



2025 Summer Programs

Program Details:

Looking for an off-site activity to do as part of a summer camp or club? Join us for an ultimate nature learning experience focused on Species & Land right here in Central Alberta. Students are sure to leave buzzing with excitement about the natural world around them!



Join us for a 2 or 4 hour program to experience all that Ellis Nature Centre has to offer!

Ellis
Nature Centre

Species Program

Our species program will focus on the variety of creatures that call Central Alberta home, and how they all interact!



1) Wetland Exploration

In our wetland exploration, students will learn about the importance of wetlands to local ecosystems, with a focus on plants and water quality. We'll also learn about one of the most famous wetland animals: beavers!



2) Pond Dipping

Come with us to discover the incredible world in the pond, which often goes unseen! Not only will students get to use dip nets and observe aquatic creatures, but we'll also discuss how pond life is connected to the broader ecosystem.



3) All About Birds

Explore the wonderful world of birds through a variety of hands-on activities! We'll examine owl pellets to figure out what some of the most magnificent birds eat and examine the feathers and wings of a variety of birds to learn what allows them to fly.



Land Program

The land program focuses on the variety of ways we rely on the land as a source of food, as well as how Indigenous people use land!

1) Gardening & Honey Bees

Join us in the wonderful world of the garden to learn about the small but mighty ecosystem that can provide our food. We'll examine the vegetables, insects, and soil that all lead to a functioning garden! We'll also take a close look at our Honey Bee Hives to get an inside look at the world of pollinators!



2) Chickenology

Enter the fascinating world of the chicken coop! Students will discover what type of nutrients chickens need in their food, how to speak chicken, learn about egg production, and discover why a chicken coop is so important.



3) Indigenous Plant Knowledge

Discover Indigenous knowledge of plants in the Parkland region! We'll explore our site looking for natural edible plants and learn about the importance of plants and trees to the ecosystem.



Bird Feeder Building

Kids will make their own bird feeder to take home, using pre-cut lumber and nails. We'll also send students home with information on backyard birds & how to attract them! **NOTE: We do not decorate the feeders as part of the program.**



What to expect

- 2 or 4 hour themed instruction of outdoor & indoor activities, rain or shine!
- Morning and/or afternoon sessions, with a 30 minute lunch break for the 4 hour programs.
- A dedicated Ellis Nature Centre education leader for every 15 students (we can accommodate **MAXIMUM** 30 students per group).
- Knowledgeable and approachable staff.
- Hands-on, interactive experiences tied to the new Alberta science program of study.
- Leader package to help you prepare for your program.
- Picnic tables, washroom facilities, and water fountain available.
- Indoor storage place for backpacks and belongings.
- Indoor lunch area on rainy days.

What we expect

- A minimum of one supervisor (adult) for every group of 15 children.
- Dress for the weather.
- Bring snacks and lunch (for the 4 hour program)!
- Advise us if any students have allergies to bees.
- Come with a list of students who cannot have their photo taken.

Prices

Prices are \$50 per hour for up to 15 children, and \$100 per hour for up to 30 children. For non-profit organizations, we offer a special rate of \$37.50 per hour for up to 15 students and \$75 per hour for up to 30 students. If you choose to build feeders, they are \$8 +GST per student (there is no non-profit rate for feeders).

Payments are due no later than the day of your program. If you are able to pay ahead of time, this is greatly appreciated. We can accept cheque (preferred) or credit card. Please note that for totals over \$300, there is a 3.4% credit card processing fee.

Our programs run rain or shine, so rescheduling, cancellations, and refunds must be made a minimum of one week in advance of your program.

How to Register

Registration is open now!

Registration is through our **ONLINE** form only:
<https://ellisnaturecentre.ca/summer-program/>

Programs run Tuesday to Friday, from July 2nd to August 29th.

Spots will be filled on a first come, first served basis. If you have questions, please contact us at booking@ellisnaturecentre.ca

1. Choose your Program Option and Time

2 Hour Programs
9:30-11am or 12-2pm

A: Species

- 1) Wetland Exploration
- 2) Pond Dipping
- 3) All About Birds

B: Land

- 1) Gardening & Honey Bees
- 2) Chickenology
- 3) Indigenous Plant Knowledge

4 Hour Programs
9:30-2pm

C: Species & Land

- 1) Wetland Exploration
- 2) Pond Dipping
- 3) All About Birds
- 4) Gardening & Honey Bees
- 5) Chickenology
- 6) Indigenous Plant Knowledge

D: Species, Land, Feeders

- 1) Wetland Exploration
- 2) Pond Dipping
- 3) All About Birds
- 4) Chickenology
- 5) Indigenous Plant Knowledge
- 6) Bird Feeders

2. Complete the booking form on our website

3. We will confirm your booking by email.

Past Program Feedback!



"We really enjoyed our field trip! The instructors were very friendly, knowledgeable, and great with the students."



"The field trip was lovely. We all loved it and many of the families said they would be returning to visit this summer."

"Every year it's an awesome trip! Been coming for over 20 years!"



"Fantastic day, as always! Your staff are always amazing and our students love the program. Thank you for a great day!"

