



**Weaselhead Grade 2 Field Trip Teachers Guide Package  
“Exploring Small Animals and their Environment”**

**Website:** [www.theweaselhead.com](http://www.theweaselhead.com)

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*Thank you for your participation in our Grade 2 Weaselhead Education Program!*

The following items have been enclosed in this Teacher’s Guide package:

- Field trip program outline
- Behavioural expectations

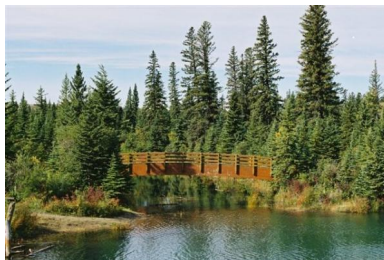
Pre-trip preparation:

- Please have the students broken into 4 or 5 groups per class prior to the field trip.
- Students can bring their own field journals if you wish.
- Assign one adult leader (parent volunteer) per student group.

Participants should bring:

- **Appropriate clothing for the weather. Snow boots or light hiking boots are essential if the weather is colder.**
- Water bottle
- Snack

***Note: This entire program is held outside with no indoor facilities. An outdoor toilet is provided near the parking lot. Students and parents must be prepared for all weather conditions. They will be hiking approximately 1 km from the parking area to the bridge over the Elbow River and back.***



## **Gr 2 Field Trip Program Outline: Half-Day (9:30 am-12:00 noon)**

The Weaselhead Natural Environment Area **North** Parking Lot is located on the West side of the **intersection of 66<sup>th</sup> Ave & 37 St SW**. Meet your Naturalist in the parking lot beside the grey shed found in the northwest corner of the lot. Please check with Education Coordinator for any changes to drop-off location due to construction.

*Please note: Naturalist leaders may adapt this program outline to suit the weather and the students' needs. If there is more than one class participating, each class will have their own guide but may stagger their routes to avoid crowding. Please make sure each teacher has a first aid kit.*

### **9:30 North parking area: Approx. 10 min.**

- Toilet visit
- Introduction, park rules and expectations

### **Walking down pathway: Approx. 30 min.**

- Exploring small mammals, birds and their shelters along the way. Try to figure out what they are eating and what eats them.
- Stop at the Aspen stand or Riverine Forest to explore evidence of woodpeckers or insects.

### **10:15 SNACK BREAK: Approx. 10 min.**

- Observe the Cliff Swallows and their nests. What are they doing and what are their nests made of?

### **Cross Green Bridge over the Elbow River:**

- Where does the water come from? How cold do you think it is?
- Look for any other ducks or wildlife by the water

### **10:30 Brown wooden bridge over the Beaver Lagoon: Approx. 10 min.**

- Look for any signs of Muskrat, Beaver, Northern Pike or Pond Skaters.
- Quiet listening for Pheobe birds or other wildlife.

### **10:45-11:15 Beaver Lagoon**

- Parents will catch invertebrates by the water and bring them up in tubs. Students will use insect boxes to catch, observe and sketch a few.
- Discuss Food Chains
- Measure the temperature of the water and discuss water needs of invertebrates

### **Walk back to the top of the hill to the buses: Approx. 20 min.**

### **11:45 Wrap-up and last toilet visit: Approx. 15 min.**

- Short wrap up of the day, toilets and good-byes.

## **Behavioural Expectations for all Group Members**

- **The naturalist should be in the lead at all times when walking and an adult leader should be at the end of the group.**
- **The groups should stay in sight of the supervisors at all times when doing group activities.**
- **NEVER remove natural items from the area. Vegetation, insect, mammal, bird and amphibian life is to be respected and left in the natural habitat. We will talk about this at the beginning.**
- **Leave no trace of your visit. All litter must be brought out by you and put in the garbage containers at the top.**
- **Unsafe behaviour such as pushing or teasing is unacceptable.**
- **Cooperation by listening, observing and participating in the activities is expected during the field trips.**
- **Each adult is expected to set a good example by participating in the activities and to provide due safety and care for each of the students.**

