

**Rensselaer County
Dyken Pond Environmental
Education Center**



Field Trip Information

Thank you for scheduling a field trip to the Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center. In order to make your trip the most enjoyable, please read the following information.

**Weather
Conditions and
Suitable Clothing:**

Located on the Rensselaer Plateau and situated between 1600 and 1800 feet above sea level, weather conditions at the Center are generally 10 degrees cooler than lower lying areas. Students should be encouraged to bring an extra layer of clothing and wear comfortable walking shoes, sneakers or hiking boots. No sandals or open-toed shoes, please. Have students wear their outdoor play clothes that they don't mind getting dirty during their field experience.

**Inclement
Weather:**

Your day at the Dyken Pond Center will focus on a hands-on learning experience. Unless otherwise arranged, all classes will be held in the outdoors rain, snow or sunshine. Scheduling a rain date is strongly encouraged. Please call the Center as early as possible to discuss moving to a rain date.

Lunch Facilities:

We support a carry-in, carry-out policy. Students will be asked to separate their organic materials and instructed in the use of a compost bin. We ask each group to bring their own garbage bags and to carry the remainder of their refuse out of the park. Picnic sites are available on the front lawn. You must provide all of your own food and drinks. A water fountain is available in season.

Restrooms:

We have composting toilets. Exceptionally clean and environmentally friendly!

Group Size:

For an optimum learning experience, we suggest a group size of no more than 20 students per instructor. You must provide at least one chaperone per group, who is responsible for discipline. We provide 2 instructors per field trip. Additional instructors may be scheduled as needed for larger groups. Please contact the Center to make arrangements.

Payment:

\$3.00 per student payable to Dyken Pond Center on the day of your trip. No charge for adult chaperones. We accept cash, check or voucher.

Location: Please confirm these directions with your bus company. **Do Not Use a Car GPS! Following a car GPS unit may bring you to the wrong side of Dyken Pond! The Center is on Dyken Pond in the town of Grafton, not Berlin.** Every year, one group ends up lost. **Don't be that Group Leader!**

DIRECTIONS: From Troy: East on Route 2. Watch for Tamarac School on the left and Tamarac Plaza on the right. Go ½ mile. Watch for Dyken Pond sign. Turn right onto Route 79. Go two miles. Turn left at Dyken Pond sign onto Route 80. Bear right at fork. Bear right at Dyken Pond sign onto Dyken Pond. Continue 2 ½ miles. Dyken Pond Road is a dirt road. Don't get discouraged. We're at the end of the road!

From Points West: Follow Route 7 east from Troy. Continue approximately 4 miles. Turn right at traffic light onto Route 278. Continue until the end. At traffic light, turn left onto Route 2. You will see Tamarac School and Plaza. Follow directions above.

From Points East: From Route 22, follow Route 2 west. You will pass the blinking light in the town of Grafton. Approximately ½ mile from there, look for the General Store on the right and the white Methodist Church on the left. Turn left at the church onto County Route 85 and continue for 3.1 miles. Turn left onto Route 80. After .8 miles, turn left at the sign.

Distances from urban centers (Time is estimated minimum travel time.):

Troy:	14 miles; 30 minutes	Albany(downtown):	19 miles; 45 minutes
Schenectady:	30 miles; 60 minutes	Williamstown,MA:	22 miles; 40 minutes
Bennington, VT:	27 miles; 50 minutes		

If we can assist you any further, please call Josh Pulito at (518) 658-2055, or write us at 475 Dyken Pond Road, Cropseyville, New York 12052. Visit our website at <https://dykenpond.org> or you may e-mail us at: dykenpond@gmail.com