



Opportunities for Home School Educators

In line with our mission, Fontenelle Nature Association's staff is dedicated to enhancing human stewardship of the natural world. One main way FNA accomplishes this is through its educational programs and services to the community.

Opportunities through FNA Properties:

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center (Katherine & Fred Buffett Learning Center) in Bellevue offers several venues that you can use to supplement your lesson plans. From the *Sounds of Night* room, to *Habitat Hollow* (awesome for rainy days), to our *Sense of Place Gallery*, our facilities are sure to complement your lessons. You may also use our 18 miles of hiking trails, including two 'stroller-friendly' boardwalks, as well as picnic tables and plazas to facilitate outdoor lunches or snacks. We have upland forest, floodplain forest, and wetlands with a large marsh for you to explore.

Neale Woods Nature Center has nine miles of hiking trails in the hills north of Omaha. The scenery includes forest as well as restored prairies...great backgrounds for many types of lessons! The nature center is open on weekends in the spring and fall. Members may use the trails any day throughout the year.

Rentals. Our facilities are available to rent for any group size. Consider renting Camp Brewster for your fall nature classes or for your network's monthly meeting. For information about fees and facilities availability, contact our Private Events Coordinator at 731-3140, ext. 253 or email PrivateEvents@fontenelleforest.org.

FNA Membership:

Become a member of Fontenelle Nature Association and enjoy year-round opportunities for curricula enhancement with hands-on activities and programs. Many educational children's programs are available to members for free or at discounted rates. For more information on these classes, please visit <http://www.fontenelleforest.org/events.html> or browse through FNA's quarterly newsletter, *The Leaflet*. To become a member, you may visit the website or contact Mary Beth Steele at 731-3140, ext.227.

Teacher Trunks:

Another opportunity for home school educators is renting one of our Teacher Trunks. Each trunk is available for two weeks at a time. You can share the trunk rental with another family and either do the activities together or divide the two weeks. All trunks have wonderful age-appropriate activities and curricula included.



Available trunks include [Astronomy Educator Trunk](#), [Critters Educator Trunk](#), [Incredible Insects Educator Trunk](#), [Lewis and Clark Educator Trunk](#), [Tracks Educator Trunk](#), [Vertebrate Educator Trunk](#), [Senses Educator Trunk](#). See our link to Teacher Trunks on our [schools](#) page for more information about these invaluable resources. If you have questions or would like to reserve a trunk, please contact us at 731-3140.

Programs:

Larger groups of home school educators may want to schedule a program such as our “**Critters Close Up.**” This program offers your children a chance to meet and learn about at least 3 or 4 of our captive educational animals. The students will also have an opportunity to touch the animals if they wish to. A short hike may also be included. Although designed for PreK-1st graders, this program is adaptable to almost any age. Critter programs are scheduled on weekdays. **Mud Pies**, a program to enjoy with your youngest children, is offered on Monday and Tuesday mornings at the Fontenelle Forest Nature Center. A similar ‘Parent and Toddler’ program called **Wild Wednesdays** is held at Neale Woods on the first Wednesday of each month. **Nature Detectives, Nature Buddies, and Nature Explorers** offered on Saturdays are excellent ways to incorporate the out-of-doors into your child’s education. See the current issue of *The Leaflet* or look online to see this month’s topic for these age-appropriate programs.

