

Exploring Science in Nature (ESN)

Middle School Programs

Explore

Exploring Science in Nature is a two-session educational program in which students learn about natural science concepts through enrichment activities in the classroom and field.

Educate

First, a naturalist educator visits your classroom with inquiry based activities that complement your curriculum and prepare students for a field trip.

Enrich

The following week, your class visits the Durango Nature Center for a half-day educational field trip. Trained naturalists guide small groups through a variety of habitats, engaging students with field science activities..

For program availability and registration info, visit www.durangonaturestudies.org or call 970-769-1800.

6

Grade 6 "A Watery World"

In the Classroom - Students will investigate the three states of matter in regards to the global water cycle. In addition to learning new concepts, they will participate in an active round of *The Incredible Journey*.

At the Nature Center - Students will participate in two inquiry projects using the scientific method and engineering design skills. The investigations will focus on the finer points of the water cycle as it functions at the Nature Center, focusing primarily on transpiration and percolation.

Standards - Meets CO Science Standard: 3.2

8

Grade 8 "Human Impact"

In the Classroom - Students will manipulate a large river simulator to observe various human impacts on a watershed, including soil erosion, pollution, the diverting of water.

At the Nature Center - Students will recognize inadvertent human impacts and work directly with watershed conservation professionals to complete a service-learning project improving the health of the Florida River watershed as it passes through the Nature Center.

Standards - Meets CO Science Standards: 2.1

7

Grade 7 "Plant Adaptations and Variety"

In the Classroom - Students will examine the relationship between plant stomata, the process of photosynthesis, and specific plant attributes.

At the Nature Center - Students will complete a vegetation survey of two different habitats at the Nature Center, collecting data and identifying species with a dichotomous key. Students will then do a stomata lab to examine the similarities and differences between the plants from varying habitats, making connections to xerophytic attributes.

Standards - Meets CO Science Standards: 2.1 & 2.5

We offer many other school programs!
Visit our website or call to find out more about:
Nature in the Classroom
Grade School Programs
Surviving and Thriving in Winter
High School Field Science Internship

	6	7	8
A Watery World	●	✓	
Photosynthesis & Transpiration	✓	●	✓
Human Impact		✓	●

✓ Program appropriate for suggested grade level.

● Correlates to Durango District 9-R Content Standards and Expected Performances in science.

Durango Nature Studies curriculum correlates with Local, State and National Education Standards in CO and NM.

