



# CULTIVATE AWE

PAPIO MISSOURI RIVER NRD:  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

2024-2025

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

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District is one of Nebraska's 23 Natural Resource Districts, and serves residents within a six-county area. Our popular recreation areas and reservoirs at Chalco Hills, Danish Alps, and Prairie View - results of our important flood mitigation projects - are enjoyed by many year-round. Equally significant are our many wildlife habitat restoration projects along the Missouri River.

All Papio NRD programs provide rich educational opportunities for schools, families, teachers, and youth groups in Douglas, Sarpy, Washington, Thurston, Burt, and Dakota counties. Since 1972, the Papio NRD has been providing educational opportunities for District residents. Each year we engage 10,000 youth with nature.



## SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

**Outdoor Classroom Grants:** Outdoor classroom grants can apply to a range of projects, such as butterfly gardens, prairie grass plantings, gardens, trails, and more. Visit our website for more information.  
*Amount Available:* \$1000 per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).

**Mini Grants:** Apply for a mini-grant to work on some fun environmental science projects in your classroom.  
*Amount Available:* \$150 per fiscal year, per teacher.

**Scholarships:** Scholarships are available and awarded throughout the year to teachers attending a class or training on a natural resources topic.  
*Amount Available:* \$500 per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).

**Contact:** Kaylyn Kelley at [kkelley@papionrd.org](mailto:kkelley@papionrd.org)



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PAPIO  
MISSOURI RIVER  
NRD



# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS

Schedule a natural resource focused presentation for your class today! Our presentations are very popular, and **often book up to four months in advance.** In the unlikely event our education team is sick, we will be unable to reschedule presentations. Programs hosted outdoors will be dependent on temperature. Seasonal programs and grade level specific programs are noted as such.

**All programs are free of charge.**

**Ages:** K-12, per specific program

**When:** During normal school hours or as scheduled

**Where:** Your school or a location specified by presenter

**Lead Time:** 3-4 months

**Reservations:** Email with your requested topic and available dates

**Contact:** Kaylyn Kelley at [kkelley@papiionrd.org](mailto:kkelley@papiionrd.org)

## ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS:

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

## AQUATIC ANIMALS:

Join us as we explore a variety of aquatic animals, their adaptations, and what they can tell us about our ecosystem health.

## FLOODING 101:

The Omaha metro is no stranger to flooding. Through our hands-on flood model, students gain a thorough understanding of the dangers of flooding, and the ways the Papio NRD works to limit the impact of flooding in our area. *Presentation limited to small groups, 3rd grade and above.*

## GEOCACHING:

This high-tech program combines technology with the natural world. Using GPS devices to find "hidden treasures" at an area park (or your school grounds), students will gain experience with GPS technology. *Presentation available seasonally to grades 3 and up.*

## GROUNDWATER:

It can be tough to grasp what you cannot see, which explains why groundwater is an often misunderstood resource. Using a cross-section ground model, students get a better insight into the hydrology and issues affecting this essential resource. *Presentation limited to small groups, 3rd grade and above.*

## INCREDIBLE INSECTS:

With the aid of live insects, we will explore the hidden world of six-legged animals. *Presentation available seasonally, best for grades k-2nd.*

## NATURAL RESOURCES:

Looking for something all encompassing? This presentation is designed to give insight into natural resources, human impact, and what NRDs do. *Combines portions of several of our other presentations and is best suited for upper elementary to high school students.*

## SURFACE WATER:

Through the use of hands-on models, students learn about watersheds, erosion, and pollution to help understand current water quality problems facing the Omaha metro.

## TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS:

Nebraska boasts many unique habitats from woodlands, to short and tall grass prairies, to agricultural fields and sandhill dunes. The diverse landscape is home to several species of land-dwelling animals - see what adaptations help these native critters survive.

## TREES:

In conjunction with our annual Trees and Seeds program, discover what a tree needs to survive, as well as how trees help us to do the same. Get your own tree seedling to take home and plant to continue the Nebraska tradition of Arbor Day. *Presentation available seasonally.*

## TURTLE TALK:

Nebraska is home to nine species of turtles. With the help of a few of our animal educators, we will learn all about what makes a turtle...a turtle!

## WETLANDS & 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. *Presentation available seasonally, best for 3rd-12th grade.*

## WILDLIFE WONDERS:

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. *Presentation best for 2nd-5th grade.*

## EDUCATION SEEDS AND TREES PROGRAM:

Trees and seeds are available at no cost for your classroom or youth group upon request. Each year, the Papio NRD gives away thousands of trees and flower seed packets. The trees are young seedlings and the flowers are a native variety. Seedlings will be available for pick up mid-April, just in time for Arbor Day and Earth Day festivities. We begin taking orders in January!