

THE ARK Christian Ministries in Converse, Indiana provides creative ways for people to grow and develop into healthy individuals who positively impact the world in which they live. The programming offered to school systems is geared towards supporting students as they grow academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually preparing them to impact the world. The programs offered will provide a framework for your school to build an experience where your students interact with trained ARK staff members and explore the great outdoors and STEM challenges through experiential learning and peer dynamics.

Each program can be catered to fit the needs of your students as we partner to foster this growth. Each program is led by trained ARK staff and will be joined by representatives from your school. Each program has outdoor experience and asks all participants to be dressed appropriately. Each program is designed to include classroom discussion, outdoor experience, and a meaningful time of debrief and reflection.

If you have a program or topic that would fit the needs of your students or curriculum and you don't see it listed here, please contact THE ARK. We would love to partner with you to design a custom program for your school group. Beyond the list below, we could explore topics such as:

- Reptiles and Amphibians of Indiana
- Creepy Crawlies of Indiana
- Mammal Behavior
- Clouds and Weather
- Phenology

For registration and more information contact:

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Outdoor Education Programs at THE ARK

Contact THE ARK for Costs

Macroinvertebrate Pond Study: _____ **90 minutes** _____ **Grades 4-8** _____

An entire ecosystem exists underwater in ponds, swamps, and creeks. During this experience the students will use nets and other equipment to capture tiny invertebrates from different bodies of water, analyze the types of critters captured, use this information to learn a bit about the quality of the water in that habitat.

Standards targeted: 6.LS.4 / 6-8.LST.2.3 / SEPS.1,2,3,4,6

Trees of Indiana: _____ **90 minutes** _____ **Grades 4-8** _____

Trees are a critical, functional, and beautiful part of life on earth for both humans and other wildlife. Identify and carry out investigations around trees of the forest. Use a dichotomous key for ID, estimate the age of the tree, learn about photosynthesis and other processes that trees go through in this hands on experience.

Standards targeted: 6.LS.2 / 6-8.LST.2.3 / SEPS.2,4,5

Birds of Indiana: _____ **90 minutes** _____ **Grades 4-8** _____

Look to the skies and discover those feathered friends that are often overlooked or unseen. Learn about special design of birds including beaks, feet, and feathers. Compare the designs of different bird species and even uncover a mystery of an owl's last meal through dissection of an owl pellet.

Standards targeted: 5.LS.2 / 6.LS.3 / 8.LS.9 / SEPS.2,4

Ecology and Interactions: _____ **90 minutes** _____ **Grades 5-8** _____

Living things that share an ecosystem are intertwined more than we often see. Learn terms and concepts of these relationships through an interactive "escape room". Students will use clues and solve puzzles to unlock the next stages as they learn the ins and outs of an ecosystem.

Standards targeted: 6.LS.3 / 8.LS.9 / SEPS.3,4,8

Walk-in-Awe: _____ **60 minutes** _____ **Grades 3-6** _____

The complexities and details of things that surround us every day will create awe and wonder when discovered and examined. Take a walk around three different habitats and slow down to see what you can see. Students will be led through activities that will enhance their observation skills and attention to detail.

Standards targeted: 5.LS.2,3 / SEPS.2,3,8

STEM / Robotics Lessons: _____ **90 minutes** _____ **Grades 5-8** _____

Uncover the inner engineer in your students. Contact us for information about our Sphero and VEX robotics classes.

Experiential Learning at THE ARK

Contact THE ARK for Costs

Forces and Motion: _____ **90 minutes** _____ **Grades 5-8** _____

Experience the force of gravity while riding down a cable swing and feel the wind blow through your hair. After researching some factors that impact the speed and other aspects of your ride, hypothesize and design an experiment to test your hypothesis on a model zipline that you build.

Standards targeted: 6.PS.1,2,3 / 7.PS.4-7 / 6-8.LST.2.3 / SEPS.1,2,3,4,5,8

Team Initiatives and Group Games: _____ **120 minutes** _____ **Grades 4-8** _____

Want your students to work together? So do we! This program has ARK staff leading your group through challenges and games. In order to succeed, the team must work together. The cheers and encouragement of a team after a challenge full of frustration and obstacles is a wonderful thing for all involved. (prerequisite to Team Building Challenge)

Team Building Challenges: _____ **120 minutes** _____ **Grades 7-8** _____

After your team experiences Team Initiatives and Group Game Program, put them to the mental and creative test through a team building challenge course. Your students will enter the woods and walk a trail to our team building elements and build their leadership, teamwork, and creative thinking skills. Exit the woods a more cohesive group with confidence that carries over into the classroom and all areas of life.

Wilderness Survival Skills: _____ **90 minutes** _____ **Grades 5-8** _____

Sharpen your outdoor survival skills in the wilderness of Converse, Indiana. After taking this course, you will have the knowledge necessary to build fire, make shelter, find direction, fish for food, all in a safe and fun environment around friends and staff. See if you have what it takes to survive in the wild, or if you need to take this course a second time.

Recreational Programming: _____ **Times vary** _____ **Grades 4-8** _____

Choose to put traditional learning aside for a more adventurous activity during your visit. These fun activities will foster individual growth, peer encouragement, and group strategy. (Age restrictions apply)

Choose from:

- High Ropes Course
- 45 foot outdoor climbing tower
- Indoor climbing wall
- Archery / Hatchet / Slingshot range
- Canoeing our pond
- Archery tag