



# ELLIS NATURE CENTRE

## 2026 Spring School Programs



Ellis Nature Centre is excited to launch our **Spring Field trip Programs!** Join us for our 2026 season this May & June for the ultimate nature learning experience focused on **Species & Land** right here in Central Alberta.

**Registration opens January 12, 2026!**

Experience nature with Ellis Nature Centre's 2026 school programs! We focus on the wonders found right in our own backyard. Each program is designed to spark curiosity, introduce students to Central Alberta's species and ecosystems, and inspire a sense of stewardship, all while having a fun and engaging day outdoors.

Join us as we make nature connections through the themes of **Species** and **Land**. These programs are designed to deliver a range of hands-on activities that meet K- Grade 6 curriculum objectives.

Our **Species** Program explores the diverse wildlife of Central Alberta. Students will learn about terrestrial and aquatic wildlife through wetland exploration, pond dipping, and the study of wings, feathers, and owl pellets to see firsthand how species survive and adapt.

Our **Land** Program focuses on the land for food production and highlights the importance on Indigenous Knowledge. Students will explore our learning garden, chickens, and the "Bee Can" to see how soil, insects, and pollinators support local food production.



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

# What we offer...

## Species Program

Our species program will focus on the variety of creatures that call Central Alberta home, and how they 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 as students examine owl pellets to learn about what some birds of prey eat. Students will also be able to examine a variety of feathers and the wings that allow species to fly.

## Land Program

The land program focuses on the variety of ways we rely on the land as a source of food, and Indigenous people's use of plants!

### 1) Gardening & Honey Bees

Come 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! A visit to the "Bee Can" will show students an inside look at the world of pollinators and beekeeping.

### 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 (optional with 4 hour program)

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 have enough time to allow the children to decorate the feeders.**

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

**A: Species:** Wetland explorations, Pond Dipping, and All About Birds

**B: Land:** Gardening & Honey Bees, Chickenology, Indigenous Plant Knowledge

## 4 Hour Programs Full Day 9:30-2pm

**C: Species & Land:** take part in all 6 themed stations

**D: Species, Land, Plus Feeders:** Opt in for feeders and take part in 5 theme stations and swap gardens and bees with feeders.

## What you can expect

- 2 or 4 hour themed instruction of both indoor/outdoor activities, rain or shine!
- Morning and/or afternoon sessions with a 30-minute break for lunch if you choose the 4 hour program.
- A dedicated Ellis Nature Centre educational leader for every 15-18 students. We have a hard maximum of 18 students per leader.
- Knowledgeable & approachable staff.
- Hands-on, interactive activities tied to Alberta science programs related to ecosystems and biodiversity. (Geared towards grade 1-3 curriculum)
- Teacher package to help you prepare for your program
- Picnic tables, washroom facilities, and water fountain available
- Indoor storage for backpacks and belongings.
- Indoor lunch area on rainy days.

## What we expect from you

- We expect a minimum of one supervisor for every group of 15 children.
- Dress for the weather.
- Bring snacks, water, and lunch (for the 4 hour program!)
- Please advise us if any students are allergic to bees.
- Come with a list of students who cannot have their photo taken.

## Pricing

Prices begin at \$50 per hour for 18 children. For every additional 18 children, there will be a \$50 per hour increase. If you choose to build feeders, they are \$8 +GST per student.

Payments are due by April 24, 2026. Our preferred payment method is cheque, which can be mailed to the PO Box on the invoice after your program is confirmed. If cheque is not possible, we can process credit card payments over the phone. Please note that all credit card payments are subject to a 3.4% service charge. **If you are unable to pay ahead of time, we will need to know this at time of registration.**

Our programs run rain or shine, so rescheduling, cancellations, and refunds must be made by April 24, 2026.



# How to Register

**Registration opens January 12, 2026!**

**NEW THIS YEAR!**

We are piloting an online booking system. Follow the link and select your program, date and time. We will send you an invoice and confirmation email.

**Registration is through our ONLINE CALENDAR only:**

<https://ellisnaturecentre.ca/school-bookings/>

**Programs run Tuesday to Friday, from May 12th to June 26th.**

Spots will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Please note groups of more than 75 students will need to be split over two days. If you have questions, please contact us at [booking@ellisnaturecentre.ca](mailto:booking@ellisnaturecentre.ca)

## 1. Complete the booking form on our website

**a. School program type:** Morning or Afternoon, Land or Species.

**b. How many leaders:** Choose up to 3

**c. Select your date and time**

\*If you are booking for a full day, book multiple sessions\*

## 2. Choose your Program Option and Time

<https://ellisnaturecentre.ca/school-bookings/>

## 3. We will confirm your booking by email.

## 4. Complete payment by April 24, 2026

# School Program Fun!



“Very interactive and engaging”

“Overall, an engaging, informative experience, led by friendly, knowledgeable staff”



“Such a fun experience! I will be planning a visit myself this summer.”



“Thank you for going above and beyond to accomodating our class!”

