

K-5 “Animals of the Rogue Valley” Program Description

Spring 2010

OVERVIEW: This is the fourth in a 6-program series geared toward the hands-on teaching of local natural and cultural history. In this program, students will have an opportunity to learn about a variety of domestic animals as they interact with chicken, dogs, and sheep here at the park. They will also learn about the needs and habitats of many of the wild animals that live in and around the Rogue Valley as they study their behavior and learn how scientists monitor and protect them. All programs take place outdoors at North Mountain Park.

OBJECTIVES:

- To foster a “sense of place”
- To foster an appreciation of, and respect for, nature
- To model a variety of ways that students can enjoy being outdoors
- To provide examples of how people’s actions and behaviors affect the natural environment and the people living there
- To model a variety of ways that students can participate in local stewardship

K – 3RD GRADE ACTIVITIES:

Animal Homes: After hearing a Native American tale that teaches the function of spots on a fawn, the children will learn about the different types of homes used by a variety of animals. They will then role-play being the parent of one of those animals.

Science

- S.12L.1 Describe the basic needs of living things.
S.2.2L.1 Describe life cycles of living things.
S.3.1L.1 Compare and contrast the characteristics of offspring and parents.

Caring for Domestic Animals: After discussing the difference between a wild and a domestic animal, students will be able to see a real working dog and learn how to care for it. They will then learn how to care for sheep, cows and chickens as they role play caring for these animals. Finally, they will have an opportunity to share about their favorite pet and how they do (or would) care for it at home.

Science

- S.1.2L.1 Describe the basic needs of living things.

Social Science

- SS.03.CG.03 Identify ways that people can participate in their communities and the responsibilities of participation

Activity Three: This activity will focus on teaching students some of the basic needs of the wild animals that live in our area and will show students how they can help the animals to have a healthy habitat.

Science: To be determined

3RD - 5TH GRADE ACTIVITIES:

Wild Animal Totems: Students will gather as a band of Shasta Indians and evaluate the surrounding landscape looking for signs of animals and their homes. They will learn about one animal specifically (their totem) - its track, scat, sign, physical characteristic, food and water sources, and its home. After observation and exploration time, they will hold a council meeting to discuss their findings.

Science

S.4.2L.1 Describe the interactions of organisms and the environment where they live

S.5.2L.1 Explain the interdependence of plants, animals, and environment, and how adaptation influences survival

Living with Domestic Animals: After hearing a story about the way dogs became domesticated, students will tour the Nature Center exhibits. They will learn about six other domestic animals along with the products and services they provide. At the barn, they will card wool, work leather, gather eggs and pretend to shoe horses and milk a cow. Students will learn about the responsibility people have when caring for domestic animals and the differences between wild and domestic pets.

Social Science

SS.05.GE.07.01 Understand how and why people alter the physical environment

SS.05.GE.07.02 Describe how human activity can impact the environment

Activity Three: This activity will focus on teaching students some of the basic needs of the wild animals that live in our area and will show students how they can help monitor these animals and help the animals to have a healthy habitat.

Science: To be determined