

Nearby Nature Field Trips and Oregon 2nd Grade Science Standards



Below is a list of Nearby Nature field trips that address current science standards for your grade level. The referenced standards, quoted from the Oregon Department of Education website, are listed after our program descriptions.

Nature Detectives Walks: On these morning nature walks, kids will use all of their nature-detecting senses and observation skills to explore Alton Baker Park. We'll look for signs that plants and animals are waking up for spring or getting ready for winter. We'll learn about whatever fascinating discoveries your students make and try to solve whatever mysteries inspire their curiosity.

- **Nature Detectives** walks give students the opportunity to observe a variety of plants and animals in their natural settings (LS4.D). Guides help students understand how the structures of plants and animals are related to their functions (2-LS2-2). Plants' needs are discussed and students see how plants use various strategies to move their seeds around in the fall and depend on animals for pollination in the spring (LS2.A). As students walk near the Willamette River, the kids look for clues that show how the course of the river has changed over time (ESS1.C) and how the power of water has shaped the land (ESS2.A).

Critter Quest Walks: On these morning nature walks, kids will spend half of their time using pond dipping nets to look for aquatic critters and half of their time on a wildlife-themed nature walk in Alton Baker Park. Life cycles, adaptations, and camouflage are some of the topics that will be addressed.

- **Critter Quest** walks allow students to focus on the diversity of life within Alton Baker Park as they search in the ponds and on the land for various critters. Walks also include observations of the plant life found in the park (LS4.D). Our guides will address the "cross cutting concept" of structure and function in this program as they engage students in discussions of plant and animal adaptations (2-LS2-2).

River Quest Walks: On these morning water-themed walks, kids will visit the Willamette River to see the water cycle in action, learn about local watersheds, and check out riparian plants and animals. They will also talk about the relationship between people and rivers.

- **River Quest** walks address many science standards as students visit the ponds, river, and canal at Alton Baker Park. They will observe diverse plant and animal life both in and around the water (LSD.4), do the water cycle boogie (act out the water cycle), and discuss the river's journey to the ocean (ESS2.C). Walking by the river, they'll observe evidence of water's impact on land (ESS2.A) and discuss the clues that tell us the Willamette River has changed its course over time (ESS1.C).

Referenced Oregon Department of Education 2nd Grade Science Standards:

2-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

- Plants depend on water and light to grow. (2-LS2-1)
- Plants depend on animals for pollination or to move their seeds around. (2-LS2-2)

Cross cutting concepts

Structure and Function

- The shape and stability of structures of natural and designed objects are related to their function(s). (2-LS2-2)

2-LS4 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy and Dynamics

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans

- There are many different kinds of living things in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water. (2-LS4-1)

2-ESS1 Earth's Place in the Universe

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

ESS1.C: The History of Planet Earth

- Some events happen very quickly; others occur very slowly, over a time period much longer than one can observe. (2-ESS1-1)

2-ESS2 Earth's Systems

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems

- Wind and water can change the shape of the land. (2-ESS2-1)

ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes

- Water is found in the ocean, rivers, lakes, and ponds. Water exists as solid ice and in liquid form. (2-ESS2-3)

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