

# Springbrook



# Activities



**ANIMAL TRACKS:** Become more aware of animals found in Iowa by making plaster casts of animal tracks we find here at Springbrook.



**ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS:** Learn about native furbearers and the adaptations that enable them to be successful by studying their pelts and skulls.



**ATLATL:** Experience prehistoric technology using an atlatl to throw spears in the tradition of ancient hunters.



**AQUATIC LIFE:** Experience the diversity of life in a pond, stream or lake with use of a net, tub and ID guide. See the food chain in action!



**BLIND WALK:** Improve observation skills by fine-tuning your senses while blindfolded on a specially guided nature walk.



**BUTTERFLY ROUND-UP:** Identify butterflies and moths. Learn about their life cycles and importance in a catch and release safari.



**CALLING ALL OWLS:** Discover adaptations of our owls by looking at the habits and calling them in for a closer look.



**CORDAGE:** Discover one aspect of human technology by making your own rope with natural fibers.



**EARTH/HISTORYCACHE:** Learn to use GPS to guide the way to significant geological or historical sites located within Springbrook State Park.



**ENVIROSCAPE:** Participate in a demonstration of point source and non-point source pollution using a model of a typical community.



**FISHING:** Learn to use basic spin cast gear to catch and release fish from the pond or lake. Also learn how to identify what you catch.



**FUNGUS AMONG US:** Collect and identify fungi to determine if it is saprophytic or parasitic.



**FLY TYING:** Learn the art of fly tying and create your own Woolly Bugger!



**GPS:** Learn how to use a basic GPS unit and practice using it finding target locations in the park.



**GEOLOGY:** Examine rocks and fossils while focusing on Iowa's past. Learn what made our state look the way it does today.



**HIKING:** 1-3 hour hike which may include observation of wildlife, area geology and Native American burial mounds.



**HOW MANY CAN COME TO DINNER:** Become predators and compete with each other for food to learn about carrying capacity.



**ICE FISHING:** Learn winter ice fishing skills on the lake or pond as weather permits.



**INVENT AN ANIMAL:** Learn the value of camouflage to animals in their environment by inventing an imaginary animal and hiding it from predators.



**MACARONI WINTER:** Experience the dynamics of carrying capacity and limited resources when the group takes on the role of quail trying to survive the winter.



**ORIENTEERING AND TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:** Learn to set, measure and follow a bearing using a compass and map.

**SCAVENGER HUNT!**



**SCAVENGER HUNT:** Explore the area to find a variety of natural objects on a fun filled scavenger hunt.



**SURVIVAL FIRE BUILDING:** Learn the proper procedures for fire building and the differences between tinder, kindling and firewood.



**TALL TALES:** Use a collection of unique objects to tell an amazing true story or tell a tale. Fellow students try and guess which stories are true.



**TREE CYCLE/ROTTENLOG CRITTERS:** Observe trees in various stages of growth. Examine a rotten log and its inhabitants to learn about decomposition.



**WHO GOES THERE:** Use black lights to find tracks and other evidence of animals on a night time hike.



**KAYAKING:** Learn water safety and basic skills of kayaking by practicing on the lake.



**NO MILKWEED, NO MONARCHS:** Explore the life cycle and migration of Monarch butterflies and learn how to help restore habitat and plummeting populations.



**REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:** Become familiar with reptiles and amphibians commonly found at Springbrook State Park.



**SURVIVAL EXERCISE:** Learn how to prepare for outdoor survival situations and basic first aid by role-playing.



**SURVIVAL SHELTER BUILDING:** Learn basic survival shelter construction by building a shelter to survive an overnight in the outdoors.



**TEAM BUILDING:** A collection of challenge activities designed to increase trust, cooperation and leadership



**TREE IDENTIFICATION:** Learn to identify the common trees of Iowa through observations and use of dichotomous keys. ID trees along the trail for practice.



**WILD EDIBLES:** Take a guided hike to discover wild edible plants, learn about their uses, and sample a few.



**YOUR SPECIAL PLACE:** Experience a short time of solitude time in nature, sharpening your observation skills.

**Come forth into the light of things, let Nature be your teacher.**

*William Wordsworth*