



TO GET TO MEADOWBROOK PARK

- Please refer to the accompanying map for directions to Meadowbrook Park. Guides for your tour will meet you at the **Race Street parking lot**. Please note that this is not the Prairie Play parking lot.

TOUR BASICS

General Tour Outline

~5 min.	Group gathers and staff introduction (class remains together)
~20 min.	Program introduction in the barn (class remains together)
~20 min.	Hike through the prairie (class remains together)
~60 min.	Group activities in prairie (together or in groups)
~15 min.	Concluding activities and walk back to bus (class together)

- During the Tour – Your class will remain together for the majority of the tour (see above).
- Chaperones – When it is time for group activities please be prepared to divide your students into equal groups of 12 children or less. At least one adult chaperone is required for every 12 children in your class. Please explain that adults are expected to participate in the tour activities – enthusiastic adults inspire the students. **Chaperones are expected to set cell phones to silent mode and refrain from text-messaging during the program!**
- Siblings – The 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 necessary, they do not accompany the tour group.
- 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. 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.** In early or mid-October layers of clothing and a hat are suggested. 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 Meadowbrook Park – 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 prairie 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.** Meadowbrook Prairie 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 will go on their scheduled hikes if it is misting or raining lightly.
- In the event of inclement weather (downpour, lightning & thunder, or severe weather warnings), we will remain in the on-site interpretive center and conduct an indoor program.

- If weather is borderline, teachers may 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.

AFTER THE TOUR

You may wish to visit the Prairie Play pavilion and playground on the north side of Meadowbrook Park. There is also a pavilion just east of the Race St. parking lot. Both facilities have restrooms (until early – mid October) and picnic tables. The pavilions can be reserved for a fee. Please call 367-1544 for more information or to reserve either pavilion.

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

Sincerely,

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