

PROGRAM

Nature Study



ORGANIZATION NAME

Buffalo Audubon Society

AVAILABLE FORMATS

- Performance
- Single Workshop
- Multi-Session Residency Workshop
- Field Trip

GRADE LEVELS

- Pre-K
- K – 2nd
- 3rd – 5th
- 6th – 8th
- 9th – 12th

MAX NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

In-Person: 25-30 Students

PROGRAM LENGTH

90-180 minutes

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The goal is for all classrooms to have the chance to go outdoors for a nature field experience. We can invite you to our nature center or provide programming at your site, utilizing neighborhood parks, green schoolyard spaces, and classrooms for our interactions with nature. Naturalists guide our curriculum-aligned field studies, which provide students with direct experience. We aim to interact with natural phenomena, build habits of mind, and develop critical thinking, inquiry and collaboration. The timing of the Nature Field Study varies from 1- 2.5 hours, depending on the program location.

Workshop topic choice:

- Birdwatching - Birding in your Schoolyard
- Skulls & Tracks
- Cold Blooded Critters
- Behaviors & Adaptations

Nature-Based Field Experiences: The goal is to connect the community through experiences in the natural world that lead to discovery, problem solving and collaboration. We can provide unique, adventure-based field trips to entire classrooms and grade levels. The experiences are nature-based, adventure-oriented, align with the NYS/School standards and SEL goals, and help students develop authentic relationships. Each field experience will be between 2.5-4 hours in total length and in a natural environment.

CURRICULUM STANDARDS

This program supports these NYS or Next Generation Learning Standards:

- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: (3-LS2-1; 3-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3; 3-LS4-4)
- Weather & Climate: (3-ESS2-3; 3-ESS2-1)
- Matter/Energy in Organisms & Ecosystems: (5-PS3-1; 5-LS2-1)

Supports Visual Arts Anchor Standards:

- Generate and Conceptualize artistic ideas and work
- Organize and Develop artistic ideas and work
- Refine and Complete ideas and work

Contact Arts for Learning WNY for more information.
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EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Students will explore natural phenomena to understand ecological patterns and systems.
- Students will explain interrelationships within ecosystems and gain an understanding of the structure and function of diversity as related to ecosystem health.
- Students will gather, analyze and interpret data that will be added to NASA's GLOBE database.

LOGISTICS/EQUIPMENT

- In-person (combo of in class and schoolyard): some of our classes can be done at schools
- In-person at Beaver Meadow: some of our classes need our unique ecosystem/outdoor space
- Virtual: We can alter the lesson to happen virtually

VOCABULARY

Ecology – the branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings

Biodiversity – the variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.

Ecosystem – a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment:

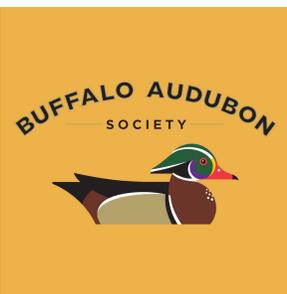
POST-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES

After in class session, students can come to Beaver Meadow to learn more about:

- Field Trips to additional nature centers
- Bird Banding
- Canoeing Beaver Pond
- Overnight Camp

Resources:

- Project Learning Tree LEARNING IS IN OUR NATURE - Project Learning Tree (plt.org)
- Project EXPLORE: Our Outdoor Education Curriculum | Project EXPLORE (ncprojectexplore.org)



ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Beaver Meadow Nature Center utilizes a curiosity-driven approach that aligns our education and understanding with our discovery of the natural world. Our programs use a process involving nature-based learning, advocacy efforts and wildlife interaction, moving towards a deeper level of appreciation and immersion in a natural environment. We focus on a wide variety of nature-based environmental topics, such as bird-focused advocacy, conservation, plant/animal ID, sustainability, survival techniques and much more. Our programs are inquiry-based and designed to foster personal growth, social understanding and development through discovery. Our educational focus is to create connections to the self and the natural world, which promotes meaning, social connectedness and emotional growth. Core elements of our program include facilitating connections to the natural world and developing a sense of autonomy.



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