Preparation for Your Program

- In case the program/animal that you booked for your program is not available on the day of your program, please prepare students by telling them that your classroom will be hosting a special visitor from the Knoch Knolls Nature Center rather than naming the specific animal, i.e., snake, turtle, or salamander.

- Please talk with your students about how a live animal should be treated (quiet voices, gentle touches) and practice the “one finger” (pointer finger) touch.

Registration:

- Begins on First Monday in November
- Select two dates that will work for your class
- Call 630-864-3965, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm to register.

(Payment due at the time of booking.)

On the Day of Your Program

- The naturalist will arrive approximately 10-15 minutes prior to the presentation.
- Please allow time for the naturalist to come in and set up the program area before the students gather.
- We require an open area, large enough to accommodate all the students (such as a circle time area) with a rug, one chair.
- The naturalist will also need a few minutes after the presentation to clean up.
CLASSROOM VISITS

Classroom programs are taught by a naturalist and are designed for groups of up to fifteen children, ages 3–5. Programs may include a storybook, songs, roleplaying, puppets and other realistic toys plus real animal items, like shed snake skin and a live animal interaction. In-class programs are available December through March, Monday to Friday.

PROGRAMS

TURTLE TIME
Learn about different types of turtles through a story, interacting with turtle puppets and toys, touching a real turtle shell, singing a turtle song, and pretending to be a turtle. At the end of the presentation view and touch a live box turtle.

SILLY SALAMANDERS
Investigate the life of a salamander by starting with a story, singing a silly salamander song, acting out the life stages and then watching a tiger salamander eat a worm. Please note: Students will not be able to touch the salamander; please see the Live Animal Interactions section for more details.

SUPER SNAKES
Discover what makes an animal a snake with a scaly story, a slithering snake song, pretend snake toys and the chance to view and touch a live fox snake and his shed skin.

PROGRAM START TIMES & LENGTH

Start: 10:00 a.m.
Class length: 45 min.

Start: 12:30 p.m.
Class length: 45 min.

PAYMENT/FEES

Full payment is due at the time of registration.
- $75 for 1 presentation for up to 15 children
- $110 for 2 presentations (not concurrent; one at 10:00 a.m. the next at 12:30 p.m.)
- Above fees are for schools within 10 miles of Knoch Knolls Nature Center, 320 Knoch Knolls Rd, Naperville, IL 60565
- For distances between 11 – 20 miles add $20

CHAPERONES/ADULTS

A minimum of one teacher must be present during the entire presentation.
To keep the group size manageable, no more than 3 additional adults should attend the program.

PROGRAM CONFIRMATION

A registration confirmation will be sent via email once payment is received.
A call will be placed to the school about a week before the program to confirm our visit.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

Programs canceled more than two weeks prior to the start of the program will be refunded the program fee minus a $25 cancellation fee.
Cancellations made less than two weeks prior to the start of the program will receive a 50% refund of the program fee.
If weather conditions make travel difficult or hazardous for our staff, you will be notified that your program has been cancelled by 9:00 a.m. on the day of your program. You may reschedule for another time. If rescheduling is not possible, the program fee will be refunded in full.
If your school district cancels school on the day of the program, you may reschedule for another day. If rescheduling is not possible, the program fee will be refunded in full.

LIVE ANIMAL INTERACTIONS

We recommend scheduling time for your students to wash their hands after touching our turtle or snake.
Please note that our salamander cannot be touched; their skin is very porous and easily absorbs substances found on our hands. Children will observe the salamander eat an earthworm instead.
We reserve the right to determine if an animal is healthy enough to visit your classroom. If an animal is not well, or our snake is about to shed, we will provide an alternative program/animal.
Our education animals also need to be given days of rest. For this reason we will not book the same animal for a program two days in a row.