

SUGAR GROVE NATURE CENTER

GROUP VISIT INFORMATION

We are a private Nature Center, open to the public year-round. Each year, we welcome thousands of groups, individuals, and families wishing to explore our visitor center, grounds, trails, and Imagination Grove. We are happy that you wish to visit the Nature Center and appreciate your help by following these simple *Group Visit Guidelines*.

Scheduling Your Visit

Groups are always welcome. Whether you wish to participate in a Nature Center program or choose to visit on your own, RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE.

Scheduling your visit helps to ensure a quality experience for you and other groups that have arranged to visit. Quite often we have days when very large group events are taking place and certain areas are off-limits to other visitors and groups. To ensure the best experience for everyone, please contact us to schedule your visit at least two weeks in advance by calling 309.874.2174 or emailing register@sugargrovenaturecenter.org

Visiting Without A Program

If you choose not to participate in a program, we do request that you make a donation of bird seed, toilet paper, paper towels, or any of the items on our wish list which can be found at www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org/wishlist.htm. Cash donations are also appreciated and can be placed in the donation box inside the front door. We hope to avoid having to charge an admission or site visit fee for groups. Pre-arranging your visit and offering a donation for your enjoyment of the site will help greatly with this.

Visiting With A Program

We offer a variety of fun and exciting nature programs, hikes, and site tours led by Nature Center staff and volunteers for all ages. Reasonable fees apply and are based on the size of your group and duration of program. You can choose from a selection of popular program offerings or make a special request. Visit our website or call and speak to our Environmental Educator to learn more.

Imagination Grove

Not far from the Nature Center, just across the covered bridge, is Imagination Grove. Imagination Grove is a special place where “kids can be kids,” designed to form a bond between children and nature that lasts a lifetime. This nature exploration area invites kids of ALL ages to search for fossils and arrowheads, build a fort, tromp in the creek, climb a tree, pretend they are an early explorer, and so much more! Groups are welcome to enjoy Imagination Grove during their visit. If you plan to do so, we encourage you to have your group bring shoes that can get wet. An extra set of clothes is also a good idea. Help us out by using the outside restrooms once you get dirty and wet. Getting wet and dirty is strongly encouraged! 😊



Hiking Trails

Over five miles of hiking trails wind through the forest and prairie habitats of Funks Grove. Please stay on the trails and watch out for poison ivy. Remember to enjoy nature but not take it home with you.

Campfires

Campfires are by permission only and a small fee is charged for firewood. Firewood CAN NOT be brought into Funks Grove due to the risk of transporting exotic species and diseases. We have roasting sticks available for use for FREE. We do offer special campfire programs during the daytime and evening. Contact us to find out more!



Picnic Shelter

Our picnic shelter is available on a first-come, first-served basis unless it has been previously reserved. Any intended use by a group beyond one hour or 25 guests requires a reservation. If you would like to reserve the shelter, please contact us for site use fees and a contract.

Camping

We offer group camping opportunities. To learn more about spending a night under the stars in Funks Grove, please contact us.

Please Remember

Sugar Grove Nature Center is a non-profit organization. We rely on donations, memberships, program and site fees to keep our facility operating. Although on private property, the Nature Center is open to the public year-round and general admission is free.

Hours

Our grounds, trails, & Imagination Grove are OPEN year round from dawn until dusk.

<p><u>Nature Center Hours</u> <i>April-October</i> Tuesday-Friday, 9-5 Saturday, 10-3 Sunday, 1-4</p> <p><i>November-March</i> Tuesday-Saturday, 10-3</p> <p><u>Trails</u> Open Daily, Dawn to Dusk</p>

Sugar Grove Nature Center is located in beautiful, historic Funks Grove, IL just minutes from Bloomington-Normal and Lincoln.

**Sugar Grove Nature Center
4532 N 725 East Road
McLean, IL 61754
309.874.2174**

For more information as well as a map and directions to the Nature Center visit our website, www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org.