



Owling 101

Pre and Post Activities

Get the most out of your field trip by completing the pre and post activities with your group. The pre-activity will help warm up your students brains, if they are already thinking about the topics we will be covering they will get more out of their time at Woodland Dunes. The post activity will give them an opportunity to process and share what they learned.

Pre Activity: Owl Colors

Time: About 30 minutes

Print off the owl picture for your students. Show them some pictures of owls and give them time to color their owl pictures using realistic color choices.

Some questions to ask during the coloring time:

What color are most of the owls we see?

Why do you think they are the color that they are?

How would you describe an owl if someone who has never seen one asked you what they look like?

What makes owls different from other animals? What makes them the same?

When finished with their coloring ask your students to each write down one question about owls that they would like to ask during the field trip. If time you can email the questions to Woodland Dunes or make sure that your students remember their questions to ask during the field trip.

You can also brainstorm with your students. Ask them to tell you things that they know about owls! You will be surprised at some of the things they have already learned. If they give any misinformation, tell them we will be learning more about that at Woodland Dunes.

Post Activity: Night Hike

Send this activity home to encourage parents to take their kids on a night hike. Night hikes are often exhilarating experiences that give you the opportunity to see a place in a “new light”

Choose an outdoor site that would be easy to visit in the dark. Take a walk there in the daytime. Look for colors – how many can you find? Listen to the sounds you hear – how many different noises are there in the daytime?

Prepare for your night hike: Make sure to dress warm, bring a flashlight but save it for emergencies – do not use it for your walk, as it will prevent you from experiencing the dark. Your eyes will slowly adjust to the dim light. If a flashlight is needed put red cellophane or plastic wrap over the light, this will not ruin your night vision – and give you a little extra light. . Retrace your daytime steps. Look for the same colors you found in the daytime. Our eyes do not see color well at night. Unless you are active when there is a bright moon or close to bright lights, you should see colors as shades of gray. The receptors in your eyes that interpret color cannot function without more light than is available at nighttime. Listen for sounds. How is it different at night?

Some great places to visit are City Parks, Cemeteries (many owls enjoy spending time in cemeteries because of the big trees). If you are close to Point Beach State Park they also have many great trails to visit and are open until 11:00 p.m. Walks along the lakeshore can also be fun at night. I promise your night hike will be a memory your kids hold on to.

Near Manitowoc: Evergreen Cemetery often has nesting Screech Owls, Lincoln Park often has nesting Great Horned Owls and Schuette Park in Manitowoc is known to be a hot spot for owl activity. Woodland Dunes Nature Center trails are open dawn till dusk.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.