

**What is Texture?** - The way something feels is called texture. Let's look around to see what textures we can find in the natural world. (assorted items to examine using our senses)

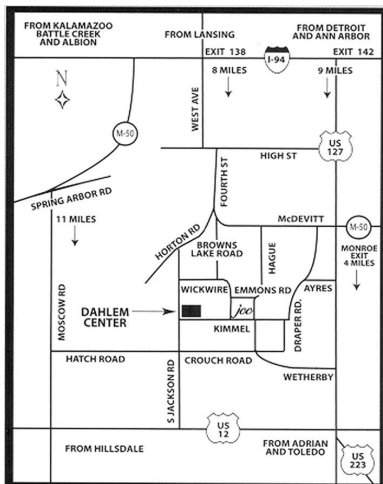
**Where are the Night Animals?** - While people dream of daytime things, the nighttime world awakens. Who are these nocturnal animals and what are they doing? (discuss animal behavior and needs, food, home, and feel real furs)

### Grants for Programs and Transportation

Do you need financial assistance? Check out these opportunities online for information and applications.

- **Wheels to Woods** (transportation) [www.treefarmssystem.org/wheels-to-woods](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/wheels-to-woods) provides funding to PreK-12 schools and other youth groups to pay for transportation costs for an educational field trip to a nearby forest or forest products company.
- **Michigan Nature Association** (program/transportation) [www.michigannature.org/menus/education.html](http://www.michigannature.org/menus/education.html) provides funds for program fees, transportation and educational supplies
- **Dahlem Conservancy** (program/transportation) [www.dahlemcenter.org/school-programs/](http://www.dahlemcenter.org/school-programs/)

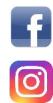
We'll have a great experience on the trails investigating the natural wonders that surround us or learn about the wondrous and surprising aspects of the natural world in your classroom setting.



Sept. 2025



7117 S. Jackson Rd.  
Jackson, MI 49201  
Ph. 517-782-3453  
DahlemCenter.org



Just 15 minutes from downtown Jackson!



## Our Youngest Naturalist Program Schedule 2025-2026

Intended for ages 5 years and younger  
Preschool and Daycare Groups



7117 S. Jackson Rd., Jackson MI 49201  
517-782-3453 | DahlemCenter.org

## Our Youngest Naturalist Programs

Share your love of nature with your preschool-aged students. We will explore and play with nature while developing critical early childhood skills and growing self-confidence. Our Youngest Naturalist Programs are appropriate for children 5 years and younger to learn about our changing seasons, animal homes, local birds, insects and mini beasts, winter survival, and more. These themed programs give your class many opportunities for us to share nature with you.

**To Register:** call 517-782-3453, ext. 106 Carrie Benham, Naturalist Educator between 9:00 am-4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Or send an email to [cbenham@dahlemcenter.org](mailto:cbenham@dahlemcenter.org).

**Programs Offered:** Monday - Friday between 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

**Fee:** \$5 per child and chaperone (\$50 minimum/program); teachers admitted free of charge. Fees are payable on the day of the program. Cancellations made less than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled program are subject to a \$50 charge. Outreach programs beyond Jackson Co. are subject to a mileage fee

### Before you Call:

Check your school calendar and be prepared to provide the following information;

- Program title/theme
- Date and time (am or pm), provide a 1st and 2nd choice date
- Number of students and adults (staff & chaperones)
- School name, address, and phone number
- Participating teacher's names

## ON SITE PROGRAMS — at Dahlem

On Site programs are 1 1/4 hour in length.

**Signs of Fall** - Listen! Watch! Touch! Smell! Discover the world around you as summer slowly turns into winter. Fall is a season of harvest for animals. How many signs can you find in nature? We'll take a guided trail walk to explore and investigate the signs of fall.

**Signs of Spring** - Discover the wonders of a world awakening to spring! Use all of your senses to experience the changing environment around us. See the shapes and colors, feel the textures, and smell the fragrances of the spring season. We'll take a guided trail walk to explore and investigate the signs of spring.

**The Adventures of Maple Sugaring** (February-March) - Learn the process of collecting maple sap and turning it into tasty sticky liquid gold (syrup!) at the sugar shack. Fun hands-on educational stations held in- and outdoors.

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS — in your classroom

Let us bring nature programs to you and your students. Programs include a story time, discussions, and the opportunity to see and feel natural items, such as real animal furs, feathers, turtle shells, and so much more! Outreach programs are 20-30 minutes in length and are offered in September through May.

**All About Turtles** - Have you ever wondered about turtles, how many kinds there are, why they have shells, where they live and what they eat? (assorted turtle shells, skeleton, pictures)

**Big Tracks Little Tracks** - Animal tracks can tell us who they are, what they're doing and where they're headed. Let's step in to investigate paw, hoof, claws, toes and pads, etc. (furs, tracks)

**Birds, Our Feathered Friends** - What is unique about birds, and what do their characteristics tell us about their life? (bird feathers, nests, assorted bird stuffies to examine beaks, feet, color, and discuss where we would find these birds, etc.)

**How Animals Survive in Winter** - What are some actions nature takes and why to survive winter? We will learn about hibernation, migration and adaptation. Find out how animals cope with winter's worst weather. (furs, stuffies/puppets, other items to investigate)

**The Living Tree House** - Nature is full of hidden clues about the animals that live in trees. You may not know where to look or what to look for but animal clues are everywhere. (furs, feathers, cocoons, galls, insects, and more, engage in discussion.)

**The Mitten** - What if you lost your warm knit mitten on a wintery snow day, it becomes the main attraction to an assortment of curious mammals. (real furs, puppets, mitten, and discussion about the animals)

**Tree-fic Seasons** - trees are a great seasonal indicator. Winter branches soon have spring buds that grow into full lush leaves then they change to brightly colored fall leaves. (Season Wheel, an assortment of natural items, stuffies, leaves and more!)