

SCHOOL
PROGRAM
GUIDE



Explore,



An Interdisciplinary Educational Experience



When you give your students a field experience at the PCC you give them an opportunity to make learning come alive.

A UNIQUE BLEND OF SCIENCE GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

At the Plains Conservation Center (PCC) the prairie becomes the focal point through which students can explore both scientific concepts and historical context. Allowing students to make connections between science, history, and the environment helps to develop the skills students need to be stewards of both the environment and society.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES BASED ON EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Research shows that experiences like those at the PCC are vitally important to today's learners. Using the environment as a context for learning demonstrates improved student performance and critical thinking skills. Experiences at the PCC are designed to be hands-on and use a variety of learning styles to meet the needs of all students.

ONLY AT THE PCC

- Students have the opportunity to expand their world view and look at their local environment through the perspectives of the people and organisms that have depended on the prairie throughout time.
- Learning experiences correlate with both Colorado Model Content Standards and the curriculum of many school districts in the Denver area.
- Our knowledgeable and highly qualified staff provide programming and resources to help your students explore the prairie both during their field experience and in the classroom.

Choose a prairie adventure for your class or group from the following hands-on field experiences or let us design a program to meet your needs.



PRAIRIE ECOLOGY



KINDERGARTEN — SENSORY EXPLORATION

Make exciting scientific observations about the prairie using eyes, noses, ears, and fingers as tools.

Goal: To understand how to make observations using the senses.

GRADE 1 — HABITAT

Explore the activities of a prairie dog colony to find food, water, shelter, and space for a perfect habitat for a burrowing owl, bullsnake, and prairie dog.

Goal: To understand habitat and the things that animals need to survive

GRADE 2 — PLANTS

Discover the amazing life of plants and their survival secrets above and below the soil.

Goal: To understand that plants are living things that grow and change.

GRADE 2 — EARTH MATERIALS

Search for the prairie's important non-living treasures like rocks, soil, and water; materials that provide vital resources for plants, animals, and people.

Goal: To understand that Earth's materials (rocks, soil, and water) provide many resources.

GRADE 3 — ADAPTATIONS

Meet the awesome variety of prairie animals to discover how claws, fur, beaks, feathers, and ears are adaptations that help them survive.

Goal: To understand niche and adaptation.

GRADES 4 & 5 — NATURAL CYCLES

Explore the short-grass prairie to discover natural cycles like carbon, water, rock, and energy that bring the prairie to life.

Goal: To understand the abiotic and biotic components of an ecosystem.

CHEYENNE CAMP



KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1

Play games Cheyenne children would have played in 1837. Listen to cultural stories on this prairie adventure.

Goal: To understand that families have special traditions.

GRADE 2

Learn important games the Cheyenne used to teach their children skills. Explore how girls learned to put up a tipi and boys practiced hunting for food.

Goal: To understand that everyone in a community has a role.

GRADE 3

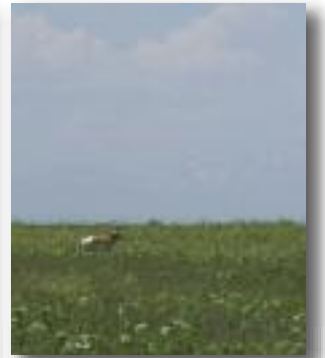
Discover 1837-era Cheyenne survival tools that used the prairie's resources.

Goal: To understand that culture is dependent on the environment.

GRADE 4

Explore how the Cheyenne lived and communicated on the prairie.

Goal: To understand the relationship between different cultures throughout Colorado history.



WELLS CROSSING SOD VILLAGE



KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1

Help a farmer with a wide variety of light chores such as feeding chickens, turkeys, and oxen, and learn how assigned chores helped the family survive. Visit a variety of buildings in Wells Crossing including our schoolhouse.

Goal: To understand that families had important roles on farms

GRADES 2 & 3

Meet an 1887-era farmer, teacher and other vital members of the Wells Crossing community and experience their morning routine.

Goal: To understand that growing communities were important for survival on the prairie.

GRADE 4

Discover why families, teachers, blacksmiths and others came west in 1887.

Goal: To understand how historical events influenced settlement and communities in the west.

PRAIRIE PERSPECTIVES

GRADES 3 – 5

Experience all the Plains Center has to offer! Spend the morning exploring the prairie, up close and personal. Learn traditional Cheyenne skills, including cooking over a campfire. Evening activities include storytelling, an evening wagon ride and toasting marshmallows! Spend the night in the tipis and wake up to the song of meadowlarks and warm flapjacks! Breakfast and costumes await you in the 1887-style settlement of Wells Crossing. Immerse your students in a typical morning for a pioneer. Students will assist with traditional chores, prepare the mid-day meal and attend school lessons for a true 1887 experience. Dates are available in May, June and September.

Goal: To explore the prairie from different perspectives in an extended 2-day program



PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

PRAIRIE ECOLOGY

Kindergarten – Sensory Exploration Make exciting scientific observations about the prairie using eyes, noses, ears, and fingers as tools.

Grade 1 – Habitat Explore the activities of a prairie dog colony to find food, water, shelter, and space for a perfect habitat for a burrowing owl, bullsnake, and prairie dog.

Grade 2 – Plants: Discover the amazing life of plants and their survival secrets above and below the soil.

Grade 2 – Earth Materials: Search for the prairie's important non-living treasures like rocks, soil, and water, materials that provide vital resources for plants, animals, and people.

Grade 3 – Adaptations: Meet the amazing variety of prairie animals to discover how claws, fur, beaks, feathers, and ears are adaptations that help them survive.

Grade 4 & 5 – Natural Cycles: Explore the short-grass prairie to discover natural cycles like carbon, water, rock, and energy that bring the prairie to life.

CHEYENNE CAMP

Kindergarten & Grade 1 Play games Cheyenne children would have played in 1837. Listen to cultural stories on this prairie adventure.

Grade 2 Learn important games the Cheyenne used to teach their children skills. Explore how girls learned to put up a tipi and boys practiced hunting for food.

Grade 3 Discover 1837-era Cheyenne survival tools that used the prairie's resources.

Grade 4 Explore how the Cheyenne lived and communicated on the prairie.

WELLS CROSSING

Kindergarten & Grade 1 Help a farmer with a wide variety of light chores such as feeding his chickens, turkeys, and oxen, and learn how assigned chores helped the family survive.

Grade 2 & 3 Meet an 1887-era farmer, teacher, blacksmith and other vital members of the Wells Crossing community and experience their morning routine.

Grade 4 Discover why families, teachers, blacksmiths and others came west in 1887.

PRAIRIE PERSPECTIVES

Experience all the Plains Center has to offer! Spend the morning exploring the prairie, up close and personal. Learn traditional Cheyenne skills, including cooking over a campfire. Evening activities include storytelling, an evening wagon ride and toasting marshmallows! Spend the night in the tipis and wake up to the song of meadowlarks and warm flapjacks! Breakfast and costumes await you in the 1887-style settlement of Wells Crossing. Immerse your students in a typical morning for a pioneer. Students will assist with traditional chores, prepare the mid-day meal and attend school lessons for a true 1887 experience. Dates are available in May, June and September.



PROGRAMS

- Times may be adjusted to fit scheduling needs.
- Home school students can be accommodated.
- Teacher workshops and certification credit available.

Preschool 1.5 hours: Experience nature with young learners through hands-on learning stations, group activities and outdoor exploration. Teachers who wish to bring their preschool class may call to request specific program topics to coincide with classroom material.

\$6 per person, 1 free adult per 5 students
\$120 min. fee, deposit due 1 month prior to program
Morning and afternoon programming available.

3 hours: Choose one program for an in-depth prairie experience.

\$8 per person, 1 free adult (incl. teacher) per 10 students
\$160 min. fee, deposit due 1 month prior to program
10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. with half-hour lunch.

2 hours: Choose one program for an adventurous prairie experience

\$6 per person, 1 free adult (includes teacher) per 10 students
\$120 min. fee, deposit due 1 month prior to program
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with half-hour lunch.

Title One Schools 2 hours: Choose one program for an adventurous prairie experience.

\$5 per person, 1 free adult (incl. teacher) per 10 students
\$100 min. fee, deposit due 1 month prior to program
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with half-hour lunch.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Prairie Perspectives: Offered in May, June and September, each trip is arranged to meet individual schools' needs. Trips are 1-2 days, with an optional overnight stay in the tipis.

*Fees vary with program type.
Please call for more information.*

REGISTRATION

- **Programs are offered year-round** and adapted to seasonal weather conditions.
- **Make your reservations early!** Most dates are booked more than 6 months in advance for the busy spring season. **Call 303.693.3621.**

ADMISSION TAX (cash, personal credit cards and checks)

The PCC is required to collect City of Aurora Admission Tax in the amount of 3.75 percent.

Groups may be exempt from paying the tax if:

1. Payment to the PCC is made with an organization check, imprinted with tax exempt organization name, AND
2. A copy of the certificate showing tax exemption number is provided.

The City of Aurora requires that the PCC collect taxes if payment is made by personal check or CASH, or if the organization cannot supply a tax exempt number, even if the group is tax exempt.

The PCC is open Saturdays to the public for free.
Be sure to visit our web site for special events.



FINDING THE PLAINS CONSERVATION CENTER

Via I-225 Take Parker Road exit. Go southeast to East Hampden Ave. exit. Go east for approximately 6 miles to PCC gate.

Via E-470 • From the north Take Jewell Ave. exit. Go east to Gun Club Road. Go south to East Hampden Ave. Go west 1 mile to PCC gate.

Via E-470 • From the south
Take Quincy Ave. exit. Go east to Gun Club Road.
Go north to East Hampden Ave.
Go west 1 mile to PCC gate.



21901 E. Hampden Ave. ✨ Aurora, CO 80013
303.693.3621 ✨ Fax: 303.693.3379