

BACKPACK FOREST EXPLORATION

Fontenelle Forest invites you to spend time on our trails enjoying the quiet wild of nature. Our **Backpack Forest Exploration** program provides everything you need to create your own adventure. Through self-guided activities, you can help kids become nature scientists by making close observations and discovering the variety of plant and animal life in the forest. Each backpack contains instructional materials for fun games and engaging activities to participate in during your visit. Make new discoveries about the Forest as your group enjoys the boardwalk or venture into the Forest on our extensive trail system! Guests are also invited to visit the Raptor Refuge, play at Acorn Acres (a natural play-scape), and/or peruse Baright Gallery.

Each backpack is designed to serve **10-15 individuals**. Please let us know how many people will be in your group so we can plan accordingly. A Naturalist Educator will greet your group upon check-in and provide an introduction to the program. Guests participating in a Backpack Forest Exploration program will be granted all-day access to Fontenelle Forest. As this program is mostly self-guided, we recommend a minimum of two adult chaperones per 15 children.

PRICING DETAILS

First backpack: \$100

Each additional backpack: +\$50 (i.e. two backpacks for \$150; three backpacks for \$200; etc.)

(All reservations include: two-hour Backpack Program and access to the Forest, Nature Center, Acorn Acres, and Raptor Woodland Refuge)

SCHEDULING DETAILS

If you are ready to schedule this program, or have any questions, contact **Natalie Drake** at:

NDrake@FontenelleForest.org

(402) 731-3140 ext. 1009

Please arrive on time for your reservation. If you are running late or need to cancel, please call (402) 731-3140.



Prior to your program, please review the following guidelines with your group:

1. Children must be with their designated adult chaperone at all times.
2. Bring a water bottle! Water bottle fill stations and drinking fountains are available on site.
3. Remember to bring bug spray and sunscreen, and please apply while outdoors only.
4. Fontenelle Forest has a “leave no trace” policy. Do not take any plants, animals, or other natural items found on our property. Fontenelle Forest is a nature preserve and all natural items serve a purpose in a delicate ecosystem. Leaving behind all natural objects also ensures that other guests can experience the joy of making discoveries of unique leaves, plants, shells, feathers and other natural objects. Everything in the Forest is someone's food or someone's home.
5. We are all visitors when we are at Fontenelle Forest. Our actions directly affect the health of the forests, prairies, and wetlands within the Forest. We ask everyone to please work together to keep them safe for future generations.
6. Please dispose of all trash in bins at the Nature Center or carry it out with you.
7. Dress for the weather! Rain jackets or plastic ponchos are recommended when it's raining. Long sleeves, long pants, and tall socks combined can help protect against mosquitoes and ticks. Rain ponchos, bug spray, and sunscreen are available to purchase at the Nature Center.
 - a. After your field trip, we advise performing a tick check on attendees who participated in an outdoor hike to ensure there aren't any hitchhikers! If you have questions or concerns about ticks, please contact a medical professional.
8. We request that all guests wear sneakers/tennis shoes or other hiking-ready footwear. If possible, avoid flip-flops, open-toed shoes, heels, or shoes that you don't want to get dirty.

If you are interested in scheduling a Backpack Forest Exploration, or have any questions, contact **Natalie Drake** at:

NDrake@FontenelleForest.org

(402) 731-3140 ext. 1009

Our Nature Center is located at:

1111 Bellevue Blvd. N.

Bellevue, NE 68005