



**TRAVEL NOTE:** If you are coming from Champaign, *please avoid using Bradley Ave.* Freight trains at this grade-level railroad crossing can cause long delays. Late arrival impacts the quality of your program.

## TOUR BASICS

### General Tour Outline

~15 min.	Nature Center Introduction & Exhibit Hall visit (class remains together)
~15 min.*	Indoor Program Introduction (class remains together)
~1-1.5 hrs.	Outdoor Hike Activities (class divided into groups of 12 or less)

\*The indoor introduction for the spring tour, *Blooming Beauties*, lasts ~45 minutes.

- Chaperones – When it is time for the outdoor activities please be prepared to divide your students into equal groups of about 12 children. At least one adult chaperone is required for every 12 children in your class. Likewise, we ask that you limit adult numbers to no more than 2 per group. Please explain that adults are expected to participate in the tour activities – adult enthusiasm inspires the children! ***Chaperones are expected to set cell phones to silent mode and refrain from text messaging during the program!***
- Siblings – Nature Center staff understands that some parents must bring younger siblings along, but as these children can be a distraction from the program, we ask that, unless absolutely necessary, they do not accompany the tour group. Parents are welcome to wait in the Nature Center while groups are on the trail.
- Dressing for the tour – Nothing ruins a field trip quicker than children that are not properly dressed for the tour! Please remind the children to wear the following suggested clothing.  
**In late fall and winter:** Wearing layers of clothing creates insulating pockets of air and can be removed depending on the temperature. Students should also have a hat, mittens and warm boots. Send a copy of “how to dress comfortably for the cold” home with each child to help parents prepare for the field trip.  
**In spring, summer and early fall:** Layers of clothing are still appropriate for early spring days. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts are preferred at all times to avoid scratches and insect bites. Tennis shoes or some other durable footwear offer more protection than sandals or slip-ons. **No sandals or flip-flops please!** Parents should check weather forecasts to determine whether rain gear and boots may be necessary. **Mud is possible at any time of the year.**
- Rules of Busey Woods – Natural area field trips abound in fun for almost any group. Yet, to preserve the natural habitat, certain guidelines must be respected. Please make sure your class understands the following requests.
  1. **Everyone must stay on the trails.** We want to minimize our impact on the woods and can do so by only walking on designated pathways. Straying off the trail may crush small plants, disturb animal homes or result in a case of poison ivy.
  2. **Nothing should be picked, damaged or removed.** Busey Woods is a nature preserve. Picking or removing plants or animals disturbs the natural balance of nature and detracts from the experience of future visitors.
  3. **Everyone should stay together.** Children need to know who their guide is, and that they will remain together as a group during the tour.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

- Groups may go on their scheduled hikes if it is misting or raining lightly.
- In the event of inclement weather (downpour, lightening & thunder, severe weather warnings or very low temperatures), school tours will still be held and indoor activities and games will be substituted.
- If weather is borderline, teachers will be consulted on whether a group will stay inside or try to venture into the great outdoors.

**CANCELATION**

- If you decide to cancel a trip for any reason, please be sure to contact the Nature Center at 384-4062 at least 10 (ten) business days before your scheduled visit to avoid forfeiting your \$15 deposit. You may leave a message on the answering machine if you are unable to call during business hours.

Thank you for your interest in environmental education. I look forward to meeting you and your students.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.P.R.', with a large, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then underlines the letters.

Chelsea Prahl  
Environmental Education Coordinator