

# OXLEY NATURE CENTER

*Nature in your Neighborhood*

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Oxley Nature Center is offering classroom visits to elementary schools within the Tulsa Public School district with priority given to schools in close proximity to Mohawk Park. While we hope that everyone will be able to experience the wonders of Oxley in person we want everyone to know that you don't have to leave your own neighborhoods to forge meaningful connections with the natural world.

### SCHEDULING

These programs are designed to take place during school hours in elementary classrooms. Each program takes a minimum of 40 minutes and can be supplemented with activities that last up to an hour and a half.

When scheduling, a start time and an end time for each classroom visit will be agreed upon.

### AGES

Oxley naturalists are experienced educators who can tailor their approach to meet the developmental needs of a particular grade level or group. The courses listed below can be adapted for kindergarteners through fifth graders.

### SUPPLIES

Your visiting Oxley naturalist will bring all necessary supplies to present on the chosen course and engage students in topical discussion and a corresponding hands-on activity. Oxley staff will work with classroom teachers to ensure that all necessary supplies will be on-hand.

### CONTACT

The staff at Oxley will be happy to coordinate a visit to your school or classroom. To schedule a program please call:

**918-596-9054**

from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. or  
email: [oxley@cityoftulsa.org](mailto:oxley@cityoftulsa.org)

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## FEATHERED FRIENDS

In this course, students will explore the unique and specific characteristics that make a bird a bird. The session includes a story, discussion, and an exploration of bird feathers, bones, and eggs. After this experience students will be able to describe characteristics that are unique to birds, (hollow bones and feathers), and the characteristics of bird eggs. Optional activities, dependent on timing, age, weather, etc., may be sketching bird parts or outdoor observations and discussions of bird sightings and behaviors.

## ANIMAL HOMES

All creatures, no matter their size or other characteristics, need a home. Shelter is a basic need that all animals must figure out and shelters can take a wide variety of forms. Students will experience a hands-on exploration of the different types of homes animals find and/or construct for themselves and will be able to describe why homes are important. Possible supplemental activities include taking a walk to search for signs of animal homes, or working in small groups to attempt to construct something like a nest out of natural (found) materials.

## SIGNS OF THE SEASON

In this outdoor experience the Oxley naturalist will break down the etymology and varied applications of the word “sense” before they guide students through sensory observations of the seasons. After spending some time tuning in to what we see, hear, smell, and feel, (taste will typically not be included but will be connected with smell), students will record their observations through drawings and written and spoken word. Recorded observations of plants, animals, weather and other elements will be shared and connected with current seasonal changes. The closest equinox or solstice will be incorporated into the discussion.

