

2026 Education & Climate Department Plan:

Who worked on this plan draft?

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Goal: Provide experiential and inclusive programs which reflect the interconnectedness and diversity of nature to inspire action.

Q: Which strategic focus area does this goal address most directly and how?

This goal most directly addresses the **strategic focus area of Convening and Outreach** because we will use innovative educational approaches to gain more impact locally, regionally, and beyond to inspire community and individual action.

Q: Which other focus area/s does this goal also address?

- **Organizational Capability and Capacity**
- **Vibrant and Experiential Campus**

Education and Climate 2026:

Goal: Provide experiential and inclusive programs which reflect the interconnectedness and diversity of nature to inspire action.

Strategy 1: Engage a diverse public audience with innovative and experiential-learning experiences that connect them to nature through science, technology, and art to inspire action (providing multiple entry points).

Objective 1: Provide core weekly programs a holistic daily schedule that includes a mixture of animals, science, and experiential learning utilizing Adirondack and campus resources that inspire action and foster connections to nature.

- Tactic 1: Interpretive programs that feature live animals to help visitors build connections with the natural world through personalized stories, natural history and opportunities for community and taking action.**
 - Creature Features (live animal program -birds, porcupines, turtles, snakes...)
 - Otter Program (interpretive program at otter falls)
 - Fish Feeding program around the indoor exhibits
 - Grab n Go Animals (turtles, snakes, amphibians with an interpreter)
- Tactic 2: Outdoor Programs that utilize outdoor resources, weather, and exhibits to connect visitors to nature through experiential learning.**
 - Canoeing and Kayak programs (daily July - August, 5 canoes for families / groups, 2 guides)
 - **Community Science** opportunities to explore nature over time particularly observing changes related to climate
 - iNaturalist funding opportunity through ASTC
 - NASA snow opportunity - Columbia University
 - Ice fishing (potential programs on TWC pond, ice and fish dependent)
 - Hindered by the lowering of the pond in 2026 to fix pond liner
 - Kicksledding (daily drop in experience, facilitated by staff, snow dependent)
 - Snowshoeing (daily drop in experience, facilitated by ed staff, snow dependent)
 - Monarch tagging (Aug. - Sept., Monarch Watch Program)
 - Pines Nature Play Area (drop in, fort building, play and exploration, daily upkeep from education staff)
 - Troll area - new elements, rocks, trunks,
- Tactic 3: Drop-In self selected experiences offered across campus where visitors can choose to slow down, take a minute and learn more.**
 - Movies (daily drop in movies options)
 - New version 2.0 - Wild Adirondack Film for 20th Anniversary
 - **Planet Adirondack - Science on a Sphere** staffing plan for training (AmeriCorps & Volunteers), public and school programming

- Tinkering Studio (self directed, drop in experiences with facilitation and upkeep by education staff, including our existing activities: wind turbines, ball run play, animal homes and climate implications)
 - Current self directed drop in experiences including wind turbines, ball run play, animal homes, and lego cars
 - Offer scheduled facilitated activities (ie-1-3 pm) with staff and volunteers engaging visitors in tinkering challenging and make and take crafts
 - Stitch it, Don't Ditch it: Drop in mending and upcycling activities on Sunday afternoons in late January & Early February
 - Upcycling Crafts with Trolls Connection: Jewelry making inspired by Kamma Kan, bird house making w/ Ibbi Pip, Flower planting or flower making craft with Rosa Sunfinger, etc.
 - Continue developing: Infrared cart and cardboard city
- Trunks/Naturalist History information table
 - Existing trunks: - Otter Ecology, Adirondack Trees, Bird Adaptations, Mammal Adaptations, and Maple Sugaring
 - Develop three new Trolls trunks:
 - Stickworks and Sofus Lotus: Theme around listening and paying attention to nature, including sound mapping, mindfulness activities, and close looking/observation activities
 - Pines Play and Basse Buller: Theme of nature art and play, could include mud painting, Andy Goldsworthy inspired art, nature challenge activities like slack line
 - Raquette River Roll and Kamma Kan: Relating to waste reduction and reuse, activities include trash timelines, repurposed crafts

Outcome (desired/intended): Participants will feel connected (empathy, ethic of care, wow/awe factor) to the nature and inspire increased appreciation, sense of belonging, and interest to learn/explore/act the world around them

Objective 2: Host a series of seasonally featured and varied public programs to support our mission and drive visitation.

- Tactic 1: Festivals, themed weeks, and larger scale public events**
 - **Shanty Shenanigans** - Wild Lights event (Saturday, February 13th)
 - Overlapping with Homeschool Day 2026
 - **20th Anniversary Celebration**- Showcasing the new Carl Heilmann film, recreate best-of's from previous 20 years of festivals, and more.
 - **TROLLS: Save the Humans** - summer and fall 1x day per week highlighting a different Troll's message.
 - **You Otter See the Trolls 5k**- July 4th 9:00am

- **Community Free Day** - Free admission to all visitors offered
 - Veterans Day - Nov. 8th
 - Wild Lights Community night - Date - TBD - February
- **National Pollinator Week** (3rd Week in June), themed, additional interactive programs offered daily - Community Science
- **Adirondack Water Week** (1st Week of August), themed, additional interactive programs offered daily - overlaps with Flooding Conference event
- **Maple Pancake Brunch** - engage visitors in seasonal Adirondack maple tradition as a part of New York Maple Weekends. Breakfast - Mar 21st, weekends 21-22/28-29
- **Tactic 2: Workshops, specialized programs and exhibit features**
 - **Woods Water and Wonder a Family STEM series** - family reunion gathering. Feb. 28th? - including Wild Lights? - NFS funding
 - **Carl Heilman Photography** - 3 programs / year, Day long workshop meeting at TWC followed by field photography, registered fee based program for artist
 - **Carl Heilman - Wild Adirondacks film opening**- new film releases on May 1st - reopening for spring/summer
 - Humanities NY workshop in May (90 min; free)
 - **Campfire and Legends at Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Center**- Wild Center supported offsite program at Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Center. One night event in summer. Typically August.
- **Tactic 3: Lectures**
 - **Science Speaker Series** — Connect with regional scientists and authors in this multi-part speaking series covering topics such as healthy watersheds, interconnected ecosystems, wildlife conservation and more. Planning 2-3 talks
Tentative ideas Details below
 - Bill Wallauer, Jane Goodall Institute, bioacoustic monitoring data from Follensby, Tonawanda, and Gombe janegoodall.author/billwallauer
 - Jody Johnson, DA honey bee Research Scientist and College Educator, Wildlife Corridors <https://www.katieadamsonconservation>
 - Dave Fadden and Curt Stager, Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Center + Paul Smith's College, First Adirondackers: 12,000 Years of Indigenous Peoples in the Adirondack Uplands <https://www.adirondackexplorer.org>
- **Tactic 4: Tours/Private and speciality focused Programs** - On request
 - **Private Behind the Scenes** of animal care areas and facilities
 - **Follensby Pond** - 3x Summer TWC interpreter led trips for community co-designed with TNC.
- **Tactic 5: Digital and Virtual Program Engagement**

- **Animal Club Member program** 6–7 p.m. Jan. 28 & Feb. 25 Join the Wild Center’s Animal Club and meet a new Animal Ambassador each month during these 45-minute virtual programs. School-age children and families
- **Virtual Otter Ecology School Program** - Follow us on an engaging experience diving into the world of otters. Students will explore the amazing adaptations and natural history of the otters in the Adirondacks. TWC river otters/exhibit

Outcome (desired/intended): Visitors gain an increased appreciation and understanding for the interconnectedness of the four natural systems.

Objective 3: Build and maintain relationships with schools and community groups centering The Wild Center as a community science resource by offering exceptional experiences including pre and post services to encourage long lasting community ties.

- Tactic 1: Field Trip Education Programs** designed to be developmentally appropriate standard aligned experiences. These 35-45 minute in-depth programs include a curriculum-based focus while offering live animal encounters to complement your field trip experience. Students will practice essential science skills while experiencing Adirondack life up-close.
 - Private Animal Encounter** - Interpretive program featuring a TWC animal focused on a science theme aligned to school standards and needs.
 - Wildlife Defenses** - Explore the importance of shells, talons, teeth, and quills. Students will get hands-on with natural artifacts to learn how wildlife have adapted for survival in the variety of habitats found in the Adirondacks.
 - Naturalist Walk** - walk on TWC trails to explore ecology and biology of the ADKs.
 - Creatures on Climate Change** - Students are introduced to the science of climate change and the exploration of its impacts on Adirondack wildlife. Groups will discover the solutions of these issues through visualizing global data sets on NOAA's SOS and follow it up by exploring the Climate Solutions exhibit.
 - Green Technology Walk** - highlights the Wild Center’s Silver LEED Building components and green initiatives (pellet boiler, solar panels, eco-pavers, composter, composting toilets, etc.)
 - TROLLS Guided Walks/Activities** – highlighting 2 of the 6 trolls, students will learn about the art installation and do guided activities with staff related to the trolls’ message. Activities may include nature art, team building activities, etc.
- Tactic 2:** School/group drop In self selected experiences across campus where students can choose to slow down, take a minute and learn more.
 - **Jr. Naturalist booklet and patch.** Students take a closer look at the natural world around them through this self-guided environmental education booklet.
 - **Planet Adirondack** (Science on a Sphere) - self directed kiosk and exploration

- **Climate Solutions Tinkering Studio** challenges including wind turbine, animal homes and environmental challenges.
 - **Weekend Sustainable art series** - Winter based repair, upcycle, reuse projects including sewing, upcycled jewelry, cardboard construction.
 - **Animal Viewing window** - Open view location to see and learn about TWC's ravens, porcupines and various additional, rotating birds.
 - **Tactic 3:** Accessible experiences to community audiences w/ specialized needs.
 - **Homeschool Days** - Specifically market to the Homeschool audience and needs. Offered 4x times/ year (2 in Fall, 2 in Spring)
 - **Sensory Friendly Days** - Specifically market to families and groups that have special needs for low stimulation and positive learning experiences. 2x/year
 - **Tactic 4:** Continue engagement efforts to serve regional high schools in providing climate change education through hosting the annual **Adirondack Youth Climate Summit** and associated activities
 - Working with approximately 25-30 school districts across the North Country region; **2026 Dates: Oct 21 & 22**
 - supporting **Climate Action Projects** and year-round initiatives;
 - providing mentorship and coaching for teachers and students
 - Working with Summiteers to plan the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit
- Outcome (desired/intended):** Schools and groups seek out TWC as a community science resource through repeat visitation, inquiries, and collaboration.

Objective 4: Support visitor experiences and exhibits across campus to ensure that high quality, sustainability and accessibility standards are commensurate with our programmatic and visitor services experience to prioritize 2026 museum goals.

- **Tactic 1:** Create and offer interpretive experiences that connect people to climate change science and solutions
 - **Planet Adirondack** - formal and informal interactive programs that create meaningful connections to science through storytelling and visual literacy
 - **Climate Solutions** - formal and informal interpretive programming that highlights climate solutions through relevant, place-based experiences. Tinkering Studio
- **Tactic 2:** Create and offer outdoor featured experiences that promote health, well being and connections to the natural world for youth and caregivers.
 - **Fen Trail / Raquette River Ball Run** - provide new outdoor experience, expanding the trail system on our property and sharing a new play based experience to connect with positive outdoor memories.
 - **Pines Nature Play Area** - provide open-ended nature play experiences in the Pines and refreshing the pines space to ensure safety and positive experiences
 - **Hammock Lounge** - Hammocks for visitors to enjoy a new perspective in nature
 - **2026 Troll outdoor exhibits**, featuring Stickwork area, Pines Play and RRR

- Tactic 3: Wild Lights** continues to build as a community tradition incorporating visitor feedback to responsibly support this outdoor experience
 - 2026-2027 operations 2026 seasonal opening - November 2026, after Thanksgiving, Friday and Saturday nights 5-8pm, Last week of December and February winter week. Plus private group bookings.

Outcome (desired/intended): As people visit The Wild Center campus they are presented multiple opportunities and entry points to find personal connections, experience the natural world and gain appreciation for the 4 interconnected systems.

Strategy 2: Convene and engage people with the purpose and intent to learn, explore, discuss, dialogue, collaborate, solve challenges, and address issues important to science and society.

Objective 1: Host, develop and implement nature-inspired, climate science and relevant community convenings to elevate our work and those of our trusted partners to reach new audiences

- Tactic 1:** Wild Center facilitate, organize and host events
 - **Adirondack Youth Climate Summit** - 2 day signature event Oct 21& 22, 2026. Planned with local schools and community groups for 12 weeks prior. 140 students from 25-30 school districts attend.
 - **Youth Climate Leadership Retreat** - 4 day event (July/August)
 - **Northeast Climate Change Education Collaborative Summit**- 1 day event for informal educators across the Northeast (September)
 - **Adirondack Green Builders Conference** - Last week of March 2026; 1 day
- Tactic 2:** Partner program and events hosted at TWC that support mission-based activities and provide important networking opportunities
 - **Feedback: Food Justice Summit** - 1 day event held each year in Feb/early March facilitated by a coalition of community-based organizations focused on north country food systems to address and problem-solve issues for collaboration.
 - **Adirondack Explorer** - New convening(s) - to be held in Early March aligned with the NASA Earth to Sky (see below)
 - **Family Night Art and Nature show with Wild Lights** hosting Tupper Lake LP Quinn Elementary students and their families to a free night of Wild Lights while displaying nature based art work created by local students. Annual event, Kindergarten to 5th grade students - Date TBD
- Tactic 3: Partner with regional organizations to build capacity in the North Country to scale climate work**
 - ACORN Project - Adirondack Climate and Outreach Resilience Network: Roadmap to Rural Climate Resilience (Adirondack Research Consortium, PSC, TWC, supported by NYSERDA and Adirondack Foundation). Future work TBD - possibly align with Earth to Sky and Flooding event.

- **Adirondack Regional Team to NASA Earth to Sky training** - Ongoing Training for 2026 (Adirondack Explorer, PSC, Adirondack Watershed Institute/VIC, and TWC) - ongoing meetings and planning for a training in **March 3-5, 2026**

Outcome (desired/intended): Providing a collaborative and inclusive space/resources for people to engage in dialogue and be inspired to take action.

Objective 2: Expand our support of educators and teachers through professional development and providing science resources

- **Tactic 1:** The Wild Center will coordinate, lead and support a variety of Trainings and Professional Development for informal and formal educators
 - **Mid-Winter Climate Institute with NYC DOE-** serving 600 teachers in NYC, hosted at Columbia Teachers College (February 18-20)
 - **Partner with BOCES:** Support and host Educator Events and trainings ie. NYS Master Teacher Program & BOCES district trainings
 - **Teacher Training with FEH BOCES-** 1 day Teacher training (March 13)
 - **Teacher training with Ulster BOCES - Mid March (Virtual)**
 - **Elementary Principals Training with FEH BOCES-** ½ day Principal training (May 21)
 - **Northeast Climate Change Education Collaborative Summit-** 1 day to support informal educators across the Northeast (September)
 - **Monthly YCS Network Meetings** to connect Youth Climate Summit sites across the country- ongoing (First Tuesdays monthly on Zoom)
 - Partnership with The Nature Record (formerly the National Nature Assessment) for a listening session (one of 5 sites across the country) May 7
 - Partnership with **NMAI NYC to host the 360 Native Knowledge - May 16**
 - **Teacher Workshops at NY Climate Week**
- **Tactic 2:** Maintain leadership in New York State and regional support for on mission Climate Educational Initiatives
 - **NYS Climate Resilience and Education Task Force** - Wild Center co-founded the task force in 2017; maintain an ongoing leadership role to connect in partnership with NYS partners and build support for statewide strategies for climate change education and funding through NYS
 - New York State Summit Support:
 - Ashokan - Feb 27- Mar 1, 2026
 - Finger Lakes - November 2026
 - Central NY - Feb 7, 2026
 - Schenectady/Albany - March 18th, 2026
 - Environmental Justice w NYS DEC - TBD
 - **Partner with state agencies: NYS DEC Office of Climate Change and NYSERDA** to connect on Climate Smart Communities, AYCS, and leadership

- Ongoing engagement with state, regional and national coalitions on climate change including the NYSED Advisory Committee on Climate Change Education; Empire State Climate Education Coalition, North East Resilience Coalition and North East Climate Change Education Collaborative to advance our climate work
- Tactic 3: Create and provide high quality science resources on our website and at TWC**
 - Community Science apps creating onsite, drop in educational experiences for visitors to participate in science data collection while learning about the Adirondacks.
 - Fully revise the Youth Climate website and update summit map online and in Solutions (in partnership with Marketing team)
 - Youth Climate Summit Toolkit, Climate Action Project facilitation guides and workbooks, media guide for summit sites, virtual summit materials - Maintain and grow high quality resources/online toolkits for The Wild Center's Youth Climate Summit Global Network to increase network participation and ongoing engagement.
 - Develop New and updated Youth Climate Summit toolkit Resources for the **National Parks Service**
- Tactic 4: X-Snow - A Citizen Science Project for Snow - in partnership with Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University** - includes on-site staff training and establishing of protocols. We will be working towards a visitor experience with this project over 3 years (Climate/Education)

Outcome (desired/intended): Increase understanding and dialogue about climate change education, community science, climate justice, and climate solutions to inspire action

Objective 3: National and international leadership work on climate change education through connecting with existing networks to elevate and position our work

- Tactic 1:** Strategically partner to elevate our youth climate program model in existing networks at a national and global stage (ie: National Park Service, UNESCO Biosphere Initiatives, AMC, ASTC and Smithsonian, NYS Public Schools and New England Private Schools) This includes updating and refreshing materials and resources (Climate Action Project - Guide; DIY Climate Summit Toolkit; Appendix's websites and branding)
- Tactic 2:** Continue to convene monthly Summit Network meetings, coach and mentor summit sites, build relationships across our summit network, and document relationships through our Map/Database.
- Tactic 3:** Partner, support and participate in regional; national and international youth climate summits as needed including travel to/presenting at select Youth Climate Summits
 - Nashville Youth Climate Summit (Feb 2026)
 - Ashokan (Feb 2026)

- Capital District (March 2026)
- MA Audubon Summit (April 2026)
- Planning for Tanzania and Malaysia 2.0 TBD
- Tactic 4: Climate Week NYC** - Strategically this is extremely important to be present and to partner on high visibility events. Aligned with Development goals as well.
- Tactic 5: Smithsonian Affiliate** - Build our relationship with Smithsonian for partnerships, speakers, PD and funding opportunities (NMAI PD and Climate Educator PD?)
- Tactic 6: Launch a new TWC web portal for youth climate summit alumni** and host 2 events
- Tactic 7: National Park Service** - Training NPS educators as part of the NPS Education Summit. Working on a 1 year project to create and iterate youth climate summit resources for NPS.
- Tactic 8: NASA Earth to Sky** - Training local organizations on effective climate communication - March 4-6, 2026
 - Support as mentors NASA NYC Earth to Sky training in January 2026

Outcome: Maintain and sustain our trusted reputation as a national and international leader in climate change education

Strategy 3: *Create and implement mission aligned programs that support career/professional development. These integrated aspects are a key part to our comprehensive programs that mentor, support, and deepen participant knowledge, understanding, skills, and professional development to thrive in a 21st century (and climate-ready) environment which add to TWC professionalism and leadership reputation.*

Objective 1: In coordination with Human Resources & working across departments, create a robust and cohesive suite of professional development opportunities for staff that support learning, growth, capacity building, and staff wellbeing

- Tactic 1:** Certifications/Trainings to ensure visitor safety, reduce risk and create a positive interpretive experience for all
 - **National Association of Interpretation** - Certified Interpretive Guide training. 32 hour course taught in-house supporting staff developing high-quality interp. exp.
 - **First Aid and CPR** training offered annually to staff and AmeriCorps members
 - **Canoe Water Safety training** - for canoe guides leading public canoe programs
 - **DEC Guide License** - required for paid trips on forest preserve (ie canoeing, member field trips)
 - **Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS)** training provided to new education staff for effective group facilitation, open ended questions and student program design.
 - **Climate Change Science, Justice and Communications** training for staff
- Tactic 2:** Present and Participate in national conferences to build momentum and leadership level recognition of The Wild Center's work.

- **Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC)** - museum field conference; annual.
- **North American Association of Environmental Education** - yearly conference; strategic network for the Youth Climate Summit Network
- **AmeriCorps New York Professional Development Conference** - annual AmeriCorps program staff meeting and networking
- **Tactic 3:** Cross-departmental collaborative teams that work on specific initiatives, topics and projects that are critical to our mission. Internal staff teams are long standing teams with rotating staff members while others are formed as needed with focus on required skilled sets, i.e. seasons exhibit and larger festival/ program event teams. Increases project management, team-building, communication and other professional skills
 - Customer Service Team- staff trainings - meeting quarterly
 - Safety Committee
 - Green Team
 - Trolls Council
 - Teacher PD Planning Group
 - 20th Anniversary
 - Exhibits
 - Wayfinding

Outcome (desired/intended): Empower our staff to grow personally and professionally in a safe inclusive workspace. Staff feel supported and valued at The Wild Center and excited to meet our mission.

Objective 2: Develop, implement and maintain strong **career development & mentoring programs/initiatives and pathways** that offer multiple entry points into the Wild Center family, support positive youth development and offer opportunities for leadership and growth.

- **Tactic 1: Critical Action Lab**
 - Year-round youth development program with 5 teens from across the region. Teens build leadership and critical thinking skills through planning and hosting public facing programming, public speaking as TWC climate representatives, and collaborating with a national cohort of young people in the Critical Action Lab Network.
- **Tactic 2: AmeriCorps Members**
 - 8 FT and 4 PT AmeriCorps Members work as Community Educators both onsite and around Tupper Lake and surrounding areas. Through mentoring, training and hands-on experiences they are an integral part of the education program. Members serve within Education and Animal Care departments, working on a variety of teaching opportunities, projects, and programs throughout the year. They also provide critical support for Climate Team events & communications.

- Tactic 3: Education Program Volunteers**, for complete Volunteer Program Plan - Please see Volunteer Section with in Development Department Plan
 - Volunteers facilitating activity tables (Trunks) on Wild Walk and Exhibit Floor
 - Raquette River Roll volunteers
 - Seasonal volunteer opportunities around education included ice fishing education, community maple program assistance and event assistance.
- Tactic 4: Climate Justice Fellowship** - Partnership with NYSERDA for a 1 year fellowship based in Climate Program.
- Tactic 5: Youth Climate Leadership Retreat** - annual 4 day overnight retreat for 25 teens from across the Northeast. Teens deep dive into climate science, impacts and solutions in an experiential setting.
- Tactic 6: 2 ESF Education Interns** to work at The Wild Center and in partnership with the community during the summer of 2026.
- Tactic 7: Community Foundation of Oneida & Herkimer Counties Utica-ADK Youth Field Trip** - Chris, Garrett, Sara Paula, Anna Stuckey, etc working with the Community Foundation to provide a 2 day, 1 night field trip to the ADKs for underserved youth from inner-city Utica (Junior Frontiers) and the Mohawk Valley Latino Association.

Outcome (desired/intended): The Wild Center career & mentoring pathways initiative demonstrates increased confidence and competence in public engagement, professional skill development in STEAM, a non-profit skill-set (such as strong communication skills, creative problem-solving, collaboration & teamwork, and project management among others), and personal growth.

Strategy 4: Community engagement designed to develop positive reciprocal relationships between the community and The Wild Center through sharing resources and supporting events/programs.

Objective 1: Provide multiple opportunities to connect and build relationships with the Tupper Lake Community throughout the year including attending and supporting Tupper Lake hosted events.

- Tactic 1: Community Maple Program** - Any community member with a maple tree can participate and contribute sap to TWC's maple sugaring program in the spring season. Tapping supplies and instruction are provided. Participants receive 70% of their sap back as pure maple syrup at the end of the season creating a community collaboration
- Tactic 2:** Provide opportunities for the Tupper Lake/surrounding communities to enjoy and benefit from The Wild Center onsite and in the community
 - **Community Free Days** - free admission for Wild Lights 1 night in February and free daytime admission on November 14th (in honor of Veterans Day)
 - **Tupper Lake Events** - support local events and provide informal education exp.
 - **Tour de Ski**
 - **Brew Ski**
 - **Party on Park**

- **Tupper Lake Tinman**
 - **Tupper Lake Field Day and Parade**
 - **OkTupperfest**
 - **Halloween on Park**
 - **North Country Drive Electric Expo** - support offsite in Town in 2026
- **Tactic 3:** Tupper Lake Community Educational Partnerships - Our AmeriCorps program focuses on supporting education and youth needs across the Tupper Lake community.
 - **Tupper Lake Public Library - discussing 2026**
 - Library Tupper Teens - Wednesday afternoons during the school year
 - Themed youth movie nights (Valentine’s Day, Halloween, Christmas)
 - **LP Quinn Elementary - potential - discussing 2026**
 - **Fun Fridays programming** - Create & lead fun STEAM based activities
 - **Faculty Meeting student support**
 - **Family Art and Nature night at Wild Lights** - Host Tupper Lake Elementary students and their families to a free night of Wild Lights while displaying nature based art work created by local students.
 - **Town of Tupper Lake Recreation Department**
 - Winter sport assistance (xc ski club, youth basketball program)
 - Summer sport assistance (youth soccer)
 - Summer Camp assistance on Wild Wednesdays
 - **Tupper Lake Food Pantry**
 - Supporting moving supplies, setting up shelves and restocking food donations (as needed)
 - **Family Matters Tupper Lake**
 - Supporting young children and families in Tupper Lake with family resources and experiences. Free admission and programming at TWC.

Outcome (desired/intended): The Tupper Lake community values The Wild Center as a trusted partner in education, economic development, and community sustainability.

Objective 2: Participating in regional events/programs outside of Tupper Lake as it is appropriate and advances The Wild Center’s relationships with key community partners and our mission. This objective would align across other departments (ie. communications/ marketing/development)

- **Tactic 1: Sustainability Days** and climate-related events in communities and with key stakeholders (ie Clarkson University, Saranac Lake Community, St. Lawrence University) - participate as staff capacity allows
- **Tactic 2: Presenting and working with local agencies on Climate initiatives** ie: presenting at the APA, Adirondack Research Consortium, Common Ground, NYS Adaption and Resilience event and similar
- **Tactic 3: Northeast Climate Change Collaborative** - initiative based out of Shelburne farms to build a coalition and network of professional organizations, agencies and

universities to connect across the northeast on climate change education (funding dependent - Cedar serves on Leadership Team) - this may include a retreat in the Adirondacks (TBD)

- Tactic 4: Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI)** - NASA funded partnership project where TWC education staff are partnering with GMRI on Learning Ecosystems of the Northeast, a Community Learning Ecosystem of New England (LENE) model working with 12 science organizations around youth, community and climate engagement.
- Tactic 5: Cultural Sustaining STEM-** NSF funded partnership project Co-Designing Culturally Sustaining STEM Learning Ecosystems in Rural Communities led by the High Desert Museum, OR and including the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, TX and Oregon Coast Aquarium, OR. - 2026 family reunion and working on toolkit activities.
- Tactic 6: NASA Earth to Sky** - an active collaboration between scientists, interpreters, communicators, and informal educators from NASA, NPS, and other place-based organizations that focuses on climate communication skills training and professional development
- Tactic 7: ESF's Timbuctoo Institute** - a summer program through SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry that hosts high school sophomores and juniors from systemically marginalized communities in NYC