

CHOOSE A PROGRAM



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Owl Programs

Have fun while learning about owls with Alice the Great Horned Owl! We offer a variety of programs suited for everyone from preschool to college, scouts to Audubon, and 4-H to Elderhostel groups.

Programs are offered either on- or off-site, but must be indoors in a generally insect-proof building due to the threat West Nile Virus poses to Great Horned Owls. Program length can be adjusted from 30 to 90 minutes depending on the program and audience. Maximum group size at the Nature Center is 25.

All programs include a visit from Alice the Great Horned Owl, the story of her family, and a discussion of some of Alice's more interesting adaptations.

• **Build An Owl**

Preschool to 2nd grade

Learn first hand about owl adaptations by picking out the pieces and parts that belong to an owl and putting them into a "magic" box. If correct, Alice comes out from under the magic box for a visit!

• **Owls and Us**

2nd grade and older, families

Get involved with this hands-on game show focusing on human-owl interactions and the "standard" questions everyone has about owls. *Our most popular program.*

• **The Secret Life of Alice the Owl**

5th grade and older, Elderhostels, Audubon

Think it would be fun to have an owl as a pet? Think again! This funny-but-gross 20-minute video shows how an owl who thinks she's a human applies her owl instincts to a life in captivity and what is involved in caring for an owl.

• **Name that Owl**

Junior high to nursing homes

Find out whooo's in your backyard! Discover how to identify owls by their calls, shapes and sizes with life-size silhouettes, audio recordings and/or a PowerPoint presentation.

• **The Great Horned Owls of Perkins Valley**

College, Elderhostels, Audubon

Alice the Great Horned Owl and her wild neighbors are the basis for the first vocal study on their species. Experience the wide variety of hoots, chitters, and squawks and their associated behaviors in this PowerPoint presentation. Choose either the "scientific" presentation or the "fun" version.

• **Owls in Need are Friends Indeed**

High school, Elderhostels, Audubon

Owls in the United States and around the world face all kinds of threats, mostly human induced. Find out what you can do to help them.

• **Who's Alice? (or Karla, for that matter?)**

In 1997 a three-week old Great Horned Owl chick fell out of her nest in the city of Antigo, Wisconsin and permanently injured her left wing. She landed a job working with Karla Kinstler at the Houston Nature Center in 1998 and has lived in Karla's home ever since. Since Alice was injured so young, she grew up thinking she was a human and considers Karla to be her mate. This very close bond is what makes their owl programs so special. It has also led to:



- Gaining protection for Great Horned Owls under Minnesota state law in 2005 after Karla and Alice testified at the state capital.
- An annual International Festival of Owls dedicated to the celebration of Alice's "hatch-day," the first weekend in March.
- The first ever vocal study on Great Horned Owls, conducted by Karla with Alice as her main subject, and a presentation at the World Owl Conference in The Netherlands in 2007.
- Karla receiving a Bush Leadership Fellowship to develop a North American Owl Center in Houston, Minnesota.

PROGRAM FEES

Fees are based on programs up to about one hour in length. Since we are funded by the City of Houston and receive no county or state funding, we charge the following fees for our programs:

ON SITE:

\$2 per student per program (\$30 minimum)

\$55 for non-school groups

OFF SITE BASED ON DISTANCE FROM HOUSTON:

In Houston Donation

Up to 25 miles \$125*

26 to 50 miles \$175*

51 to 75 miles \$225*

Each additional 25 miles +\$50

Additional programs at same site are \$50

Up to 25 miles: Caledonia, Eitzen, Hokah, LaCrescent, LaCrosse*, Peterson, Ridgeway, Rushford, Spring Grove, and Whalan.

26-50 miles: Cantbn, Chatfield, Cochrane*, Decorah, Fountain, Fountain City*, Harmony, Holmen*, Galesville*, Lanesboro, Lewiston, Mabel, Minnesota City, Onalaska*, Perrot State Park*, Preston, St. Charles, Sparta*, Trempealeau*, West Salem*, Winona, and Wykoff.

51-75 miles: Rochester, Wabasha, Spring Valley, and others.

*WI programs add \$175 for permit fees, or split with other WI groups during a one-month period.

To schedule a program, call or e-mail the Nature Center.

507-896-HOOT (4668)

nature@acegroup.cc

What people have to say about our programs:

"YOU DO A GREAT JOB OF GETTING THE KIDS OF ALL AGES INTERESTED."

-4-H leader

"Your Quiz Show game was fantastic and seeing Alice is AWESOME!"

-2nd grade teacher

"Not only did you 'fuel the flame' of students who already have a special interest in birds, but you started the flame in many other students."

-Charter school teacher

"We liked seeing Alice burp up her pellet."

-Kindergarten class

"Alice rocks. Thanks!"

-High school student

"Your presentations on Bird ID and Owls got rated 4 & 5 by everyone....And Alice was a big hit. Thanks again!"

-Bird festival coordinator

Houston Nature Center

Program Scheduler



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Let Alice the Great Horned Owl get your group excited about owls! Schedule a program for your school or organization.

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