

Preschool and Kindergarten Education Programs

We provide young children with fun learning experiences which honor a child's natural curiosity and desire to play. Our seasonal programs develop a child's ability to pose questions about nature, to engage in cooperative play, and to build motor skills through games and hands-on outdoor exploration.

Program Topics

(* Program available as outreach at your school or local park)

Critter Construction*—Do you wonder how beavers build a lodge or squirrels build a drey? We'll discover different ways critters construct their homes and work on creating our own cozy hideaways. No hammers or nails necessary!

- Themes: Cause and Effect, Scale, Structure and Function

Down by the River*—What could be better than a visit to the water on a hot summer's day? Search and discover what lurks under rocks and sand. Search for water striders, stoneflies, and salamanders. Build boats, watch them float, and stay cool by the river.

- Themes: Cause and Effect, Stability and Change

Feathery Friends*—What would it be like to have feathers and a beak? Join us on an avian adventure as we build a nest, guard our eggs, and learn to fly. We'll spot birds through binoculars, sing secret bird songs, and see what it takes to migrate.

- Themes: Cause and Effect, Scale, Structure and Function

Flowers and Fairy Houses*—Do you believe in fairies? Spring is enchanting at Audubon. Bring your fairy wings (real or imagined) and spread some Audubon magic as we venture into the miniature world of wildflowers. Then we'll build fabulous fairy houses!

- Themes: Scale, Structure and Function

Insect Extravaganza*—The metamorphosis is about to begin! Keep your eyes and ears open for insects of all shapes and sizes. We'll glide through the meadows and woods in search of our six-legged friends. Get ready to hop, crawl, and fly!

- Themes: Patterns, Scale, Structure and Function

Journey from Sap to Syrup—Follow a droplet of maple sap as it turns to sweet syrup. Find out what it takes to become a real Vermont sugarmaker as you tap a tree, collect sap, and help boil.

- Themes: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Scale, Systems, Energy and Matter, Structure and Function, Stability and Change



Let's Talk Turkeys*—Find out what wild turkeys eat for Thanksgiving! We'll hit the trail to discover how turkeys nest, find food, and stay safe from predators. Gobble, gobble!

- Themes: Patterns, Structure and Function

Salamander Sleuths*—Put on your sleuthing hat and explore the world of slithering salamanders! Scoop in our ponds and journey to the forest in search of our amphibian friends. We'll pretend to be salamanders as we check under logs and rocks, then slither to our favorite vernal pool to do the waggle dance!

- Themes: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Scale, Structure and Function

Season of Change*—What do organisms at Green Mountain Audubon Center do during the fall? It's hard work to find and cache food, or migrate, or eat enough food to sleep all winter! And it's not just animals, plants are getting ready too. We will dive in and discover what it takes to fall into winter.

- Themes: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Scale, Systems, Energy and Matter, Stability and Change

Spectacular Spiders*—Get your spinnerets ready! Once you've launched your draglines, we'll dive into the world of spiders. Explore forests and fields looking for spiders, search for spider food, and practice weaving your own web.

- Themes: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Structure and Function

Spring Discovery*—Celebrate spring! Discover both spectacular and subtle signs of spring in Vermont. From wildflowers to water tigers, bullfrogs to birds, we'll find all things spring.

- Themes: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Scale, Systems

Snug in the Snow*—Join us as we explore snow, nature's blanket! Snuggle under the snow like meadow voles and experience the thrill of sliding like river otters. We'll transform into some of Vermont's most active winter animals as we learn how snow helps critters keep warm, hide, and play!

- Themes: Cause and Effect, Scale, Systems, Energy and Matter, Structure and Function

Tricky Tracks*—Winter is a wonderful time to learn about the comings and goings of our furry and feathered neighbors. We'll discover how animals move through the snow. Then we'll head outdoors to search for and make our own tracks.

- Themes: Patterns, Scale, Systems, Structure and Function

Who's Hooting*—Swoop into the world of owls to find out why they are silent and successful predators. Search for nests, feel real feathers, and discover what's inside an owl pellet. We'll search for real owls and learn how to call to them in the night!

- Themes: Cause and Effect, Structure and Function

Elementary Education Programs

Our programs include activities and explorations that work with students' curiosity about the natural world, reinforce the inquiry process and skills, and accommodate multiple learning styles.

Program Topics

(* Program available as outreach at your school or local park)

All About Birds *—Students master the basics of birding through active games about bird song, migration, and identification. Discover how Audubon protects birds and their habitats through projects like Plants for Birds. We'll inspire action by learning how native plants in schoolyard gardens and homes can help birds.

- Themes: Patterns, Scale, Structure and Function
- Add-on option to visit the Birds of Vermont Museum available.

Aquatic Discoveries—Get your feet wet with the tadpoles and dragonflies. Study wetlands through collecting invertebrates and other water critters, observing life cycles, and discovering systems that wetland animals rely upon.

- 2-hour program (half-day): Explore the water cycle and discover the living and non-living components of at least one body of water at Green Mountain Audubon Center.
- 4-hour program (full-day): comparative study of the living and nonliving components of multiple wetland ecosystems at Green Mountain Audubon Center. Spend time analyzing water quality and discussing the impact of water quality on ecosystems.
- Themes: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Scale, Systems, Energy and Matter, Stability and Change

Bird-Friendly Maple Sugaring—Tap a tree, gather sap, and transform it into sweet maple syrup. Discover what it takes to be a Bird-Friendly Sugarbush and how climate change is affecting Vermont's sugaring heritage. Top off your trip with a maple syrup taste test!

- Themes: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Scale, Systems, Energy and Matter, Structure and Function, Stability and Change

Insect Investigations—Students investigate insect adaptations and metamorphosis as they search for insects in forest, field, and wetland habitats. Get an up-close look at the diversity of these incredible organisms and explore their connection to our local birds.

- Themes: Patterns, Scale, Structure and Function



The Secret Lives of Trees*—As we visit these noble and gentle giants, we'll study their structure, life cycles, and function in the forest. We'll also learn about the habitats and food that trees provide for birds and consider how climate change is impacting our northern forests.

- Themes: Patterns, Scale, Systems, Structure and Function

Seasonal Inquiry*—Students engage all five senses to observe seasonal changes and cycles in Vermont's woods. Explore changing leaf colors and animal migrations, observe bird nesting, animal tracks, or Peeper Pond critters. There's no limit to the seasons!

- Themes: Patterns, Systems, Structure and Function, Stability and Change

Service Learning*—Conservation in action! A great addition to a program or an option for a stand-alone visit. We work with teachers and students to design conservation projects that address both a community need and a curriculum requirement. Projects can occur at the Green Mountain Audubon Center or your school.

Watershed Wonders—Where does the water go when it falls from the sky as rain or washes down our drain? In this program, students will learn about their place in the Winooski River and Lake Champlain watersheds. They will explore how water moves throughout and interacts with different land surfaces. They will think about how to be activists for a healthy watershed.

- Themes: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Scale, Systems, Energy and Matter, Stability and Change

Wilderness Skills (available year-round, full day)—Students spend a full day discovering the challenges and opportunities of living on the land in a program that is adaptable for all seasons and provides an excellent opportunity for team building. From wild edibles to wildlife tracking, shelter-building to fire-making, this program keeps students active and encourages them to challenge themselves.

- Themes: Patterns, Structure and Function, Stability and Change

Winter Wildlife*—Students investigate how animals have adapted to survive Vermont winters. We'll explore the winter woods and learn how to identify and interpret animal tracks and signs.

- Themes: Patterns, Scale, Structure and Function

Program Topics Suitable for Tailoring to Your Middle School, High School, or Adult Group

Designed to connect to Audubon Vermont's conservation work, these programs build research and critical thinking skills and focus on conservation action opportunities that impact local communities.

Program Topics

(* Program available as outreach at your school or local park)

Aquatic Ecosystems*—Students will conduct a comparative study of the living and nonliving components of multiple wetland ecosystems at Green Mountain Audubon Center. They will spend time analyzing water quality and discussing its impact on ecosystems.

- Themes: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Scale, Systems, Energy and Matter, Stability and Change

Bird-Friendly Maple Sugaring—A biologically and structurally diverse sugarbush offers great places for birds to forage, hide, and raise young. Students learn how to assess a Bird-Friendly Sugarbush, learn the basics of maple sugaring, and enjoy a sweet maple syrup taste test.

- Themes: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Scale, Systems, Energy and Matter, Structure and Function, Stability and Change

Bird-Friendly Vermont*—Learn classic birding skills like identifying sweet melodies and vibrant colors. Then use Audubon's conservation success stories to discover how our actions can improve bird-friendly habitat. We'll consider how climate change is affecting birds and focus on team-oriented approaches to solutions.

- Add-on option to visit the Birds of Vermont Museum available.
- Themes: Patterns, Scale, Structure and Function, Stability and Change

Forest Ecology*—Analyze a forest with mathematics and measurements. Calculate tree height, assess tree diversity, and identify trees with dichotomous keys. Consider how forest management affects bird habitat and how we can address threats to Vermont's forests.

- Themes: Patterns, Scale, Systems, Structure and Function, Stability and Change

Orienteering (full day, fall only)—Learn to navigate off trail! Orienteering builds math, problem solving, and teamwork skills. Students test their map and compass skills on our orienteering course.

- Themes: Patterns, Cause and Effect, Scale, Systems, Structure and Function



Service Learning*—Conservation in action! A great addition to a program or an option for a stand-alone visit. We work with teachers and students to design conservation projects that address both a community need and a curriculum requirement. Projects can occur at the Green Mountain Audubon Center or your school.

Teacher Trainings*—We offer trainings to help educators get their students outside. Our staff can share tools and ideas to help make connections to curriculum or seasonal themes. We can also provide natural history information to support your outdoor learning.

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- Themes: Patterns, Structure and Function, Stability and Change

Winter Tracks and Signs*—Students learn stories of wildlife in the winter woods, interpret wildlife tracks and signs, and discover wildlife behavior during our coldest season. Learn how animals adapt and survive the cold winter.

- Themes: Patterns, Scale, Structure and Function