

## Saint John's Outdoor University Field Trip Overview

### Winter Exploration

**Objective:** Students will use their senses to explore the natural world during the winter. Students will discuss how animals have different ways to survive the winter then investigate outdoors how animals tolerate the winter by staying active. Students will also discuss and demonstrate how to explore outside safely and respect their environment during the winter.

#### **Field Activities:**

**Winter Survival (indoors\*):** This activity will introduce students to the three main ways animals use to survive the winter (hibernation, migration, and toleration). Students will then sort animals based on how they survive the winter.

**Stranger in the Woods book (indoors\*):** This activity will use the book to demonstrate how animals tolerate the winter by staying active and finding food. Students will discuss how humans can help by feeding animals in the winter.

**Winter Buddies (outdoors\*):** This activity will model the book and allow students to both observe previously built 'winter buddies' to look for animal signs and build their own winter buddy.

**Senses Scavenger Hunt (outdoors\*):** This activity will allow the students to explore the natural world using a scavenger hunt that engages their senses. Students will use equipment to explore and describe the items in the hunt.

\*note: length of indoor/outdoor activities may be adjusted due to weather conditions

**Nature Explorer Connections:** All students have the ability to be nature explorers. Nature explorers **respect** the natural world, **observe** using their senses, and **wonder** by asking questions about their observations.

**Respect** – Ways we will demonstrate respect:

- What lives in nature, stays in nature. We will not take anything home with us.
- Only appropriate food for animals will be left in nature.

**Observe** – Observational activities included during field trip:

- Observations of animal activities around previously built winter buddies.
- Using all our senses (except taste) to explore nature in winter.

**Wonder** – Questions that may be discussed:

- What animals tolerate the winter?
- What do animals need to do to tolerate the winter?
- How can people help animals survive the winter?
- What clues to we find outside that tell us animals are being active in the winter?

**Minnesota's Early Learning Standards addressed during activities:**

Domain	Domain Component	Early Childhood Indicators of Progress
Approaches to Learning	AL1 Initiative and Curiosity	AL1.10 Scans environment and notices new objects, materials and activities right away. Asks about them.
		AL1.11 Eager to investigate new things and have new experiences.
Scientific Thinking	ST1 Discover	ST1.7 Verbally identifies obvious differences and similarities. ST1.8 Expresses curiosity and/or formulates questions of complex concepts.
	ST5-6 Integrate	ST5.14 Talks with others about questions, actions, ideas, observations or results.  ST6.9 Identify what to look for, measure, or test to answer questions.
Social Systems: Cognitive	SS6 Environment	SS6.4 Begins to use geographical language to identify features of familiar environments (hills, rivers, etc.)
		SS6.5 Uses tools to represent immediate environment.