

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

"My students especially enjoyed bird counting, returning to their 'sit-spots' to observe how things had changed, picking berries on plants and looking for identifying characteristics, tracking, and winter stories."
-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*



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 2 in-class visits.

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

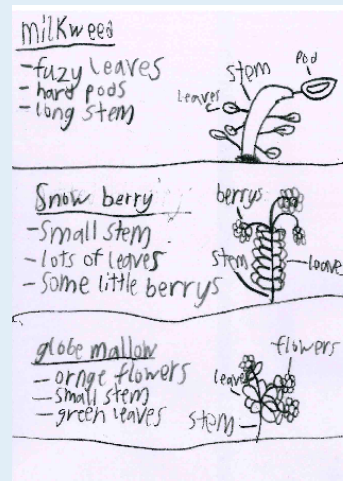


Standards Alignment

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 education.

Student Journals



Full Program 4th Grade Schedule



Fall Class Visit (Sept) - Introduction to observation

Fall Field Trip (Sept/Oct) - Native plants and their uses, plant journaling, Yellowstone River walk with sit-spot, native games

Winter Class Visit I (Nov) - Introduction to storytelling, cultural history stories

Winter Class Visit II (Dec) - Introduction to birding by sound

Winter Field Trip (Jan/Feb) - Birding in the field, animal tracking, animal adaptations and structures

Spring Class Visit (Mar) - Yellowstone River watershed, mapping

Spring Field Trip (Apr/May) - Yellowstone River walk with sit-spot, restoration activity, water waves and canoeing

*Activities may vary by location