The Wild Classroom Program Guide

Opportunities to explore, observe, and discover await your students at The Wild Center. Our interactive programs are designed to engage students in the world around them and develop an appreciation for the Adirondack Park. All of our educational programs are designed to meet New York State education and Common Core Learning Standards and to complement lessons learned in the classroom.

Not only do our programs work well with classroom curriculum but they also complement the educational missions of a variety of civic groups. From Scout groups to 4-H, youth members can participate in programs that coincide with advancement opportunities, organization focus or just to have fun.

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Wild Classroom Programs

$2 per student/youth, per program
Program availability is subject to change
Minimum 10 students/youth required; 30 minutes

Pre-K through 6th Grade

- **OUR FIVE SENSES**  
  Pre-K – 1st grade  
  After identifying the five senses through a language activity, students explore how humans and animals share the same five senses and the way animals use them for survival.

- **BUTTERFLY LIFECYCLE**  
  1st – 3rd grade  
  Explore the dynamic monarch butterfly lifecycle through a hands-on interactive program featuring games, activities, and fun movements.

- **HALFWAY HABITATS**  
  1st – 3rd grade  
  Why do we find certain animals in specific habitats? What is a habitat, and what happens when two habitats overlap? Hands-on activity allows students to discover ideal Adirondack habitats for our animals. Your class will also practice reading and sentence organization skills.

- **MAMMALS OF THE ADIRONDACKS**  
  3rd – 5th grade  
  Play detective with our collection of skins and skulls. Students will follow clues to determine who once wore that coat and chowed down with those sharp teeth while learning about animal adaptations.

- **EROSION AND THE WATER CYCLE**  
  3rd – 5th grade  
  The earth’s surface is dynamic and constantly changing as all around us water is slowly eroding away the landscape. Take a walk around our exhibits to find out how erosion effects what you see.

- **HEALTHY MATH: Using Math at The Wild Center**  
  4th – 6th grade  
  How do biologists use math every day at The Wild Center? Students will choose and use appropriate tools strategically to measure weights, lengths, and capacities in metric units in order to solve situations based on real Wild Center animals. No live animals are used in this program.

Middle and High School

- **KEEP IT CLEAN IN THE TROUT STREAM**  
  6th – 8th grade  
  Every year The Wild Center invites experts to conduct a formal, complete scientific assessment of the quality of our trout tanks. Students will act as fisheries biologists to analyze water samples and other conditions our trout need to thrive. Learn what healthy water means to the trout of New York and what students can do to protect water quality.
Focused Learning
$4 per student/youth, per program
Program availability is subject to change
Minimum 10 students/youth required

Interpretive Walks
Take a walk into the wild! Learn about the Adirondack woods as students get a chance to explore our site on one of these guided walks.

- **SENSORY EXPLORATION**  
  *Pre-K – 3rd grade*
  This walk along our trails allows younger students to explore and connect with nature using their 5 senses through engaging hands-on activities.

- **NATURAL HISTORY WALK**  
  *6th grade and up*
  Our natural history walk will take students from the museum to our oxbow marsh while exploring the landscape and natural history here at The Wild Center. Content is dependent on season.
  *Snowshoes are available for winter walks at no extra charge.*

Radio Telemetry  
*9th – 12th grade*
Can you track an animal to its home in the Adirondacks? Students will work as a group on The Wild Center trails and use the same equipment used by scientists in the field to locate a radio collared animal (not a real animal!) hiding on our site. Content covered includes review and use of radio tracking equipment.

New Path Walk  
*9th grade – College*
What makes our site “green?” Explore innovative technology and environmental design on a tour of our outdoor green exhibits. Try our solar fountain, see what a reclaimed gravel pit looks like, and learn about restrooms that don’t use water.

Climate Change Past & Present in Planet Adirondack  
*9th – 12th grade*
Climate change has always been occurring; now the modern world is experiencing climate change at an unprecedented, accelerated rate. Visit our new experience, Planet Adirondack, and learn about climate change and its impacts on our earth using Science on a Sphere.
Skunks
Phew! What's that smell? Learn about the stinky, striped, and behavioral defenses of this misunderstood mammal.

Reptiles and Amphibians
Choose a reptile or an amphibian for your program and learn all about that animal, including how it can survive in our chilly climate. Or choose one of each to have a program highlighting the similarities and differences between reptiles and amphibians here in the Adirondacks.

Owl
Owls are fascinating flyers that we rarely get the chance to see. This program allows students the chance to meet an owl and find out what makes them excellent nocturnal predators.

Owl Moon in Planet Adirondack
This live owl program uses Science on a Sphere in Planet Adirondack as the perfect backdrop to learn about this amazing predator.

Lady Jay
Meet our charismatic blue jay as she caches food and displays her brilliant feathers. Then learn about the intelligence of jays and their ability to mimic other birds’ calls.

Porcupine
Did you know porcupines don’t really shoot their quills? Dispel this and other myths with Stickley, our resident porcupine.
SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITIES

Not interested in purchasing a staff-led program? We offer many self-guided opportunities that you and your chaperones can facilitate for students.

**Junior Naturalist Program**
*Packets are available for ages 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12*
Earn a Junior Naturalist Patch by completing an age-appropriate activity packet that encourages youth to look more closely at our exhibits. The students travel in small groups throughout the exhibit area with their teacher or chaperones. Please request this program when registering. **$1 per student/youth**

**Walks**
Groups are welcome to explore our 2+ miles of trails on their own. Interpretive signage is provided along the trails that will help groups learn about the natural world. These trails are easy to moderate terrain; easy to follow maps are available.

*Snowshoes are available for free loan in winter.*

**New Path Walk**
Explore our green technology and building around Greenleaf Pond. Interpretive panels and a special map provide content. *Also available as a guided program for 9th grade – College (see page 4 for details)*

**Teacher-led Programs**
Many teachers and group leaders develop their own programs, scavenger hunts, or walks to fit the needs and goals of their class. Stop by for a free teacher visit to explore the museum and see how you can incorporate our exhibits into your curriculum.

**The Pines**
Build a fort, have a tea party, build a sand castle, or test your climbing skills! Kids young and old will love exploring our natural play area located at the start of our trails.

**Theater Films**
We will work to schedule films at a time that fits your group’s needs.

- **A Matter of Degrees**
  Grades 6 and up; 25 minutes
  Travel back to the age of mastodons and ice to see the difference a few degrees can make. A Wild Center original film narrated by Sigourney Weaver.

- **Wild Adirondacks**
  All ages; 18 minutes
  Enjoy Adirondack wonders through the photography of Carl Heilman in this panoramic show of Adirondack scenery and animals set to an original score.

- **Ride of the Merganser**
  All ages; 11 minutes
  Watch as these merganser chicks make their way into the world.

- **Above the Adirondacks**
  All ages; 13 minutes
  Soar over the Adirondacks and visit the mountains, lakes, streams, and towns that make up the Park.
WILD WALK

Reach new heights on The Wild Center’s newest exhibit, a self-guided experience that takes you into the tree tops! Wild Walk lets you explore the wonders of the forest canopy and the animals that live their lives high above the ground.

Naturalist-led Programs
Forge deeper into the world of the woods with these engaging activity-based programs. Each day two of the following programs will be on Wild Walk to explore.

**Forest Flyers:** Birds and bats aren’t the only critters who take to the air. With this program, discover the wonders of an elusive Adirondack rodent—the flying squirrel.

**Wings over Wild Walk:** Grab a pair of binoculars and a birding checklist as you scope out the bird feeders! Then, channel your inner female bird as you try to choose a worthy mate, or play our special Guess Hooo? game.

**From the Forest:** The Adirondacks is well known for its amazing crafts and wares, from maple syrup to hand-built guide boats. Come explore how these products are made from the forest.

**Fungus in the Forest:** Is a fungus-infested insect the original zombie? Did a mushroom inspire Santa Claus? Could a toxic fungus have caused the Salem Witch Trials? A naturalist will answer these questions and many more about the magical realm of fungi!

Snag
Explore our larger-than-life replica of an Eastern White Pine snag. Standing dead trees are an amazing resource for many critters, and being inside of this trunk will give you the opportunity to peek into some of these animals’ hidden lives beneath the bark.

Eagle’s Nest
Take in a breathtaking view from our 10-foot replica nest perched at the very top of Wild Walk. A sea of trees extends for miles to the bases of surrounding mountains, including Whiteface and the Seward Range.

Spider Web
Have you ever been able to experience how an insect feels suspended in a spider’s web? Climb into our rope web 25’ above the ground to get a sense of this thrill.

Feeder Alley
Stroll through our extended bird blind for a chance to see wild birds feeding and calling. Over ten feeders attract colorful songbirds and woodpeckers right alongside Wild Walk.

Twig House
Who hasn’t dreamed of being in a tree house high in the branches? Our two-story structure is made completely of red cedar and showcases animals’ homes, from nests to tree cavities.
Reservations

Contact the Group Sales Coordinator, Patrick Murphy, at least two weeks in advance of the expected visit date at (518) 359-7800 ext. 116, Tuesday – Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm or email pmurphy@wildcenter.org. Please provide:

- Name of group
- Name and address of organization
- Name, phone number and email address of contact person
- Grade level and number of students, expected number of chaperones
- Preferred and alternate date, time, and type of program
- Any relevant special needs of your group/students
- 1 chaperone for every 10 students

School Group Rates
- Student Admission: $4 per student
- Teachers Leaders: Free
- Chaperones/Parents: $8 per adult

Civic Group Rates
- Youth/Scout Admission: $9 per youth
- Civic Group Leaders (up to 2 per group): Free
- Chaperones/Parents: $9 per adult

Program & Wild Walk Rates (in addition to admission)
- Wild Classroom Programs (pages 3 and 5): $2 per student/youth
- Focused Learning Programs (page 4): $4 per student/youth
- Junior Naturalist Patch (ages 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12): $1 per student/youth
- Wild Walk (off season): $3 per student/youth

Payment
Please specify your payment preference before your visit: Cash, Check, Credit Card or Purchase Order. If payment cannot be made the day of your visit a purchase order is required and should be arranged ahead of time.

HOURS

Summer & Fall
Memorial Day – Labor Day: 10 am – 6 pm, 7 days/week
Labor Day – Columbus Day: 10 am – 5 pm, 7 days/week

Winter & Spring
Columbus Day – Memorial Day: Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays: 10 am – 5 pm
(Closed the month of April for exhibit maintenance)

*Open President’s Week and Martin Luther King Day
*Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day
*Special Holiday Hours: December 26 – December 31, 10 am – 5 pm
CHAPERONE GUIDELINES

- Chaperones/Parents may be responsible for 10 or fewer students/youth at a time.

- While inside the museum and on our trails, please remember that the students must stay with you at all times for their safety and for that of our other visitors.

- Please ensure that your group follows our brief behavioral guidelines throughout their stay.
  - Please walk inside the museum.
  - Be respectful of the live animals’ personal space. It’s safer for them and us if we don’t touch them or their enclosures.
  - Please be gentle with our electronics.

- Please arrive for pre-scheduled group programs a few minutes ahead of time to ensure that each group of students will enjoy the same program length.

- Please enjoy the exhibits yourself! Push buttons, observe our animals, and read the interpretive signs. When you are engaged, the students will feel more comfortable to explore as well!

- Let the children lead the way when you are exploring the museum. Ask them questions that will encourage further exploration.

- During programs please allow the students to answer all questions. This is their time to exercise their own critical thinking skills and we will guide them to the answers.

**Visiting The Wild Supply Company Gift Shop?**
We would love for your to visit The Wild Supply Co.! Because the space is small, we ask teachers and trip leaders to please consider the following:

- Before your trip date, please let us know that you’d like to visit the shop so that we are prepared to accommodate your group. Occasionally the shop is closed and we will let you know this ahead of time.
- Please ensure that chaperones closely supervise students while in and around the shop.
- Please remind chaperones to stagger their groups so there are no more than 20 students (with 3 or more chaperones) in the store at a time.

Thank you, Chaperones, for helping make this field trip an amazing, memorable experience for your group!
DIRECTIONS

From Lake Placid
Leave Lake Placid on 86 west toward Saranac Lake. In Saranac Lake merge left with Route 3 at the first light. Continue on Route 3 to Tupper Lake. As you enter Tupper Lake, turn left on Hosley Avenue, (opposite the big white Sunmount buildings). Museum entrance is 500 yards on left.

From Syracuse and Watertown
Take Route 3 to Tupper Lake. Stay on Route 3 through town toward Saranac Lake. As you leave the town on Routes 3 & 30, Hosley Avenue is on your right (opposite the big white Sunmount buildings). Museum entrance is 500 yards on left.

From Ottawa, Ontario
Take Highway 416 south to International Bridge and Ogdensburg, NY. Turn right on NYS route 37 a short distance to a right hand turn onto route 68. Follow route 68 through Canton, NY to the village of Colton where you take a right on route 56. Continue on route 56 to the junction with Route 3. Turn left and continue on Route 3 into Tupper Lake. As you pass through Tupper Lake, turn right on Hosley Avenue (opposite the big white Sunmount buildings). Museum entrance is 500 yards on left.

From New York City and Albany
Take New York Thruway to Albany, then Route 87 to Exit 23. At exit, turn left toward Warrensburg. Bear right onto US 9, turn left onto Route 28. Continue on 28 to Blue Mountain Lake. Turn right at the stop sign onto 28N. In Long Lake turn left onto Route 30. In Tupper Lake turn right on Park St. Turn right onto Hosley Ave.

From Plattsburgh and Burlington, VT
Take the ferry to Plattsburgh. Go straight on Route 374. It connects to Route 3 just west of Plattsburgh. Follow to Saranac Lake and through Saranac Lake to a traffic light at Lake Flower. Turn right on Route 3, Continue on Route 3 to Tupper Lake. As you enter Tupper Lake, turn left on Hosley Avenue (opposite the big white Sunmount buildings). Museum entrance is 500 yards on left.

From Utica, NY
Take NYS Route 28 north through Old Forge and Raquette Lake to the junction of Route 30 in Blue Mountain Lake. Follow Route 30 north through Long Lake and into Tupper Lake. As you pass through Tupper Lake, turn right on Hosley Avenue (opposite the big white Sunmount buildings). Museum entrance is 500 yards on left.