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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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