Registration Information

To Register: Call **517-782-3453 ext. 106**
9:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

When: Programs are offered Monday through Friday, on-site and outreach during regular school hours.

Fee: $8 per student and chaperone ($60 minimum per program). Two classes (60 students) maximum per time slot for Field Trips and Outreach Programs. Teachers are admitted at no charge.

Fees are due on the day of the Program. Acceptable method of payment is cash, credit/debit card, check or make arrangements to be invoiced. Cancellations made less than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled program are subject to the $60 minimum charge.

Grants for Programs and Transportation:

Information and Applications
Sustainable Forestry Initiative - Wheels to Woods (transportation) www.sfimi.org/wheels-to-woods

Michigan Nature Association (program/transportation) www.michigannature.org/menus/apply-for-a-grant.html. Fall field trip application due Sept. 13, 2026 and Spring field trip application due Dec. 11, 2026.

Meemic Foundation (programs/projects) www.meemic.com/the-meemic-foundation/grant-opportunities.aspx

Dahlem (programs/transportation) dahlemcenter.org/school-programs/

Before You Call:

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

- Program title/theme
- On-site at Dahlem or Outreach in your building
- Date and Time (am or pm), plus alternatives
- Grade level and number of classes and students
- School name, address, and phone number
- Names of all participating teachers and their email addresses

Thank you for selecting Dahlem as your outdoor science based educational experience. We look forward to partnering with you and your students.

Contact Information

DAHLEM CONSERVANCY

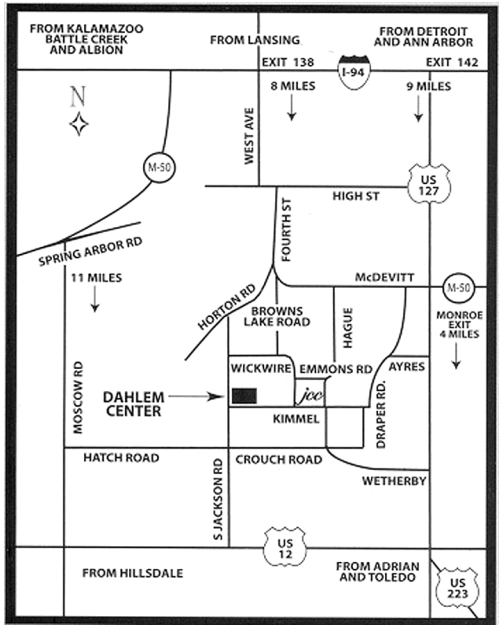
Dahlem Center & Nutshell Gift Shop

7117 S. Jackson Rd.
Jackson, MI 49201
Tele. 517-782-3453 Fax 517-782-3441
DahlemCenter.org

Exhibit Room and Gift Shop Hours:

Tuesday - Friday	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday - Sunday	Closed
Monday	By Appointment

Trails & Natural Playscape open daily dawn to dusk



Save the Date...
October 23 & 24, 2026 ***Goblin Walks****; A Not-So-Scary Halloween* event for all ages. For additional programs & events, please visit our website at **DahlemCenter.org**

Dahlem
Jackson's Nature Place

7117 S. Jackson Rd., Jackson MI 49201
DahlemCenter.org

Fall 2026

Environmental Education Programs-Lessons for Kindergarten through 6th grade

100% STEM/STEAM Appropriate

100% NGSS Compliant

100% Natural

All programs are aligned to the Michigan Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards, and STEM

The Dahlem Environmental Education Center offers five miles of scenic trails through prairies, forests, marshes, and ponds. The Center is also home to an assortment of native Michigan animals, educational exhibits, and a wildlife viewing window.

Dahlem Center Programs

Come visit us at the Center!

Signs of Fall

Kindergarten (1 1/4 hour)
Sept. to Nov.

Listen! Watch! Touch! Smell! Discover the world around you as summer slowly turns into winter. Let's go out and explore using our senses!
Standards: K.LS1.C K.LS1.1 K.ESS3.1 K.ESS2.2

Nature Prepares for Winter

Kindergarten & Grade 1
(1 1/2 hour) Sept. to Nov.

People prepare for the chilly weather, and so do plants and animals. Learn how seeds, fur, evergreen needles, underground homes, and "antifreeze" help nature's creatures survive the winter. Standards: K.LS1.C K.ESS2.1 1.LS1.A 1.LS1.1 1.LS3.1 2.ESS1.B 2.ESS1.C

Mini-beasts & Insects

Grades 1, 2 & 3 (2 hours)
Sept. to Oct.

Fall is a great season to study mini-beasts and insects, because they are everywhere! What are some differences between them, their jobs (good & not-so-good), life cycles, and how they survive. After a short presentation, take a guided discovery walk to investigate their living spaces in different habitats, at the bug field use sweep nets to capture insects on the wing, and then study them to observe insect adaptations and family ID. A great program to be 'bugged' in a good way! Standards: K-LS1.1 K-ESS3.1 1.LS1.1 1.LS1.2 1.LS3.1 2.LS2.1 2.LS2.2 2.LS4.1 3.LS2.1 3.LS4.3 3.LS1.1 3.LS3.1

Animal Homes & Habitats

Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4 (2 hours)
Sept. to Nov.

Where do animals live and why do they live there? Explore the habitats of many local wildlife species. Find out how their homes and habitats serve their needs and help them survive. Students participate in a predator-prey game and take an exploration hike. Standards: 1.LS1.A 2.LS2.C 3.LS1.1 3.LS2.1 3.LS4.2 3.LS4.3 3.LS2.C 3.LS4.4 4.LS1.1 4.LS1.2

Aquatic Pond Studies

Grades 3-6 (1.5 hours)
Spring & Fall

All life depends on clean water. A study of the biota at an aquatic ecosystem can be used to determine water quality. In this program, students sample for aquatic life at both a pond and a stream. Identification of living organisms (plants as well as animals) sampled at each site leads to a discussion on the quality of the water at Dahlem.
Standards: 3.LS1.1 3.LS2.1 3.LS3.1 3.LS4.2 3.LS4.3 3.LS.3.A & B 3.LS4.4 3.LS4.C & D 4.LS1.2 5.LS2.A

Annie's BIG Nature Lesson

Grades 2-6
(5 consecutive days during school hours)

ABNL is an environmental education program that brings children, parents, and teachers into the natural world for learning. This five consecutive day study trip is conducted at community nature centers and invites participants to immerse themselves in exploration of different habitats, learn with experts on site, observe and write for an hour each day, and make a positive difference through stewardship projects. Teacher and Naturalist Educator co-teach.

Teachers must attend a one day training session in the Fall/Winter in order to register their class for Annie's BIG Nature Lesson at a local participating nature center. Fee per class of up to 30 students; $400/week. Each additional student is $6/week.
Standards: science processes, physical, life, and earth sciences.

Bird Beaks and Bird Adaptations

Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4 (2 hours)

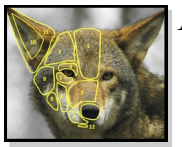
Learn about bird adaptations, beaks, feet, feathers, and how to identify field marks during an interactive hands-on STEM lab activities and trail walk.
Standards: 1.LS1.1 1.LS1.D 3.LS2.1 3.LS4.B 1.LS1.1 1.LS1.D 3.LS2.1 3.LS4.B 4.LS1-1 4.LS1-2

School Outreach or On-site at Dahlem Programs

Skulls, Scats, & Tracks

Michigan Mammals
Grades 1-5, 1.5 hours program offered year round
(year-round)

Students see and touch Michigan mammal skins and skulls, explore mammal classification, adaptations, and predator/prey relationships. Students also investigate animal signs such as scats and tracks that they can search for in their own backyards. STEM hands-on activity. Standards: 1.LSS1.A 2.LS3.1 2.LS4.1 3.LS3.A & B, 3.LS4.C & D 4.LS1.2 5.LS2.A



How to Build an Animal

Animal Adaptations
Grades 1-5, 1.5 hours program offered year round
(year-round)

How do beavers build their dams? Are all bird feathers and feet the same? Do frogs swallow using their eyes? Students explore the fascinating array of animal adaptations and learn how each characteristic helps the specie survive. STEM hands-on activity. Standards: 1.LSS1.A 1.LS3.1 2.LS4.1 3.LS3.A & B, 3.LS4.C & D 4.LS1.2 5.LS2.A

These programs can be adapted to other grade levels and tailored to your needs. Just let us know what you would like and we will work together. Other programs can be developed for additional fee if our educator is available.