

Field Trip Checklist for Parents:

Your child will get dirty! Please send them to school with outdoor-appropriate clothing

- Seasonally appropriate clothing
- Close-toed shoes or boots
- Rain/winter jacket
- Winter field trip attire: hat, gloves, winter jacket, boots, long pants (no leggings, shorts or skirts), snow suit (if applicable)
- Water bottle

If your student doesn't come prepared, we have extra winter gear at the Center

"We felt like the staff was well prepared and had great attitudes....The content and lessons were age appropriate and the students loved the activities. Thank you!"
-ANTS classroom teacher

"The lessons were great for my 5th graders. I had one parent tell me that their child was so excited about the trip that when he went home that day, it was all he could talk about. He really enjoyed the water testing activity."
-ANTS classroom teacher



Why Nature Education?

Kids excel when they spend time outdoors, including in an academic setting. A growing body of research reveals that outdoor education experiences are a great way to engage kids in learning. These experiences increase academic success and develop non-academic skills like creativity, problem-solving and social interactions. Outdoor education also fosters a sensitivity for nature and respect for the environment, helping to combat "nature deficit disorder."

Because the students in the ANTS program are able to learn in the same outdoor setting multiple times throughout the year, their outdoor experiences are fully integrated into their education. These students deepen their connection to place as they learn about the natural world of South-Central Montana.

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ANTS Program

*Audubon Naturalists
in the Schools*



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What is the ANTS Program?

ANTS is a year long program that provides students with place-based nature education. "Place" includes both natural landscape and human cultures.

Each class participates in either the full or partial program. The full program includes 3 full day field trips at the Audubon Center or a natural area near Billings, combined with 4 in-class visits by Audubon Center teacher naturalists. The partial program includes 2 field trips and 3 in-class visits.

Curriculum focus is seasonal, with continued emphasis on learning through sensory observation, exploration, and personal experience.

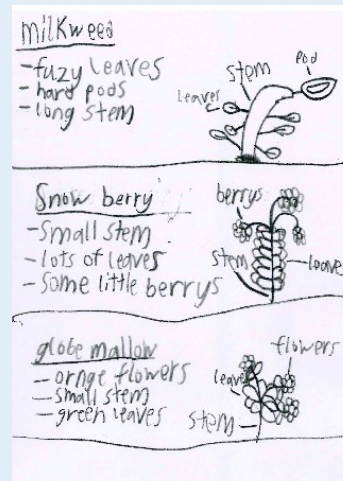


Standards Alignment

The ANTS program is closely aligned with Next Generation Science Standards, Montana Content Standards, and NAAEE (North American Association for Environmental Education) guidelines as well as the Indian Education for All program.

All of these structures emphasize creativity, critical thinking, imagination, teamwork, and perseverance, which are provided for by the structure of the lessons and the unique nature of outdoor, place-based

Student Journals



Full Program 5th Grade Schedule



Fall Class Visit (Sept) - Introduction to observation

Fall Field Trip (Sept/Oct) - Water quality testing, plant needs (willow and cottonwood focus)

Winter Class Visit I (Nov) - Web of life

Winter Class Visit II (Dec) - Constellations; Crow cultural history stories

Winter Field Trip (Jan/Feb) - Water distribution, weather patterns and journaling, erosion and rip-rap

Spring Class Visit (Mar) - Rock types and rock erosion

Spring Field Trip (Apr/May) - Geology, canoeing

*Activities may vary at different locations