



# SPRING 2011 – FREE NEARBY NATURE FIELD TRIPS AND SCHOOL VISITS

(Sponsored by *Nearby Nature*, *the Science Factory*, and *EWEB*)

Nearby Nature is pleased to offer a variety of grants for **FREE** nature walks in Alton Baker Park and **FREE** school visits. Some transportation funds are also available. Walks will cover a wide variety of topics, from river ecology to aquatic wildlife to water conservation. See details below.

## How to Request a FREE Nearby Nature Walk:

Please send the following information to us via email at [info@nearbynature.org](mailto:info@nearbynature.org).

- 1) Your name(s)
- 2) School
- 3) Phone number
- 4) Street address
- 5) Email address(es)
- 6) Grade
- 7) Number of kids in each requesting class
- 8) Three possible dates for your nature walk field trip(s) (see details below)
- 9) Half day or all day trip requested (see details below)
- 10) Field trip topic choice (see details below)
- 11) Amount of transportation funding requested if needed (see details below)

Enrollment takes into consideration our commitment to serving a diversity of schools, income levels, grade levels, and districts. Priority will be given to teachers and schools that have not recently received one of our grants, however, all teachers are invited to request programs. If you are requesting placement for more than one teacher, please include information for all teachers. Please do not call to register, unless you lack access to email. **We will notify you by return email about the status of your request as soon as possible.** Final confirmation of your field trip date as well as more details will be provided via email and/or regular mail. All field trips happen rain or shine and begin outside the Science Factory on Leo Harris Parkway in Eugene. If you request a *River Quest*, *Conservation Quest*, or *Critter Quest* walk, please also read the section at the end of this email about your FREE pre-walk school visit! School visits are not included with *Kalapuya Quest* walks.

**1) Field Trip Date:** With your registration request, please send **three possible dates** for your free nature walk in Alton Baker Park, **between April 19 and June 16**. We also have space for one class on **April 6** and one on **April 7**. If your dates are not available, we will contact you for more options.

**2) Field Trip Topics:** Please choose one of the following topics. For each walk, kids are divided into groups of 7-9 children. Walks are led by trained volunteers. Note grade levels if applicable.

- **River Quest Walks (1st-5th graders)** – These two+ hour walks focus on local rivers and watersheds. Kids learn about relationships between riparian plants and animals and about the water cycle. They also learn about how humans impact their environment.
- **Conservation Quest Walks (1st-5th graders)** – These two+ hour walks focus on cycles in nature. Kids discover how humans impact natural systems and how nature is a model for energy and water conservation. They also visit our Learnscape outside the Alton Baker Park Host Residence.
- **Critter Quest Walks (1st-5th graders)** – These walks focus on aquatic insects and wildlife – kids spend an hour pond dipping and an hour on a nature walk. (Note this topic should not be

chosen if you plan to do a *Nearby Nature* all day program since kids pond dip during the Afternoon Adventures program. This topic is fine for Earth to Sky Programs. See #3 below.)

- **Kalapuya Quest Walks (3rd-5th graders)** – These two+ hour walks focus on how the Kalapuya people historically used native plants and animals for shelter, food, and clothing. They also cover Kalapuya language, families, transportation, traditions, and stories. Limited availability for these grants.

### 3) Field Trip Length:

-- **Half Day Morning Nearby Nature Walks** run **9:30-11:45 am** and include lunch with our guides.

-- **Nearby Nature Afternoon Adventures Full Day Option:** An additional free session of Afternoon Adventures from noon-2 pm is available for 12 of the classes that join us for *River Quest* or *Conservation Quest* walks (sponsored by *EWEB*). Our Afternoon Adventures program features larger group activities that expand upon our morning walks: pond study, an art/writing project, and large group nature games. Free afternoon sessions will be awarded keeping in mind our commitment to serving a diversity of schools, income levels, grade levels, and districts. Teachers who do not receive free afternoon sessions are welcome to pay for their sessions at a cost of \$2.25 per child. **If you are interested in staying all day and participating in a Nearby Nature Afternoon Adventure, please note that in your request.**

-- **Earth to Sky Program Full Day Option:** Thanks to scholarships from the Science Factory, seven classes who get *EWEB* morning walk grants can participate in our Earth to Sky program this spring! (This program was funded by the Staples Foundation for Learning in the Fall of 2010.) Through this program, students will go on an *EWEB*-sponsored nature walk with *Nearby Nature* in the morning and enjoy a free planetarium visit at the Science Factory from noon-1 pm. **If you are interested in staying all day and participating in the Earth to Sky program, please note that in your request.**

**4) Transportation Funding Grants:** Some financial aid is available for transportation to Alton Baker Park thanks to *EWEB* (**for River Quest, Conservation Quest, and Critter Quest walks**). If you would like to request a transportation grant, let us know how much assistance you need via email. Funds for this portion of our program are limited, so **please apply only if your school is in genuine need**. Confirmation of the amount of your grant will be provided via email as well as regular mail. (Note: If you are part of 4J, when you book your trip on the 4J Transportation Web Site, be sure to have your bus trip “Split into one way to and one way from”. This will make your trip more economical.)

**5) FREE School Visits:** *Nearby Nature* staff and volunteers will conduct **free pre-walk classroom visits** for classrooms that get grants to go on *River Quest*, *Conservation Quest*, or *Critter Quest* walks. These visits will take place in **January, February, and March**. Each visit will last 45 minutes and will be age appropriate for your grade level. Topics for these visits will include our popular *Who’s Polluting the River?*, *Race for the Pond*, *Mountain Melt*, and *Green the Scene*, among others. **Visit scheduling will happen after we have confirmed our participation list.** Topics will be emailed to grant recipients and *Nearby Nature* staff will call to arrange visit times. Visit times are flexible but will depend on staff and volunteer availability. Teachers who do not receive free pre-walk visits are welcome to pay for in-school sessions. Contact us for more information.

**About Nearby Nature:** *Nearby Nature* is a non-profit education group dedicated to fostering appreciation of nature nearby and providing tools for ecological living. Our staff and volunteers lead nature walks, school programs, daycamps, and restoration projects. For more info see [www.nearbynature.org](http://www.nearbynature.org) or call 541-687-9699.