



Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center School Field Trip Programs

Hands-on field investigations are available for students in pre-school through high school. All activities are designed to meet Next Generation Science Standards and are inquiry based to lead to maximum engagement. Programs may be tailored to meet the needs of the teacher and audience and can be adapted for various grades. Choose one program per class. Two classes maximum per day. Please inquire about accommodating larger groups.

Fee: \$3 per student. No charge for chaperones with school groups. Come spend the day with us! We can customize the day to fit your bus schedule. Bring a picnic lunch and end the day with fun environmental games. Scholarships are available on a first come first served basis and can cover programming fees and/or bussing costs.

Preschool – 2nd Grade

Five Senses Adventure

Description: Students will develop their powers of observation, the starting point of all scientific inquiry. Focus on a sense of awe in nature while on an interpretive hike that uses the outdoors and discovery as a teaching catalyst. LS1-1, 2-LS4-1

Pond Investigation

Description: Enjoy a fascinating day at the edge of the water. Use dip nets and magnifiers and be prepared to be amazed at who you find living in the pond. Focus on the wonder of pond life or life cycles and adaptations. LS1-1, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS4-1

Animal Adaptations

Description: Investigate the forest and lake edge on a short walk. Learn about mammals and birds who live here, their habitats and special adaptations they may have. K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, 2-LS4-1

Environmental Games

Take time out to just play and have some fun! Each game teaches an environmental lesson about animal adaptations or habitats. Note: If you bring two classes for the day, we can include games after lunch.

3rd – 5th Grade

Pond Investigation: Life Cycles and Adaptations

Description: Collect, identify and compare macroinvertebrates and amphibians using dip nets, identification charts and magnifiers. Focus on either the water cycle and the importance of clean water for life, or animal life cycles and adaptations to their habitat. 3&4-LS1-1, 3-LS4-3, 5-LS2-1

The Life Cycle of Trees

Description: Investigate the differences between species and unique growth patterns of native trees on a short walk. Identify parts of a tree and their functions. Look at growth rings and connect photosynthesis to annual growth. Discover how trees are recycled into soil and nutrients made available for new plant growth. 3-LS4-3, 4&5-LS1-1

Wildlife Walk

Description: Investigate the forest and/or lake edge on a short walk. Learn about mammals and birds who live here, their habitats and special adaptations they may have. You may also choose to focus on one animal in particular including bats, birds, beavers, or another of your interest. 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1

Water Cycle

Description: Follow the Incredible Journey of a single rain drop to find out where most of the planet's water is located. Discover the importance of water to plants, animals and humans. 3-LS3-2, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS1-1

Wonderful Wetlands

Description: Dyken Pond Center is home to a variety of fascinating wetlands including one called a fen (similar to a bog). Visit the fen and compare its characteristics to the forest. Compare and contrast through observation to determine how it differs from the forest. Discover a carnivorous plant living there and how native people used plants for survival. 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1

Map and Compass

Description: Discover how maps and compasses can be used together to safely navigate. Begin by reviewing how to use a compass in an open field before using a compass to navigate a forested area. Gain confidence and skills in using navigation tools to safely explore the outdoors. 4-ESS2-2

Middle and High School, including AP Environmental Science and Biology

Forest Ecology

Description: Compare deciduous and coniferous communities found at Dyken Pond Center; use an increment borer to age a tree and collect basic information on the growth patterns of trees. Biltmore sticks may be used to collect data on height and diameter of trees. All data collected will be interpreted by students. Can be adapted for most grades and AP classes. MS & HS-LS2

Wetland Comparison Program?

Description: Learn about the importance of wetlands in the environment. Visit different wetlands and examine what makes each unique. Collect and contrast field data from numerous sites. Best suited for small AP classes. MS-LS2-1, HS-LS2-2

Teamwork and Team Play

Description: Groups participate in a series of challenges that create situations that will stimulate creative thinking, positive group dynamics, leadership development, and have each group working together to collectively solve problems.

All Grade Levels

Build your own!

Don't see the program you would like offered here? Give us a call and we'll do our best to tailor a program to meet your group's unique needs.

Interpretive Hike

Description: Explore the ecology of the area through seasonal interpretation. Choose a focus for the hike from the program descriptions listed above or choose wildflowers, wildlife, forest plants or birding.

Environmental Games

Take time out to just play and have some fun! Each game teaches an environmental lesson about animal adaptations or habitats. Note: If you bring two classes for the day, we will include games after lunch.

Contact Information:

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*Partial funding received from the Office of Children and Family Services and the Rensselaer County Department for Youth.