

Nature's Classroom Nature on Wheels (NOW!) Program

Nature's Classroom provides innovative hands-on learning experiences that engage, educate, encourage, and excite students of all ages.

Every year, hundreds of New England schools visit one of our ten spectacular locations. The pandemic has put field trips on pause, so we're bringing our program to schools! Nature on Wheels (NOW) is a great way to give your students an enriching outdoor learning experience hosted by us at your school, while we all wait for overnight field trips to return.

Program Overview

Don't wait for your students to have an awesome outdoor field trip experience. You can have Nature's Classroom NOW! Instead of bringing your students to us, we'll come to you with our Nature on Wheels program. For single day or multi-day programs, we'll work with your students in an outdoor space at your school or local park. NC NOW provides tailor-made schedules to fit every schools' needs. We are excited to provide your students with the outdoor learning experience they've been missing.

Below you will find a list of the classes we offer, our Covid safety precautions, and an example of a daily schedule.

Team Building

- Students learn how to work as a team and build their leadership skills while doing fun team building initiatives. There is a focus on communication, cooperation, commitment, and care to complete each task.

Wilderness Survival/Orienteering

- We teach students how to survive in the woods. Some activities include fire building, shelter building, and knot-tying. Each student will get the opportunity to light a cotton ball on fire using only a Ferro rod. Students will also learn how to use a compass to complete navigational tasks and games.

Mad Scientist

- Students will learn how to use the process of scientific inquiry to determine the outcomes of an experiment and make scientific observations. Different scientific principles will be covered throughout the lesson including air pressure, states of matter, and chemical and physical change.

Field Journaling

- Calling all nature artists! Field journaling is a great time for students to get closer to plants, animal signs, and rocks and minerals. Different drawing exercises include a "zoomed in" and the "zoomed out" drawing of a plant and its environment, a detailed drawing of a leaf and then it's identification, and a landscape drawing.

Bioblitz*

- Hidden in the bushes, trees, and floor of the forest are numerous plant, insect, bird, and mammal species as well as other forms of life. Through hands-on guided exploration, students explore this frontier of biodiversity. They learn how to safely find various forms of life, and categorize them based on observable differences and similarities.

**This activity is most successful when done in a natural space that has a variety of trees, plants, and other wildlife.*

Dissections

- This is an opportunity for students to explore the internal and external parts of an animal. Students, with the guidance and supervision of a staff member, will learn the skills needed to successfully dissect an animal. Students will discuss how the different parts help the animal function and make comparisons to the anatomy of the human body.

Raging Rivers*

- Students use the power of observation to look at the erosion of rivers and use teamwork to find and build solutions. By building a model river in sand, students work to prevent erosion and explore how different materials are affected by the flow of the water. Students will develop an understanding of the power of the forces that affect the earth's landscape and how engineers use this information when making design decisions.

**This class requires a sandy area on property such as a playground with sand, sandbox, or beach.*

Float Your Boat

- Students will be challenged to create a small boat (using items like aluminum foil and craft sticks) that can carry the most cargo (butter knives) for the lowest price. Students will learn about buoyancy, budgeting, and how to create and use a model.

Egg Launch

- Students will work together in small teams to create a device that protects their egg from breaking when being launched. Students will design, evaluate, and test their contraptions.

Camouflage*

- Students will learn about different types of animal camouflage through nature exploration and fun games!

**This class requires an area where students can hide (ex. forest, playground, etc).*

Aquatic Biology*

- Grab your nets! In this class students will test water to see if it is safe enough to sustain life. They will use real science tools to test the pH of the water and collect macroinvertebrate (insect) specimens.

**This class requires a body of water on property (ex. pond, lake, river, swamp etc.)*

Let's Bounce!

- Students will use balls to test potential and kinetic energy, matter, mass and momentum. They will also get to experience bal-a-vis-x (Balance/Auditory/Vision eXercises) and work as a team to create awesome rhythmic patterns with racket balls.

Contact Us at:

Nature's Classrooms New England

info@naturesclassrooms.com

603.539.8053

Nature Art

- Let's get to know nature in a different kind of way. Students will learn about famous nature artists like Andy Goldsworthy, and then create their own art pieces using only natural materials.

Endangered Species Challenge

- What is an endangered species and what is causing them to be endangered? In this class, we will discuss human impact on the environment through a series of games that represent all of the obstacles these species are facing. The students will have the important task of protecting their own endangered egg baby!

Covid Safety Precautions

Staff - All staff will have daily temperature checks and health screenings. All staff sign a document saying that they are not experiencing any covid symptoms, have not knowingly come into contact with anyone with symptoms, and have not traveled outside of New England or New York in the 14 days leading up to the program. Staff also agree that they will not take part in any activities during the spring season that will drastically increase their risk of exposure to covid-19. Staff will be trained in covid prevention procedures and will be wearing a mask at all times while working with students (unless they are eating or drinking). Our program is done 100% outdoors, and staff will only enter school buildings (to use the restroom or speak with a school staff member) if given permission by the school. While inside, staff will always wear their masks and maintain social distancing.

We are working closely with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services to get staff vaccinated as soon as possible. If requested, each staff can get a rapid covid test (for an added cost) prior to arriving at your school.

Masks - To keep students and staff safe, we are asking all students to wear a mask while with their field group, unless they are taking a "mask break."

Equipment Use - All shared equipment will be sanitized before and after use. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands before, after, and during (if necessary) each activity.

Social Distancing - Each activity has been adapted to help maintain space between students.

- **Team Building:** We will avoid doing activities that require direct contact and instead do ones where space can be maintained between students.
- **Field Journaling:** Each student will get their own paper booklet and pencil and will be able to hike and observe nature while maintaining social distancing.

- **Dissections:** We will keep students spread out at the table and they will take turns getting a closer look at the dissections. As each student observes the animal, they can describe something interesting they notice to the group.
- **Mad Scientist:** Students will receive fully sanitized materials for the experiments they do and will maintain social distancing while watching the instructor.
- **Raging Rivers:** Students will stay spread out and take turns using the river tables.
- **Bioblitz:** Students will maintain social distancing while searching for items in nature.
- **Wilderness Survival/Orienteering:** Each student will get their own compass. Students also will be able to maintain social distancing while watching the instructor and will be given sanitized materials for knot-tying and fire-making. They can also take turns assembling different parts of the shelter.
- **Float Your Boat & Egg Drop:** Students will be set up in smaller groups and take turns being the “engineer” while the rest of the group provides instructions.
- **Camouflage:** Students will maintain social distancing at all times, while playing games and taking part in activities.
- **Aquatic Biology:** Tools (nets, PH kits etc.) will be sanitized when being passed from student to student. Closer examination of creatures/ plants will be done one at a time.
- **Let’s Bounce!:** Students will receive their own set of balls. If they are shared, they will be sanitized between use.
- **Nature Art:** Students will stay 10 feet apart while creating nature art, and exploring the area.

Additional Program Information

- **Lunch** - NC staff will bring their own lunch, but lunch will not be provided for students. Students should bring a bagged lunch from home or eat the regular school lunch.
- **Cost** - The base price is \$35 per student per day. The exact cost for each school will be calculated based on the number of students, number of days, extra transportation costs (i.e. traveling outside of New England or to an island), and if local accommodations are needed for staff.

There will be no deposit will be required, and payment will be due on the first day of programming.

Contact Us at:
 Nature’s Classrooms New England
 info@natureclassrooms.com
 603.539.8053