

Activities for Middle School Students to do on nature preserves – SkyDay project – Rusty Patch Bumble Bee.

Suggest that students come in class size (20 or so) for any one day/session, rather than entire grades at once. But some of the activities can do entire classes (such as seed planting).

Tools and safety gear can be provided by preserves (such as scissors, gloves). Although if it gets to be more than say 80 students at once then it may cost us to buy more tools.

Fall: Collect native flower seeds (late August through November)

Plant native flower seeds (in November through January)

Spring: Remove non-native weeds (April through May)

Plant native seed (although it sprouts much better if planted so that seed overwinters on the ground).

Winter: Remove non-native brush (using hand loppers)

Planting native seed (November – January)

Suggest reading Nachusa Grasslands website, sections under Stewardship and Volunteers to give you an idea of how prairie restoration is done on the large scale www.nachusagrasslands.org.

Byron Forest Preserve does the same types of activities, but with fewer volunteers.