages and group types. Please see our webpage for more information about what’s included, pricing, and registration – [Private Nature Programs](#). Recreation programs with a star (*) may incur an additional \$50 equipment usage fee. Scout programs/badges cover most to all the requirements, but may need extra work pre- or post-visit, or are seasonally dependent. Cost does not include physical badges/patches.

Nature Program Option	Themes/Topics
Guided Hike	Birds/birding, Bison at Spring Lake Park Reserve, Habitats- Prairies, Lakes and Forests, Insect Investigations, Native Plants, Night Hike, Restoration Ecology, Trees, Wildflowers, or work with Outdoor Education staff to develop a program for your group.
Naturalist Presentation	Birds/birding, Bison at Spring Lake Park Reserve, Habitats- Prairies, Lakes and Forests, Insect Investigations, Native Plants, Night Hike, Restoration Ecology, Trees, Wildflowers, or work with Outdoor Education staff to develop a program for your group. A presentation will involve little to no hiking.
Science Inquiry or Homeschool	Any of the topics listed above or check our School Nature Program Guide for classes and related science standards.
Recreation Program	See list and options in the table below.
Scout Badges	See list and options in the table below.

Recreation Program Topic	Description	Parks Offered	Months Offered
Archery*	Draw, aim, release! Learn the basics of archery and work on your skills during this introductory class. This program requires 3 hours and is led by NASP certified instructors.	Spring Lake Park Reserve	April-October
Canoeing*	Experience the quiet glide of the paddle through the water as you learn and practice basic canoe skills.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park	May-October
Cross-Country Skiing*	Learn the history of cross-country skiing, equipment, and technique, then hit the trails to practice your skills	Lebanon Hills Regional Park	January-March (snow conditions permitting)
Geocaching	Learn the basics of GPS navigation then head out to find up to five caches to solve a puzzle.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park Thompson County Park Whitetail Woods Regional Park	All Year
Snowshoeing*	Compare traditional and modern snowshoe technology by looking at different materials and designs of snowshoes over time. Hit the trail to find out if they really keep you above the snow!	Lebanon Hills Regional Park Whitetail Woods Regional Park Thompson County Park Spring Lake Park Reserve	December – March (snow conditions permitting)

Scout Level	Badges
Daisy Girl Scout	Clover Petal, Rosie Petal, Buddy Camper, Design with Nature, Eco Learner, Numbers in Nature, Outdoor Art Maker, Trail Adventure, Shapes in Nature, Snow Adventure
Brownie Girl Scout	Bugs, Eco Friend, Hiker, Shapes in Nature, Snow Adventure, Trail Adventure
Junior Girl Scout	Animal Habitats, Design with Nature, Eco Camper, Geocacher, Numbers in Nature, Shapes in Nature
Cadette Girl Scout	Archery*, Night Owl, Trees
Tiger Scout BSA	My Tiger Jungle, Tigers in the Wild
Wolf Scout BSA	Paws on the Path, Finding Your Way
Bear Scout BSA	Fur, Feathers and Ferns
Webelos Scout BSA	Earth Rocks, Into the Wild, Into the Woods

Contact us

For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/> - Private Nature Programs or contact us at 651.554.6534.