

Blair Outdoor Education Centre
Program Outline: Invertebrate Biodiversity Spring/Fall

Bus Times:

Schools are responsible for booking the bus for the trip. Please complete the form, **Off-Campus Excursion Category 1 IS-11-FA**. Busing costs are paid for by Learning Services, but you must book your bus through **STOCK Transportation (brendaj@stocktransportation.com 519 742-6224)**. When you book with STOCK please specify that it is an outdoor education field trip and they will bill Learning Services directly.

Please book your bus according to the following times:

If your school start time is between 8:30 and 8:50, book your bus to:			
Morning Programs		Afternoon Programs	
Arrive at Blair 9:15 a.m.	Depart from Blair 11:30 a.m.	Arrive at Blair 12:00 p.m.	Depart from Blair 2:15 p.m.
If your school start time is between 8:55 and 9:25, book your bus to:			
Morning Programs		Afternoon Programs	
Arrive at Blair 9:45 a.m.	Depart from Blair at 12:00	Arrive at Blair 12:15 p.m.	Depart from Blair 2:30 p.m.

Full day programs use morning arrival time and afternoon departure time.

- **All planning information for this trip is either contained in this document, or can be found on the Blair website.**

Blair Teacher Planning Page: <https://schools.wrdsb.ca/environmental-education/blair/blair-teacher-planning/>

- **Please complete the Blair Planning Form at least one week prior to your visit date.** This is the only written information I have regarding your class and I cannot be fully prepared for your visit without it. Of particular importance are life-threatening allergies that require an epipen or other medication.

Centre Visit Planning Form: <https://schools.wrdsb.ca/environmental-education/blair/centre-planning-form/>

If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Nathan Mantey, OCT
Blair Outdoor Education Centre
519 653-9855
nathan_mantey@wrdsb.ca

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This half day program consists of:

- An overview of biodiversity, species at risk and classification (this can be shortened you have recently taught the unit)
- Outdoor meadow invertebrate collection and study
- Indoor aquatic invertebrate microscope activity

Detailed Activity Descriptions:

Meadow Invertebrate Study:

Students will participate in collection, identification, classification and comparison of invertebrates of the field and forest. We can expect to find specimens representing the insect, arachnid, crustacean, and mollusc classes.



Aquatic Invertebrate Study:

A portion of the time will be spent observing aquatic invertebrates under the microscope. This is a fascinating study, making both identification and classification more challenging, but also very enlightening! We can expect to see aquatic crustaceans, arachnids and insect larva.

Ministry of Education Expectations met:

Students will:

2.2 investigate the organisms found in a specific habitat and classify them according to a classification system

2.3 use scientific inquiry/research skills (see page 15) to compare the characteristics of organisms within the plant or animal kingdoms

3.1 identify and describe the distinguishing characteristics of different groups of plants and animals and use these characteristics to further classify various kinds of plants and animals

3.2 demonstrate an understanding of biodiversity as the variety of life on earth, including variety within each species of plant and animal, among species of plants and animals in communities, and among communities and the physical landscapes that support them

3.3 describe ways in which biodiversity within species is important for maintaining the resilience of those species

3.4 describe ways in which biodiversity within and among communities is important for maintaining the resilience of these communities

3.5 describe interrelationships within species, between species, and between species and their environment

and explain how these interrelationships sustain biodiversity

3.7 explain how invasive species reduce biodiversity in local environments.

Weather:

Weather is variable at this time of year. Please watch the forecast leading up to your visit date and remind students to dress for cool and wet weather if necessary. If hot and sunny, hats, reusable water bottles and sunscreen are recommended.

Biting/stinging insects:

There may be biting or stinging insects (mosquitoes, bees and wasps, ticks) active in the Blair fields and forest at the time of your visit so I recommend wearing shoes and socks (no sandals), long pants, and light, long-sleeved shirts. If you choose to use insect repellent, please consider a lotion or pump spray as opposed to aerosol cans which release chemicals harmful to the environment. **Most days repellent is not necessary, so please do not apply at home, at school or while on the bus. Wait until we are ready to begin our outdoor activities at the Centre.**