**SCHOOL IN THE PARK 2019**

Thank you for volunteering for School in the Park. This program has been running for over 30 years and provides an opportunity for the district elementary students to learn about the diversity of nature in their own backyard. The program would not be possible in without the aid of many community and high school volunteers.

* The **morning session** runs from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. Please sign in at the pavilion in Bird Park near the Bird Park Dr. entrance when you arrive. There will be a brief orientation followed by a walk to your station. Volunteers will meet with their station leader to discuss the content for the station and become familiar with the materials. High school volunteers will meet back at the shelter at 9:00 am when the buses arrive. The elementary students assemble at the shelter for a brief welcome and then are divided into their five assigned groups and escorted by high school volunteers to their first station. After rotating through each of the five stations, students return to the shelter for a brief wrap up. After the conclusion of the program, the high school volunteers will be provided lunch at the shelter before returning to school.
* The **afternoon session** runs from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please sign in at the pavilion in Bird Park near the Bird Park Dr. entrance when you arrive. There will be a brief orientation and lunch at the shelter followed by a walk to your station. Volunteers will meet with their station leader to discuss the content for the station and become familiar with the materials. At noon, there is a brief welcome at the fire circle for the elementary students and then the students are divided into their five assigned groups and escorted by high school volunteers to their first station. After rotating through each of the five stations, students return to the shelter for a brief wrap up at the end of the program.
* Each station takes about 25 minutes. Students are guided through a variety of activities by an adult instructor and high school volunteers. At the end of the instruction period, the high school volunteer will lead the students to the next station. Students visit field edge, stream, invertebrates, forest and bird stations during the program.
* Please review the instruction guidelines for your station and be prepared to lead a portion of it. You can decide in conjunction with your adult instructor which portion you and your partner would like to teach.
* The bird, stream and invertebrate stations focus on the diversity and adaptations of animals. The forest station examines the variety of native flora, invasive species and decomposition, and the field edge station looks at the relationship between species through the food web, population dynamics and predator/prey.
* Students are asked to stay on the paths and activity areas to avoid contact with poison ivy and ticks. Portable restrooms are available at the shelter and near the soccer field. Bathroom needs and any illness or injury should be addressed by the parent chaperones. A first aid kit is available at the shelter.
* School in the Park will take place regardless of most weather conditions including light rain so please dress appropriately. In the event of severe weather or lightning, the program will end early, buses will be contacted and students will be dismissed back to their home school. In the event of severe weather, high school volunteers will shelter at the pavilion or Markham Elementary until it is safe for them to be dismissed.
* **Please bring a water bottle. In an effort to be environmentally friendly, we will not be providing disposable plastic water bottles this year. There are 2 water fountains to refill bottles in the park.**

If you would like to share any comments after the program or if there are any further questions, you can contact a member of the Mt Lebanon Nature Conservancy at Lebonature.sip@gmail.com.

Thank you so much! We couldn’t do it without your help!

Angie and Sarah

2019 School in the Park Coordinators