



# School & Group Program Guide

Preschool through Elementary School  
2021-2022



EST.1967

BOWERS SCHOOL  
**FARM**

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI

**BH**  
Bloomfield Hills  
Schools





*Bowers School Farm and Johnson Nature Center are owned and operated by Bloomfield Hills Schools (BHS), which provides a public school experience for pre-kindergarten to high school.*

The Farm & Nature Center extend learning beyond the classroom to BHS and local area schools. Their diverse habitats support a variety of native plants and wildlife, livestock and crops. From stepping into the historical buildings and back in time, to digging deep into the soil and imagining a more sustainable future, these unique sites offer dynamic educational experiences to serve the needs of today's students.



COMMUNITY

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EDUCATION

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ENVIRONMENT

SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS AT  
BOWERS  
SCHOOL FARM

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PROGRAMS AT  
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# our goals

We aim to strengthen classroom teaching and learning by engaging teachers and students in authentic, meaningful experiences that enrich their identities and expand their skills, knowledge and perspectives.

Together we will develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other and the world around us through inquiry-based, developmentally appropriate practices that promote joy and discovery.

We will build connections within our local community in order to guide action and service. We hope to leverage this action to work toward a healthier community and environment.

# our approach

We believe in a place-based educational approach that embraces deep learning and high impacts by immersing learners in the natural world, land heritage and local food systems. We encourage students to make connections by contributing and applying their own unique knowledge, strengths and interests to develop a stronger sense of themselves and their role in their communities, sparking learning that is cross-cultural and centered on respect and belonging.

# our commitment

We are committed to designing educational experiences utilizing research-based learning objectives, frameworks and strategies to guide learners in achieving valuable academic and social-emotional outcomes. We will promote the appreciation and value of outdoor experiences for all in order to reach those outcomes by teaching and valuing the whole person.



# we encourage learners to..



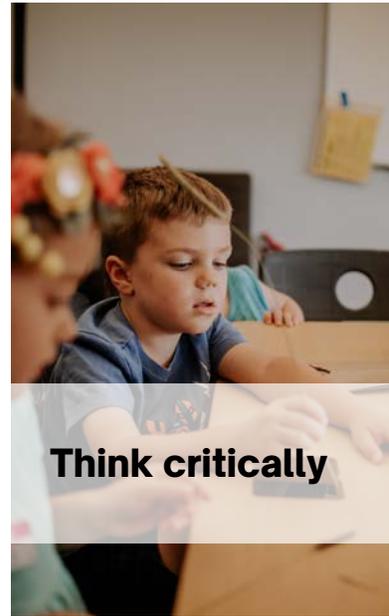
**Ask questions**



**Plan and  
conduct  
investigations**



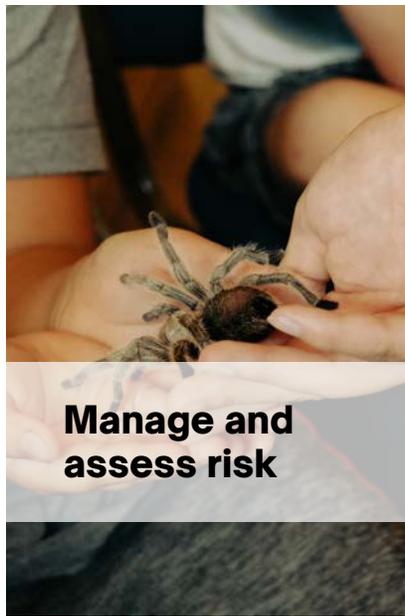
**Collect, analyze  
and interpret  
data**



**Think critically**



**Solve problems**



**Manage and  
assess risk**



**Engage in  
respectful  
dialogue**



**Understand  
multiple  
perspectives**



**Reflect and take  
action**



**Communicate  
their findings in  
multiple ways**



**Develop perseverance and  
resilience to overcome  
challenges**



# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## School Programs

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### GRADES PRE-K TO KINDERGARTEN

1 ½-2 Hours Spring or Winter: \$12 per person

1 ½-2 Hours Fall: \$14 per person

Field trips include the option of per child parent/caregiver chaperones with the per person fee.

#### FRIDAYS ON THE FARM

Experience daily life on the farm during this staff-guided program. A farm guide will provide an interactive tour with hands-on opportunities to discover the plants and animals living and growing in our barns, fields, and gardens. Observe and learn more about places and animals of interest and finish your tour off with a group wagon ride! The fall adventure includes a pie-size pumpkin from our patch.

#### FARM DETECTIVES

Explore the joys and mysteries of life on the farm in the fall, winter or spring with our farm guides. Discover how the field, pond and garden habitats support the survival of the plants and animals that visit and grow in them and how food journeys to your table. Enjoy a wagon ride around the farm. The fall adventure includes a pie-size pumpkin from our patch.

# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## School Programs

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### GRADES K-2

2 Hours: \$12 per student / 4 Hours: \$16 per student

#### **FARMER FOR A DAY**

Experience the seasonal activity of a farm preparing for winter by engaging in the purposeful work of farmers and gardeners. Observe as the animals adapt through natural instincts and learn about their basic needs. Harvest crops in the gardens, tend to the barns, gather freshly laid chicken eggs from the coop and enjoy a scenic wagon ride.

#### **ARE YOU MY MOTHER? (2-HOUR PROGRAM ONLY)**

Why do baby animals look like their parents? Discover whether the characteristics of animals are inherited or acquired through this literacy-based farm adventure. Compare and contrast animals at different stages within their life cycle. Make purposeful observations about the basic needs of animals living at the farm by gathering clues and working together.

# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## School Programs

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### GRADES K-2

2 Hours: \$12 per student / 4 Hours: \$16 per student

#### **ANIMAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Explore animal classifications by investigating their habitats, diet and anatomy along with the role they play within the food and ecosystem. Engage in hands-on tasks and experiments to guide a developing understanding of life cycles while forming meaningful connections to the farm and the food system. This program includes the additional option to engage in classroom incubation and chick hatching with the purpose of adding chickens to our free-range flock.

#### **POCKET FULL OF HISTORY**

Immerse in the local history of the local area through exploration of the Barton Farmhouse, the Craig Log Cabin and the farm environment. Engage in farm tasks that would have been common in the 1800s through the mid-1950s. Discover how to manipulate, use and create items and tools from those eras.

# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## School Programs

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### GRADES 3-5

2 Hours: \$12 per student / 4 Hours: \$16 per student

#### **THE SCIENCE OF AGRICULTURE**

How does a farm grow? Examine the life cycle of several species found on the farm. Distinguish the differences and similarities between them and learn to question, hypothesize, experiment and analyze data through scientific procedures and processes. Determine how the growth of these organisms may not only play a role in individual health and well-being, but to the farm as part of the food system.

#### **ANIMAL BODIES & BEHAVIORS**

Become animal scientists for the day by engaging in animal interaction, discovery and reflection. Collect and analyze data from farm animals' digestive, reproductive and immune systems as well as through observation of their behaviors. Based on these findings, determine the animals' needs to ensure they continue to live in a healthy, comfortable environment.

#### **HARVEST & HERITAGE**

How is what we value today different from what humans valued in the past? Investigate the history and heritage of Indigenous peoples and early settlers. Card wool, grind corn, churn butter and discover how technologies and ways we interact with the natural world have changed over time. Build connections and celebrate the differences among our own individual identities and heritage.

# JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

## School Programs

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## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

1 ½-2 Hours Spring or Winter: \$12 per person

Field trips include the option of per child parent/caregiver chaperones with the per person fee.

### NATURE DETECTIVES

Explore our forests, prairie, pond and trails, detective-style. Come along with us as nature detectives to solve a seasonally-based mystery! Engage the senses, play as animals and join in song or story. We'll embark on a guided hike with time for self-discovery and play-based provocations.

# JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

## School Programs

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## GRADES K-2

2 Hours: \$12 per student / 4 Hours: \$16 per student

### LOG CABIN LIVING (2-HOUR PROGRAM ONLY)

Step back into the 1800s into our log cabin to immerse into the daily chores and routines of the time period. How is life different today than in the past? What other people have stories to tell on the Land? Engage in dough preparation for baking, churn butter, wash clothes and more while enjoying tales of hunting and fishing.

### FOREST DAY

Explore the science and joys of living and non-living things alongside Indigenous perspectives. Investigate the basic needs of living things through authentic tasks and contributions with our resident deer and visiting birds. Engage in hands-on investigations of earth materials through 3D map-making, cooperative fort-building, journaling and creative storytelling.

### NATURE PREPS FOR WINTER

Make a move with us to experience the ways plants and animals get ready for the winter months ahead. Collect weather data and look for patterns between weather and animal behavior.

### PLANT-IT: A JOURNEY OF A SEED

Every plant has a plan on how to grow and develop. The seeds of plants hold the key to the survival of the species. Investigate how plant species root into the Land and become invested in their intimate stories of resilience.

# JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

## School Programs

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### GRADES 3-5

2 Hours: \$12 per student / 4 Hours: \$16 per student

#### **THE SWEET STORY OF MAPLE SUGARING**

Investigate what life was like in the 1800s by engaging in activities such as candle dipping, era-approved games and safe tool usage. Explore the sweet history of the sugar maple tree grove and peek into the future of sugaring. Discover the joys and science of maple-tree tapping, sap collection and syrup tasting.

#### **BIRD FIELD RESEARCH**

Engage in an authentic scientific study conducting a bird census of the Nature Center, an ongoing study since 1991. Birds are considered excellent indicators of environmental health so the ongoing census data collected can act as a warning if there are contamination problems in our land, air or water. Learn about bird ecology, conservation, biology, behavior and environmental needs.

# JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

## School Programs

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### GRADES 3-5

2 Hours: \$12 per student / 4 Hours: \$16 per student

#### **OUR CHANGING EARTH**

Model the skills of an earth scientist to observe and describe the patterns and features that dot the landscapes of Southeast Michigan. Uncover the story of the Land. Investigate geologic clues to understand past events and the process of weathering and erosion.

#### **POND ECOLOGY INVESTIGATIONS**

Trace the life of a leaf to discover the energy and activity happening within the plant and below soil and water surfaces! When we start thinking like field scientists, we discover that energy is being used or stored all around us, but where does it go? Through investigation, participants will resolve this very question.

# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## Group Programs

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All programs can be personalized to meet the needs and interests of your group, including scout badge requirements as noted within the program descriptions. Programs are open to all groups with an organizing leader.

Thursdays 4:30-6:30 pm & Saturdays 9-11 am  
2 Hours: \$15 per person; group leader free

### Ages 4-6

#### **OUTDOOR ART MAKER**

*GIRL SCOUT DAISY*

**(SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER; APRIL - JUNE)**

Explore the farm through the eyes of an artist. Investigate the different shapes, colors and sounds that can be found all over the farm. Gather inspiration through various crafts and games.

#### **5 FLOWERS, 4 STORIES, 3 CHEERS FOR ANIMALS!**

*GIRL SCOUT DAISY*

**(SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER; APRIL - JUNE)**

What is one similarity between people and animals? We all need care! This program is designed to get scouts engaged with caring for themselves, while also understanding what it takes to care for the animals on the farm.



# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## Group Programs

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Ages 4-6

### **SNOW ADVENTURE**

*GIRL SCOUT DAISY*

**(DECEMBER - FEBRUARY; CONDITIONS PERMITTING)**

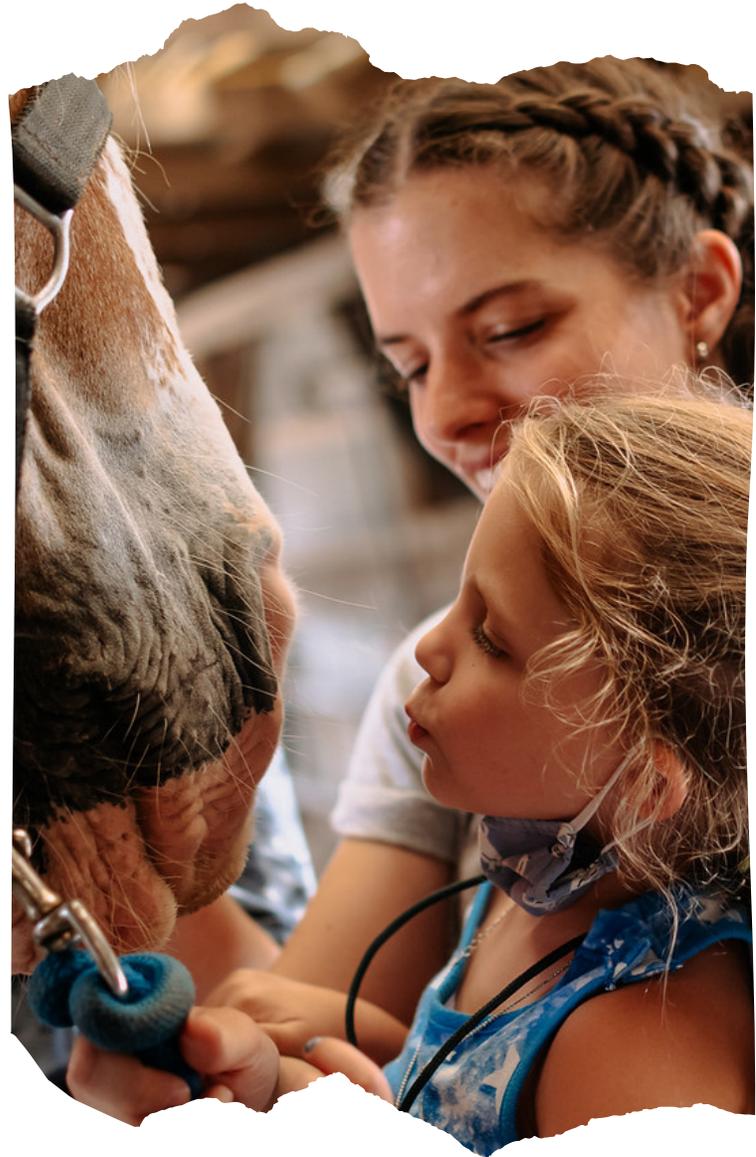
Winter in Michigan is a special time to head outdoors! Learn about the ways to enjoy the cold weather here at the farm, like snow tubing or ice skating. Keep warm with hot cocoa while enjoying shared experiences in the snow.

### **READY, SET, GROW!**

*CUB SCOUT LION ADVENTURER*

**(SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER)**

Explore all the places that we grow and manage food at the farm. What does a plant need to survive, and how does the farmer take care of a garden? Discover where our food comes from through different games, activities and sightseeing.



# BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

## Group Programs

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Ages 7-9

### THE WORLD OF BUGS

*GIRL SCOUT BROWNIE*

(APRIL - JUNE)

From perky pollinators to crawling critters, discover the smallest creatures living at the farm. Investigate as scientists and engage in crafts, projects or games.

### OUTDOOR ADVENTURER

*GIRL SCOUT BROWNIE*

(SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER; APRIL - JUNE)

Want to become an environmental steward? Nature is both beautiful and exciting! Hike and explore, care for an animal, play games and grow more adventurous and confident in the outdoors.



# JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

## Group Programs

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### Ages 4-6

#### **ECO LEARNER**

##### *GIRL SCOUT DAISY (SEPTEMBER - JUNE)*

From the small American goldfinch to the noisy woodpecker, investigate and explore the many birds that call Johnson Nature Center "home." Learn to use some of the tools and tricks of a seasoned birder.

#### **TIGERS IN THE WILD**

##### *TIGER CUBS (SEPTEMBER - JUNE)*

Discover and observe different kinds of plants, animals or signs of animals that have been around the trail. We'll commune with nature directly by touch, taste, smell, sight and sound.

#### **PAWS ON THE PATH**

##### *WOLF CUBS (SEPTEMBER - JUNE)*

Experience a sense of wonder by just watching quiet ordinary things with close attention. During this learning path, identify different animals in the area and watch and record two interesting things you might never have seen before.



# JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

## Group Programs

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### Ages 7-9

#### **ECOFRIEND - BROWNIE (MAY - OCT)**

Explore and investigate the outdoors by learning how to respect the environment and how the nature center animal residents manage their lives. Develop an understanding of risk and safety management and gain confidence in the control of fire-building as a skill.

#### **HIKER - BROWNIE (SEPTEMBER - JUNE)**

Every trail leads to a new adventure! Enjoy time with your group and a nature center guide out on the trails. Embark on a scavenger hunt that encourages discovery, fun and learning.

#### **TRAIL ADVENTURE - BROWNIE (SEPTEMBER - JUNE)**

Let's go on a woods hike adventure! What will we discover along the way? Nature is always changing and never without something new to find. Make this adventure an experience you'll remember forever with time for journaling along the way.

#### **FUR, FEATHERS AND FERNS - BEAR CUBS (SEPTEMBER - JUNE)**

With your local map as a reference and the growing knowledge of map symbols, use our trails to look for and identify six signs of living things. Discover the intimate parts of plants to look at plants more closely.



# Professional Development Programs

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## OPT OUTSIDE: A WORKSHOP FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Contact us for a curricular consultation to develop a customized professional learning workshop experience that meets your learning goals and objectives for grades Pre-K-2. Possible topics include: practicing field science, exploring inquiry-based learning methods, reimagining your schoolyard as an outdoor learning environment and adapting/designing learning experiences for the outdoors.

Brooke Larm, Education Specialist: [blarm@bloomfield.org](mailto:blarm@bloomfield.org)

*Bowers School Farm and Johnson Nature Center sit on land that was made by warm shallow seas and slow moving glacial formations, with the most recent glaciers receding 14,000 years ago. This is the ancestral Land of the Indigenous Peoples of the Potawatomi and Ojibwe, who along with the Ottawa, were the People of The Three Fires, the Anishinabek. This Land remains the contemporary dwelling of the Anishinabek people.*



The sites are located 5 miles apart and encompass a combined 133 acres in Southeast Michigan, each situated approximately 25 miles from Detroit. We welcome 60,000 a year and seek to make nature and agricultural educational experiences more accessible to all. From serene pond views to production fields, breathtaking forests, and a working red barn, we believe in protecting our state's natural and cultural heritage to support environmental quality and community well-being now and in the future. Each year we serve residents in Oakland County and beyond through our camp, school, and family programs and engage thousands more through our public events and volunteer opportunities. We invite you to explore and discover at Bowers School Farm and Johnson Nature Center, find inspiration and get involved.

