

ABOUT PARK PACKS



These activity packs were designed to help families, youth groups, home schoolers, and other groups explore the wonders of nature around them. Each pack comes with a field guide and a variety of activities and fun facts to assist in the discovery of the specific nature topic.

Ways to use a Park Pack:

- Camping trip with your family
- Youth group
- Day trips or week-long vacations
- In your backyard or local park
- Home school projects

FREE FOR UP TO 2 WEEKS

Reserve your Park Pack at the
Jester Park Nature Center by calling:

515-323-5350

LEADING YOU OUTDOORS



PARKS PACKS ARE FUNDED BY:



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jester Park Nature Center
12130 NW 128th Street
Granger, IA 50109
phone: (515) 323-5350

email: jpnc_info@polkcountyiowa.gov
www.leadingyououtdoors.org

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the citizens of Polk County with quality outdoor recreation, conservation education, and the long-term protection of Polk County's natural heritage.

PARK PACKS

NATURE-THEMED
BACKPACKS



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www.LeadingYouOutdoors.org

13 NATURE-THEMED BACKPACKS INCLUDE:

1. Animals of Iowa

Learn to identify animal tracks, feel furs, play a habitat game and sing the habitat song in this activity packed bag.

2. Birds

Binoculars, field guide, bird Identifier and fun birding activities are included in this park pack. This pack is sponsored by the Des Moines Audubon Society.

3. Creatures of the Night

Bats, frog calls, firefly talk, and owl calling are just some of the creature topics included in this park pack of the night.

4. Geology Rocks

Discover the different types of rocks in your local park or backyard. Make a chalk drawing or sand art picture. Find your favorite rock and make a fossil rub.



5. Insect Safari

Use nets, bug cubes, and insect field guides to discover the variety of insects in your backyard or local park. Learn to dance like a bee, create your own bug song, and build your very own bug.

6. Life in a Pond

Use the aquatic animal matching cards to discover the variety of animal life in the pond. Write water messages on stones, and make the frog sounds of a wetland. Boogie down to the beat while you enjoy Billie B's Romp in the Swamp cd!

7. Outdoor Skills

Gain confidence being in the outdoors with this pack. Practice your orienteering skills, take a hike, and make your own map. Learn how to tie a variety of knots and learn important outdoor ethics.

8. Prairie

With this pack, listen to the sounds of the prairie, create prairie artistry, play a prairie camouflage game, and identify prairie plants and flowers.

9. Water Quality

Where does rain go when it falls in your yard? What can a stonefly tell you about water quality? Take a virtual ride through a storm drain or experience the power of a flash-flood and become a stormwater sleuth while exploring the water quality park pack.

10. Treeific Trees

Play the tree board game, measure the height and width of the largest tree in your area. Use the tree leaf stamps to create your own field guide, build a human tree, and boogie down with Billie B as he sings all about trees. This pack is sponsored by the Iowa Arbor Society.

11. Wildflowers and Plants

Go on your own wildflower hunt, make a leaf imprint with leaf pounding, read how to plant a rainbow and a build a sunflower house in this activity packed bag!

12. Geocaching

Learn how to geocache. Two GPS units are downloaded with Polk County Park cache coordinates. Use the geocaching reference books included in the pack to learn about geocaching.

13. Winter Wonders (Seasonal Pack)

Catch and compare snowflakes, tunnel through snow like a rodent, learn a blizzard survival skill and create winter art. Eat snow ice cream, feed birds, and learn to interpret clues in the wintery landscape.

