

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District  
Environmental Education Programs  
2017-2018

# Cultivate Awe.\*

\*And create conservationists.

Environmental Programs  
for all ages  
Summer Camps  
Field Trips  
Competitions

THE PAPIO-MISSOURI NRD:

## Your Partner in Environmental Education.

We teach environmental conservation to youth so *they* will practice it in the future.

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District is one of 23 Natural Resource Districts in the state, and serves residents of Nebraska in counties that border the Missouri River, from Sarpy north to Dakota County. Our popular recreation areas and reservoirs at Chalco Hills, Prairie Queen, Walnut Creek, Danish Alps, and Prairie View—results of our important flood control projects—are enjoyed by many year-round. Equally significant are our many wildlife habitat restoration projects along the Missouri River.

All of these projects provide rich educational opportunities for schools, families, teachers, and youth groups in Douglas, Sarpy, Thurston, Burt, Dakota, and Washington Counties.

Chalco Hills Recreation Area and its Wehrspann Lake at the NRD's main office site allow valuable hands-on, close-up interaction with nature in progress.

### Teachers love us.

Programs are developed by professional environmental educators and are individually tailored to students K through 12. Many programs are designed to accommodate your schedule and your choice of our site or yours. Choose among:

- Environmental Programs and Presentations*
- Environmental Summer Camps*
- Envirothon Competition*
- WaterWorks Field Days*
- Seeds and Trees*

And to help make things happen, we offer several scholarships and grants, as well as a free lending library of resources, all of which are detailed here.

The NRD is an active member of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI), and North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), and the Nebraska Alliance of Conservation and Environmental Education (NACEE).

*Since 1972, your NRD has been providing educational opportunities for District residents. Each year we engage more than 10,000 youth with nature.*

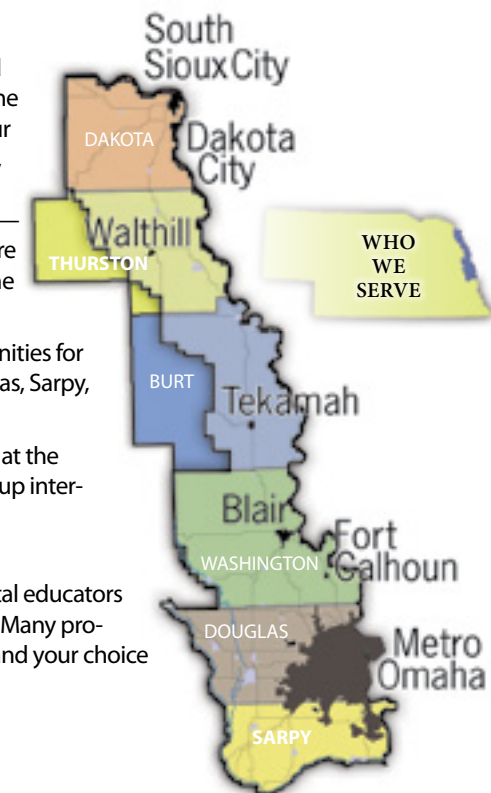
**Many return again and again.**

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

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[www.papionrd.org](http://www.papionrd.org)





# Environmental Programs & Presentations 2017–2018

Arrange a special presentation for your class, either at your site or as a field trip to ours. Some programs are available year-round, others are season-specific or offered on a limited basis. *All programs are free of charge.*

Decide upon your date, and select from the wide range of topics below. *Our programs are very popular, and often book up to 3 months in advance. Contact us now to schedule programs for Fall and Spring 2017–2018.*

**Ages:** K-12, per specific program  
**When:** During normal school hours or as scheduled.  
**Where:** Your school, Chalco Hills Recreation Area, or a location specified by presenter  
**Lead time:** 8 weeks  
**Reservations:** Call or email with your requested topic and date.  
**Contact:** Christine Jacobsen at [cjacobsen@papiornrd.org](mailto:cjacobsen@papiornrd.org) or 402-315-1713.

## Scaled Tails

Scaled animals come in all shapes and sizes. Did you know, before snakes were feared...they were worshipped? And what makes a lizard...a lizard? Learn about these interesting ectotherms, with help from our animal educators and some special Nebraska residents.

## Environmental History

Since the first people crossed into what is now Nebraska, humans have relied on our state's natural resources to survive. Learn how various peoples shaped our environment and, in turn, were shaped by it.

## Wildlife Wonders

### Animal Tracks, Pelts, and Skulls

Explore the life history of common Nebraska mammals. Through the hands-on use of pelts, skulls, and tracks, kids will acquire a better understanding of how these animals live.

## The Nature of Water

### Erosion, Surface Water, and Groundwater

With the use of interactive models, students get a better grasp on hydrology and water issues facing this essential resource.

## Wetlands and Macro Invertebrates

Let's get our hands a little dirty as we investigate a wetland up close. Using sampling equipment, students will dip for macroinvertebrates to get a better understanding of the health of area ponds and lakes.

## Animal Adaptations

Through various educational animals, students will learn about some unique adaptations that allow these animals to survive.

## Tree Planting

Discover what a tree needs to survive, as well as how trees help us to do the same. Get your own tree to take home and plant and continue the Nebraska tradition of Arbor Day—see *Seeds and Trees* below.

## Recycle Relay

Conservation, natural resources, and recycling are all topics of the day! Learn what makes something a natural resource, decide what common household waste is recyclable, and find out how to determine water quality.

## Analyze Your River

Let us bring the water to your classroom! Students will collect, sort, classify, identify, analyze, and evaluate a sample of ordinary materials representing aquatic macroinvertebrates.

## Incredible Insects

Insects are mysterious and often misunderstood. With the aid of live insects, we will explore the wonderful world of six-legged animals.

## Owls: Taloned Teachers

With the aid of feathered teachers, students will learn about predator/prey relationships, adaptations and owl pellets, providing students and teachers with an up close view of raptors that many never get the opportunity to see.

## Geocaching

This high-tech program combines technology with the natural world. Using GPS devices to find "hidden treasure" at an area park (or your school grounds), students will gain experience with GPS technology.

*Custom programs available with advance notice.  
Please contact us with your request.*



Invertebrates are fascinating!  
These 4- and 5-year-old  
day campers are clearly  
captivated.



Six-lined racerunner

ONE DOES NOT MEET  
HIMSELF  
UNTIL ONE CATCHES THE REFLECTION  
FROM AN EYE  
OTHER THAN HUMAN . . ."

Loren Eiseley

## Seeds and Trees

Trees and seeds are available at no cost for your classroom or youth group upon request. Every year the Papio-Missouri River NRD gives away thousands of trees and wildflower seed packets. The trees are small seedlings and the flowers are a wildflower mix. The seedlings will be distributed in mid-April, in time for Arbor Day and Earth Day festivities.

*Consider combining your order with our Tree Planting Program above!*

**To order:** Email Austen in January to place your order.

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Austen Hill at [ahill@papiornrd.org](mailto:ahill@papiornrd.org)

# Envirothon Competition

## (Metro Regional Envirothon)

*Envirothon* is a competition for teams of five high school students. The teams compete on seven different environmentally-themed tests, including aquatics, forestry, policy, range, soils, wildlife, and current environmental topics.

All teams that compete receive a \$200 grant to be used towards environmental projects at their school. Schools can send multiple teams.

Teams compete at the Metro Regional, and the winning team moves on to the Nebraska State Envirothon. The winning team from the State Envirothon moves on to the National competition.

A *Study/Reference Guide* is available through the link below, under *Resources*.

**Ages:** High School  
**When:** Tuesday, February 27, 2018  
10:30am or 4:00pm competition time  
**Where:** Chalco Hills Recreation Area  
**Cost:** Free  
**To register:** Contact Christine Jacobsen with team names  
**Contact:** [cjacobsen@papionrd.org](mailto:cjacobsen@papionrd.org) or 402-315-1713  
**More info:** <https://www.papionrd.org/education/envirothon/>



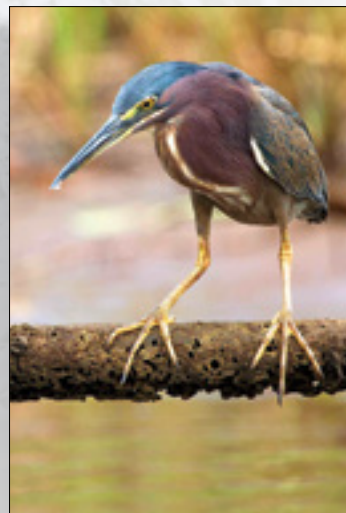
# Water Works Field Days

Fifth-graders in Sarpy and Douglas County can attend one of our Water Works Field Days, May 1 or 2, 2018. Classes attending will participate in six water-related sessions throughout the day, learning about everything from pollution, to drinking water, to water recreation and the great outdoors. The sessions are taught by experts in the field from a variety of agencies.

Teachers must apply on-line at [www.papionrd.org](http://www.papionrd.org) on the [Water Works](#) page, and each 5th grade class from the school must register. Classes are selected by school, but rotate separately at the event.

**Ages:** 5th Grade  
**When:** May 1 or 2, 2018, all day  
**Where:** Schramm Park  
**Cost:** \$2 per student, day of event  
**To apply:** Register at <https://www.papionrd.org/education/water-works/water-works-online-registration/> from January 1–February 14. *Attendance is limited.* Each class wishing to attend must register individually.  
**Contact:** Christine Jacobsen, [cjacobsen@papionrd.org](mailto:cjacobsen@papionrd.org) or call 402-315-1713.  
**More info:** [www.papionrd.org/educational-resources/water-works](http://www.papionrd.org/educational-resources/water-works)

A green heron intently scans a wetland in search of the next meal.



Images: (Right) Green heron ©Martha de Jong-Lantink, CC by 2.0.  
On the cover: Sunflowers ©Delphine Menard, CC by 2.0.  
Intro: Bee on Joe Pyeweed ©Nancy Hawekotte.  
All others ©Papio-Missouri River NRD.  
Illustration of Six-lined racerunner ©Jacqueline Mahannah.

# Summer Camps

Looking for some summer fun? Take advantage of the season—the NRD’s Nature Camps have something for all! Camps are all led by natural resources professionals and licensed teachers, and are held during June and July. Camps include meals where appropriate.

- Backyard Explorers** Pre-K, ages 4–5.  
Camp will focus on discovering the wonders of nature with activities based in play.  
When: June 4–8, 2018 9am–Noon  
Cost: \$85/camper for the week-long session.
- Discovering Nature** Ages 6–8.  
Camp gets deep into exploring nature and the great outdoors while focusing on the senses, gardening, wildlife, and camping.  
When: June 25–29, 2018 9am–2pm  
Cost: \$100/camper for the week.
- Boys’ Challenge** Ages: 9–14  
Campers will sharpen outdoor skills while totally immersed in nature in this outdoor camp. Team building skills, dutch oven cooking, water exploration, and camping are all topics the boys will explore.  
When: July 11–13, 2018 9am–3pm  
Cost: \$95/camper for the 3-day session.
- Girls’ Adventure** Ages 9–14.  
Camp focuses on land, campfire cooking, water, native flora and fauna, and skill exploration. Girls will spend time out on the lake, geocaching, and setting up camp.  
When: July 25–27, 2018 9am–3pm  
Cost: \$95/camper for the 3-day session.
- Schedule:** June through July, 2018; check specific dates above.  
**Location:** Chalco Hills Recreation Area  
**Register:** From February 1–28  
**Contact:** Christine Jacobsen at [cjacobsen@papionrd.org](mailto:cjacobsen@papionrd.org) or 402-315-1713.  
**More Info:** <https://www.papionrd.org/education/kids-camps-at-chalco-hills/>

Backyard Explorers Summer Campers with viewing jars display their finds.





## Resources, Scholarships & Grants

### Media Resources

The Papio-Missouri River NRD has materials available for online and onsite check-out by teachers and students. We have a wealth of books and videos on natural resource topics, including starting an outdoor classroom, composting, trees, and wildlife.

Checkout online: <http://www.papionrd.org/educational-resources/kids-activities>

Cost: Free

Location: Chalco Hills Recreation Area

### Scholarships

Available to teachers attending a class or training on a natural resources topic. Awarded throughout the year.

Amount available: \$250 per fiscal year (July 1–June 30)

Application: <https://www.papionrd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/environmentalEducationTeacherScholarship.pdf>

### Outdoor Classroom Grants

Outdoor classrooms grants can apply to a range of projects, such as butterfly gardens, prairie grass plantings, ponds, vegetable gardens, arboretum trails and many other ideas. Our Outdoor Classroom Guide packets are available free of charge to get you started. Examples of completed projects can be found throughout the District and are used to teach math, science, language arts and many other curriculum standards.

Amount available: \$1000 per fiscal year

Application: <https://www.papionrd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Application.pdf>

### Mini Grants

Apply for a mini-grant to work on some fun environmental science projects in your classroom. Have all your grade level teachers apply and receive \$50 per classroom to go towards your project.

Amount available: \$50 per fiscal year, per teacher

Application: <https://www.papionrd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Mini-Classroom.pdf>

**Contact:** Christine Jacobsen at [cjacobsen@papionrd.org](mailto:cjacobsen@papionrd.org) or 402-315-1713.

**More info:** <https://www.papionrd.org/education/outdoor-classrooms/>

Third through 5th graders learn about water quality and erosion.



## Mark your Calendar.

January

Jan–Feb

February 1–28

February 14

February 27

April 21

April 27

May 1–2

June 4–8

June 25–29

July 11–13

July 25–27

September 8

Year-round

Place **Seeds & Trees** order

Book **Environmental Programs** for spring and fall

Register for **Summer Camps**

Deadline to register for **Water Works Field Day Envirothon**

Earth Day Omaha

Arbor Day

**Water Works Field Days**

**Backyard Explorers Summer Camp**

**Discovering Nature Summer Camp**

**Boys' Challenge Summer Camp**

**Girls' Adventure Summer Camp**

**World of Water Festival**

Apply for Educational **Scholarships and Grants**

[www.papionrd.org](http://www.papionrd.org)



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Natural Resources District



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The Papio-Missouri River  
Natural Resources District  
is an equal-opportunity  
employer and educator.