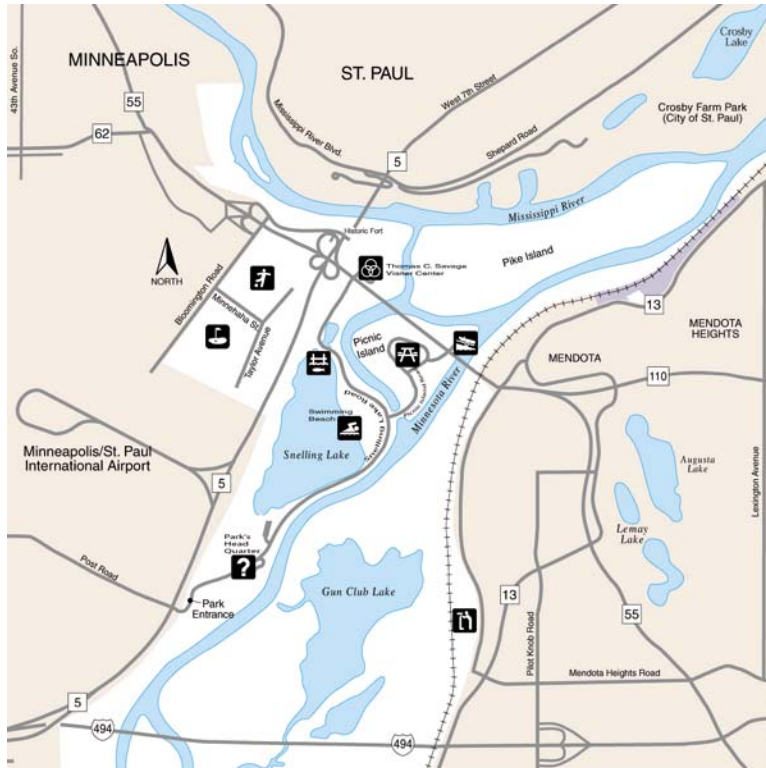


Enter Fort Snelling State Park at the **Post Road** exit off of **State Highway 5** near the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. (*Historic Fort Snelling exit is off of State Highway 55*)

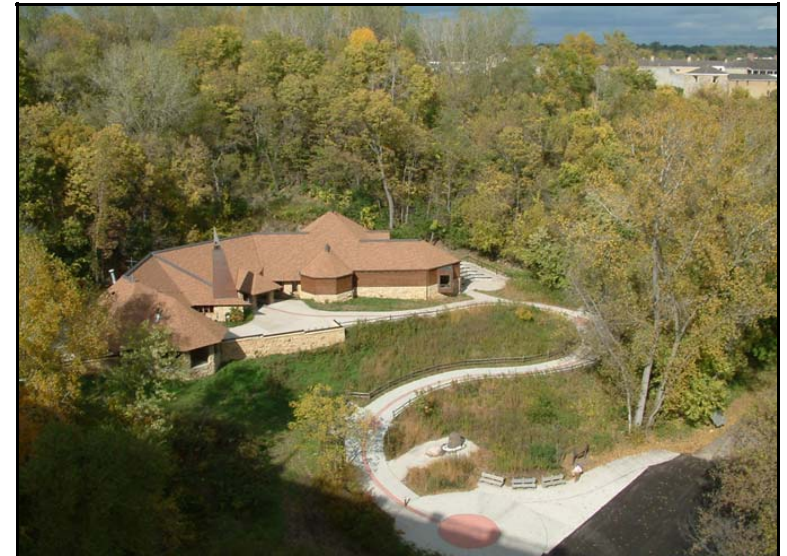


Interpretive Activities for Groups

FORT SNELLING STATE PARK



Where Rivers and People Come Together



Fort Snelling State Park
101 Snelling Lake Road
St. Paul, MN 55111

Office: 612-725-2389
Visitor Center: 612-725-2724
Fax: 612-726-1391

Email: FortSnellingState.Park@dnr.state.mn.us



Division of
Parks and Recreation
Interpretive Services

Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center

Interpretive Center Hours

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Daily

Nature Store Hours

Please call (612) 725-2724

Group Interpretive Activities at Fort Snelling State Park

Fort Snelling state park's education programs focus on the resources that are found at the park. Program subjects are natural resource preservation, wildlife, plants, geology, history and cultural heritage.

Teachers/Group leaders are encouraged to learn more about the park and interpretive exhibits prior to the group's visit. Fort Snelling State Park is one of Minnesota's most historically rich areas.



Exhibits in Visitor Center

Planning a Visit

Arrangements for programs or use of the facilities must be made at least two weeks in advance. The earlier the better; Groups are scheduled on a first-serve basis and only a limited number of requests can be accepted.

Discipline is the responsibility of adult group leaders. Help us enforce regulations against damaging vegetation or disturbing wildlife. Be aware of potential hazards such as inclement weather, poison ivy, nettles, deer/wood ticks and insect bites.

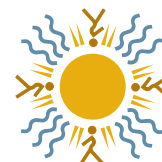


Winter Wildlife Hike (outdoor)

Winter is the perfect time to hike the trails and see what animals are still active. Join the naturalist on this hike to learn more about the animals that are active during the winter months.

Programs and Activities can be modified to fit different requirements and learning standards.

Linda Radimecky, Park Naturalist	Kao Thao, Naturalist
Fort Snelling State Park	Fort Snelling State Park
101 Snelling Lake Road	101 Snelling Lake Road
St. Paul, MN 55111	St. Paul, MN 55111
(612)725-2731	(612)725-2732
Linda.Radimecky@dnr.state.mn.us	Kao.Thao@dnr.state.mn.us



FORT SNELLING
STATE PARK

Fort Snelling State Park is situated in the heart of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area and is currently owned and administered by the DNR, Division of Parks and Recreation. The park represents one of the most historically significant areas in the state, and includes two state historic sites administered by the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) - Historic Fort Snelling and Camp Coldwater. The park includes the confluence of Minnesota's two greatest internal rivers—the Mississippi and the Minnesota. Its natural areas support rare calcareous fen habitat and the species associated with them. The park provides outstanding recreational opportunities for biking, hiking, picnicking, swimming, interpretation and environmental education programs, cross-country skiing, boating and fishing. The park also includes a nine-hole golf course and open field areas for baseball/softball and soccer.



Turtle Talk (indoor, group size: up to 70)

What animal has scales, long claws, a hard or soft shell, and is cold-blooded? If you guessed a turtle, you're right! Learn about the habitat, range, and life cycle of the eight species of turtles native to Minnesota. Presentation includes slides and a talk.



Wasps and Bees

Only three body parts, but what a wide variety of shapes and sizes (and personalities) these little insects illustrate. Learn which ones to stay away from and which ones humans actually benefit from during this honey of a class. We will see some of the products we use everyday thanks to the bees.



Weeds, Seeds, and We Don't Needs (outdoor)

There are many non-native plants that grow in Minnesota. Some of these plants are changing the native landscapes, and reducing bio-diversity. Learn how to identify some of the common non-native plants and learn how you can help prevent their spread.



Wetlands and Watersheds (indoor /outdoor)

Many different wetland types and watersheds come together at Fort Snelling State Park. Join us for this hike to learn what a watershed is and why wetlands are so important.



Whitetail Ways (indoor) / outdoor)

During this talk and slide presentation you will discover the ways of the white-tailed deer, Minnesota's most common large mammal. Learn about their habitats, adaptations, and communication methods. * **Optional extension activity:** "Oh Deer" students play components of deer habitat and learn what the limiting factors are to their populations. (outdoor with 30 to 150 participants)



Wild Bird Feeding Tips (indoor)

Attracting birds to your backyard feeder can sometimes be a challenge. Learn how you can attract more birds by using a variety of seeds and feeder types. Also learn how you can improve the habitat in your backyard to increase the number and variety of birds using your feeder.

Cost: All programs are **FREE** unless otherwise indicated. **A State Park vehicle permit is required on every vehicle entering the park, including vehicles with tax-exempt license plates.** (2005 rates: \$7 for day permit, \$25 for annual permit valid in any Minnesota State Park.) Permits can be purchased at the park office on the day of your visit. Vehicles dropping off/picking up students are not exempt and must purchase a permit.

Please plan to arrive on time. The Naturalist may have scheduled a group following your group's time slot. If you arrive late, your time with the Naturalist will be limited to the time period that was pre-arranged. Unless otherwise notified, all programs will meet and start at the park Visitor Center. **Please allow 10 minutes to drive from the park entrance to the Visitor Center.**



Floodplain Forest Walk

Photo credit: Judy Thomson, MN DNR



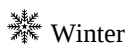
Spring



Summer



Fall



Winter

Most of the programs listed below will last from 45 minutes to an hour.



Abandoned Homes (outdoor, all ages)

Join the naturalist for this hike to search the park and look for the vacated homes of the park's summer residents. Learn how birds and other animals construct and furnish their summer homes.



All About Bluebirds (indoor, all ages)

Bluebirds are one of Minnesota's most admired song birds, yet many people have never seen one. Learn about the life history of bluebirds and how you can help restore their population. Talk and slide presentation.



Animal's guide to winter survival - Special adaptations.

(indoor, all ages)

Temperatures to 40 below, ice covering the lakes, snow everywhere and no green plants in sight. How do animals live in these harsh conditions? Learn the special adaptations these animals have to survive a Minnesota winter.



Animal Tracks (indoor, outdoor, all ages)

Learn how to identify animal tracks that have been left behind in the mud or snow. Also, make a plaster cast of your favorite animal track to take home. Group size is limited to 20.



Aquatic Invertebrates (indoor, outdoor, all ages)

What are those crawly things in the water? Will they bite? Where do they live and what do they eat? Learn all about aquatic invertebrates, their habits and habitats.



Bald Eagle (indoor, all ages)

Stop by the Thomas Savage Visitor Center at Fort Snelling State Park and watch a slide show on the American Bald Eagle and find out where you can see eagles in Minnesota.



Bats (indoor, Group size: up to 70, All ages)

Discover the fascinating world of bats. Learn about the bats native to Minnesota, how echo-location works, and how bats benefit humans. Also learn how DNR personnel use "bat detectors" to monitor bat populations.



Snowshoe Adventure/ Hike (outdoor)

What can you do when the ground is covered by layers of snow and every step you take sinks in? Join the naturalist and learn how you can walk on snow without sinking in too deep. Discover the safe and fun ways of snowshoeing and how snowshoes have been used by people throughout history.



Snowshoe History Hike (outdoor)

Using snowshoes, we will visit historic sites in the park and learn about the history of the area. Discover who lived here before us and how they related to the land and the resources.



Spring Hike (outdoor)

On this hike we will discover what nature reveals as the snow disappears. Learn how plants and animals survive the long cold winter and how they prepare for the next cycle of life.



Spring Trees (indoor /outdoor)

Spring is a time when trees prepare for a new season of growth and regeneration. Join the Naturalist for this hike and learn about how trees are awakened from their winter dormancy.



Tracking Winter Wildlife- Snowshoe Hike (outdoor)

As the animals of winter scuffle through the snow, they leave behind their footprints and other signs. Join us on this snowshoe hike and become a nature detective in search of animal tracks and signs. This activity is recommended for ages 12 and older.



Tree Detective (indoor /outdoor)

How old is that tree out the window? Why do trees have rings? Learn how you can tell the age of a tree without cutting the tree down. Learn how to identify the different parts of a tree and why the history of the land can be told by just looking at the rings of trees.



Trees Everywhere -Tree Hike (outdoor)

Join the naturalist for a hike on the park's trails and learn how to identify the many different species of trees native to the area. Trees can also be identified without leaves during the winter.





Pond life through the Ice (indoor /outdoor)

Do they migrate? Do they hibernate? Aquatic insects, you see lots of them during spring, summer, and fall but where are they in the winter? Dress warm and come learn how aquatic insects survive the cold winter when lakes are frozen over.



Power of sunlight - a life giving experience. (indoor)

What would the world be like without sunlight? Would there be life on earth? What do you think is the foundation of our planet's food chain? Learn how sunlight drives the web of life on earth.



Prairie Seed Collection (outdoor)(** This program depends on the year and the park's need for seeds**) Help Park Staff collect native forbs and grass seeds from remnant prairie and oak savannas sites and learn about these rare plant communities. The seeds collected will be used to restore other prairie and oak savanna sites within the park.



Predators - catch as catch can (outdoor) When your life depends on what you can catch you learn to catch as much as you can! And no matter how good you get, you can't ever catch everything. During this active game, catch a taste of the predator's predicament.



Rivers and Critters (indoor or outdoor)

The Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers are home to a wide variety of animal species. Discover what some of these animals are and how the rivers are important to their survival.



Skins and Skulls (group size: up to 70)

All animals are uniquely adapted for their survival. Learn about the adaptations of various animals that live in the park by examining their skins and skulls.



Snow - From Flakes to Glaciers (indoor / outdoor)

What is snow? Where does it come from? How did it change the face of Minnesota? Get a close-up look at a snowflake and calculate when the next glacier might cover the state. Join us for this blizzard of information about snow!



Bdo-te: Rivers and People coming together (indoor or outdoor, 3rd grade-adult)

The confluence of the Mississippi and the Minnesota Rivers has a rich and long history. Visit the sites where history has occurred from fur trading in the 1600's through the Dakota War of 1862 to present day.



Birding for Beginners (outdoor, all ages)

Birding is an enjoyable and challenging hobby. Join the naturalist for a birding hike and learn about the basic techniques of bird identification. Binoculars and bird guides are available for use.



Fall - A season of changes (outdoor, all ages)

Fall is a season of change for all of nature. Hike and discover how the plants and animals in the park prepare for winter.



Fish Seining (outdoor)

To study fish populations, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources uses nets call Seines. This seining program will also discuss the habitat requirements of different fish species, and how water quality affects fish.



Fish Trapping (outdoor)

Learn how fish traps are used by DNR personnel to inventory and monitor fish populations in the rivers and lakes of Minnesota. Participants will check fish traps with the naturalist and identify the species caught.



Flood Plain Forest Walk (out door)

Each year plants and animals that live in a river floodplain forest are subjected to periods of flood and drought. Hike and discover how the plants and animals that live in a flood plain forest are uniquely adapted for survival in this type of wetland.



FLOODS! Water, Water everywhere. (spring only / indoor or outdoor)

Minnesota's rivers rise and fall, usually on a seasonal cycle. But every now and then they rise higher than we want them to and flooding occurs. Learn about rivers, floodplains, and floods during this walk and talk.

(Continued on page 6)



Fort Snelling Rocks! (outdoor)

Water, sand, and time have created and shaped the rocks and valleys surrounding Fort Snelling State Park. Learn how these forces acted together to give us our present day landscape.



Getting Ready for Winter (indoor/outdoor)

As humans turn up the thermostat in their homes and put on three layers of clothing, what do you think the animals are doing outside? Animals face some difficult challenges during the winter months. Examine the different ways (migration, hibernation, adapt, die) animals cope with this challenge before heading outdoors to look for some animals getting ready for winter.



Hibernation (indoor, group size: up to 70)

Hibernation is one way to get through a Minnesota winter, but it is tricky and you need some special adaptations to make it work. Find out how the winter sleepers snooze all winter and wake up just in time for spring!



History Uncovered (indoor, group size: up to 70)

For thousands of years people have lived in the area we now call Fort Snelling State Park. Learn about the cultural history of the Fort Snelling area as we examine artifacts that have been found in the park.



Leave it to Beaver. (indoor and outdoor)

Fur, dam, cache, aquatic, and webbed feet, what do these things have in common? These are all things that describe a beaver. No, not Theodore Cleaver, but a furry aquatic webbed footed rodent. Come and learn about the life history of North American Beavers.



Maple Syruping (March only / indoor and outdoor)

Join us for our annual "Maple Syruping in Your Backyard" workshop. Learn about the natural history of maple trees, and the history of making maple syrup. Find out what equipment is required, how to tap trees, and how to process sap into syrup.



Minnesota Foxes (indoor)

Get to know the distant cousin of your canine friend. Learn about the different foxes in Minnesota, what they eat, where

they hide, and if they are beneficial to have around. Be as quick and clever as a fox and join us for this foxy presentation.



Minnesota's frogs and toads (indoor)

This slide and talk presentation will answer many questions people have about Minnesota's frogs and toads. What does the term "cold-blooded" mean? What is the difference between a frog and toad? Also learn how to distinguish the calls of the 14 different species of frogs and toads in Minnesota.



Minnesota Snakes (indoor)

This slide and talk presentation will answer many questions people have about snakes.



Muscle of Mussels (indoor/outdoor)

Discover the variety of freshwater Mussels that inhabit the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers at Fort Snelling. "Mussel" your way to the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center and learn how they struggle to survive through human harvesting, pollution, and competition with exotic species.



Nature in Motion - Seeds (indoor and outdoor)

For plants to survive they must successfully disperse their seeds. Hike with naturalist and learn about the amazing methods in which plants accomplish this task.



Orienteering Basics (out door)

Experience the outdoors with a little more confidence. Learn to use a compass, pace distances, and how to put it all together to find your way through the course.



Owls (indoor and outdoor)

Owls are birds of prey with special adaptations for hunting mostly at night. Learn about the owls we have in Minnesota and the sounds of their calls. Optional night walk requests considered.



Painted Ladies and Red Admirals (indoor and outdoor)

Learn some insect basics, the difference between moths and butterflies, and the proper way to catch them with a net. We will search the park to spot these colorful fliers.