



Johnson County Conservation GROUP PROGRAMS

Johnson County Conservation works to provide opportunities for all Johnson County residents to connect with the natural world. To help extend these experiences, JCC offers free environmental and outdoor recreation programs to both youth and adult-focused organizations. Examples of such groups include but are not limited to Scouts of America, 4-H groups, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Retiree Associations, women's clubs, and more. Programs are offered primarily on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with some exceptions.

PROGRAM OPTIONS:

Forest and Prairie Hikes

Head out on a discovery hike in either a shady forest or open prairie. A naturalist will teach about the ecological details discovered along the trail, whether animal tracks or the wildflower in bloom. Content and distance will be tailored to the group. This program can be held at F.W. Kent Park, Cangleska Wakan, Pechman Creek Delta, Cedar River Crossing, Ciha Fen Preserve, Frytown Conservation Area, or Two Horse Farm (seasonal limitations for some properties).

Archery *(2-3 hour program)*

Learn about bow safety and practice target shooting with beginner-focused bows. This program is only available from August - November and is limited to F.W. Kent Park.



Kayaking and Canoeing

JCC staff will provide an introduction to paddling and then let participants practice on Kent Park Lake. All participants are required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD). Adult-to-student requirements vary by student age for youth groups. This program can be held at F.W. Kent Park or Pechman Creek Delta.

Snowshoe Hike *(at least four inches snow required)*

Strap on some snowshoes and go on a winter hike off trail with JCC naturalists. Along the way, we'll learn about and look for animal tracks in the snow. This program can be held at F.W. Kent Park, Cangleska Wakan, Pechman Creek Delta, Cedar River Crossing, or Ciha Fen Preserve.

Fishing

Try to reel in a fish while enjoying the shady lake shore at Kent Park. A JCC naturalist will provide basic instruction to start. Fishing poles and gear provided. This activity is limited to group sizes of 20 students or less, and is also dependent on the naturalists' schedule and availability to repair fishing poles between field trip groups. Adult-to-student requirements vary by student age for youth groups. This program can be held at F.W. Kent Park or Cangleska Wakan for groups of 10 people or less.

Orienteering *(2-3 hour program)*

Orienteering is a sport in which participants find their way to various checkpoints with the aid of a map and

compass. Participants will learn how to use a compass to follow a bearing before heading off trail into the woods to find the checkpoints in a competition with their peers. This program is only held at F.W. Kent Park and only from November through early March.

Foraging

Do you know which wild plants are safe to eat? This program will help teach you the basics of foraging safety and ethics along with how to identify and prepare several species of plants that are safe to eat. This program can be held any time of year, and is available at F.W. Kent Park or Cangleska Wakan.

Seed Harvesting

Take a role in prairie restoration projects by helping to hand-harvest prairie seeds! In this favorite program, participants will learn about the importance of prairies for biodiversity, climate change, and water quality, along with an overview of the targeted species of the day. Then, all will spread out into the prairie to harvest. This program is only held at F.W. Kent Park from mid September through mid November.

Monarch Tagging

Learn about the phenomenal monarch butterfly migration before learning how to catch and tag butterflies. This effort is a part of a nationwide research program to learn more about the monarch migration, threats to monarch butterflies, preferred routes, and overall population numbers. This program is only held at F.W. Kent Park for a two-three week window in mid to late September.

Bird Watching

Practice binocular use and learn about the birds you are likely to see in Iowa that time of year. This program may include a hike, trip to the bird blind, scavenger hunt, or indoor presentation, depending on age and group interest. This program can be held any time of the year and is only held at F.W. Kent Park.

Reptiles

Meet JCC's resident reptiles, including fox snakes, a milk snake, ornate box turtles, and painted turtles. A JCC naturalist will share life histories for each animal introduced and allow time for participants to interact with the animals when possible. This program can be

held any time of the year and is only held at F.W. Kent Park.

Ecoprinting

Did you know colors and patterns can be extracted from leaves and flowers? Learn a little about this relaxing process and make your own naturally printed fabric. Groups must bring white fabric/shirt/bandanna for each participant. After the initial printing process, this program requires some basic additional processing by group leaders (instructions provided). This program is offered from June through mid October and is held at Cangleska Wakan.

Basket Weaving *(2-3 hour program)*

Willow, cattail, roses and more can be harvested for basic basket weaving. Participants will gather and process their own materials, then learn a basic weave to form a small basket. Participants will be able to take their creations home. As an alternative to baskets, participants can weave simple stars from willow branches for a shorter and simpler craft. This program can be held anytime of year and is held at Cangleska Wakan or F.W. Kent Park.

Nature Journaling

"I notice, I wonder, it reminds me of..." These prompts shape the nature journaling experience as participants practice close observation of natural phenomena. Nature journaling is a tool and exercise for critical thinking, as well as a mindful way to connect with nature. In this program, naturalists, will provide structured activities to guide the journaling practice. This program can be held any time of the year and can be held at F.W. Kent Park, Cangleska Wakan, Cedar River Crossing, or Two Horse Farm.

If you are interested in a program not listed here, please email jccnaturalists@gmail.com to inquire about possible alternatives.

JCC is committed to ensuring that our outdoor programs are available and welcoming for everyone. If your group requires any specific accessibility measures in order to comfortably participate in these programs, reach out to us at jccnaturalists@gmail.com or 319-645-1011 to discuss if reasonable accommodations can be made.