



TRADING POST BACKPACK FOREST EXPLORATION

CREATE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Create your own adventure with our **Backpack Forest Exploration program**! Fontenelle Forest features 1,500 acres and 17 miles of trails filled with endless opportunities to make exciting nature discoveries. Our backpacks provide everything you need to create your own personalized experience and new memories.

BECOME A NATURE SCIENTIST

Through self-guided activities, you can help kids become nature scientists by making close observations and discovering the wide variety of plant and animal life in the Forest. **Each backpack is designed to serve 15-20 individuals and contains activities suitable for ages 8+.**

Make new discoveries about the Forest as your group strolls the one-mile, ADA-accessible Riverview Boardwalk, or ventures deeper into the Forest on our extensive trail system! Guests are also invited to meet non-releasable birds of prey in the Raptor Woodland Refuge, make nature discoveries in Acorn Acres (a one-acre natural outdoor playscape),* explore Habitat Hollow (an indoor nature-based play area) and peruse the Baright Gallery.

*Acorn Acres is closed for renovations through Fall 2023.

BACKPACK CONTENTS

- Fontenelle Forest Trail Map
- Trading Post Exhibit Scavenger Hunt
- Cloud Viewer Activity
- Forest Scavenger Hunt Activities
- Animal Tracks Field Guide Sheets
- "Who goes There?" Activity
- Fungus and Plant Guides
- Raptor and Bird Guides
- Indigenous Perspective: *Prairie Smoke* excerpts and discussion questions
- Tree ID Flip Cards
- Ethnobotany Flip Cards
- Plant Artifact Exploration
- Beaver Box Activity
- I-Spy Archeology Jar
- Magnifying Lenses (5)
- Binoculars (2)
- Pencils/Crayons
- Erasable Markers
- Compass (1)
- LOOK OUT! Flip Cards
- Coloring Sheets

PLEASE RETURN THE BACKPACK TO THE FRONT DESK STAFF WHEN FINISHED.

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU EXPLORE



Please review the following guidelines with your group:

1. Children **must stay with their designated adult chaperone at all times.**
2. Bring a water bottle! Water bottle fill stations and drinking fountains are available in the Nature Center.
3. Fontenelle Forest has a “leave no trace” policy:
 - a. No Collecting: Do not take any plants, animals, or other natural items found on our property.
 - b. Do not leave foreign items: Items like trash, food (human food or birdseed), pinecones, decorative rocks and other items pose a danger to wildlife and the ecosystem.
 - c. Fontenelle Forest is a nature preserve and all natural items serve a purpose in a delicate ecosystem.
 - d. Leaving all natural objects undisturbed also ensures that other guests can experience the joy of making discoveries of unique leaves, plants, shells, feathers and other natural objects.
 - e. Everything in the Forest is someone's food or home.
4. 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.
5. Please dispose of all trash and recycling in the appropriate bins at the Nature Center or carry it out with you.
6. Rain ponchos, bug spray, and sunscreen are available for purchase at the Nature Center.
7. After your hike, we advise performing a tick check to ensure there aren't any hitchhikers! If you have questions or concerns about ticks, please contact a medical professional.

Backpack rentals and pricing:

- Each backpack costs \$5 and serves 15-20 individuals.
- Backpacks can be checked out at the Visitor Services desk and must be returned to the Front Desk staff when finished.
- Limited availability. Must be rented day of visit, no reservations.
- Questions? Ask Visitors Services at the Nature Center or call 402-731-3140.