



Natural Science

Programs for Youth



186 Townshend Road
Grafton, VT 05146

(802) 843-2111

nature-museum.org

Do your students light up when learning about animals, plants, rocks, and stars?

Are you looking for creative ways to bring nature into your classroom?

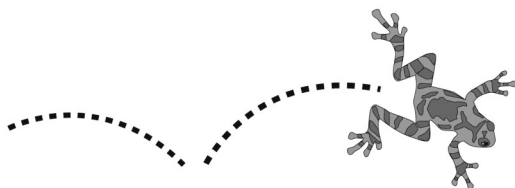
Would your students benefit from a hands-on program in the great outdoors?

Welcome to The Nature Museum's roster of exciting experiential programs!

For over 25 years, we have supported the natural science needs of educators in the Southern Connecticut River Valley.

We connect students to the wonders of nature and spark interests that last a lifetime. The Nature Museum's programs are fun, educational, and get students outdoors whenever possible.

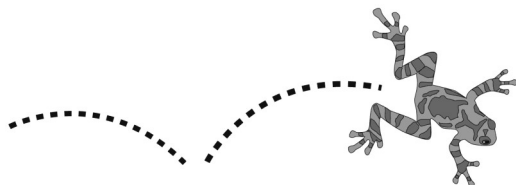
Many of our environmental education programs address The Next Generation Science Standards Disciplinary Core Idea Arrangements as noted following the title in this program in this catalog. To see how these programs align with these learning standards, visit www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards.



PROGRAM OPTIONS

- A **single program** for preschool- 6th grade at your school, library or The Nature Museum.
- A **customized program** at The Nature Museum or at your location. We will work with you to design a program that fits your curriculum, your needs, and your budget.

TNM: Available at The Nature Museum
OS: Available offsite
NG: Addresses Next Generation Science
Standards Core Ideas



PRE-K & K PROGRAMS

AVAILABLE FOR ½ HOUR OR 1 HOUR UNLESS NOTED

Amazing Powers of Amphibians (TNM, OS)

½ hour and 1 hour program available

Amphibians have remarkable adaptations for hibernation, escaping predators & catching food. We will explore the amphibian life cycle while learning about native New England species. We'll meet a local amphibian when seasonally available. Hands-on items, activities & songs engage participants!

Animals in Winter (TNM, OS)

1/2 hour and 1 hour program available

How do animals survive in the cold? This interactive program will explore animal hibernation, migration & winter adaptations using lots of touchables such as furs, feathers & pelts.

Beavers – Nature’s Architects (TNM, OS)

½ hour and 1 hour program available

How does the beaver benefit his natural world and change the Vermont landscape? Learn all about this architect’s life, family and job in nature. Students will enjoy a puppet show, hands-on items and amazing facts about this crafty creature.

PRE K & K PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Inspecta Insecta (TNM, OS)

½ hour and 1 hour program available: Spring/Summer or Early Fall
Get up close and personal with one of the most diverse groups of creatures on the planet! We will learn what makes an insect an insect and how these creatures live. Activities including sweep netting will have your students going buggy for this program!

Inside A Bat's World (TNM, OS)

½ hour and 1 hour program available
We love bats and hope you will too! This program dispels myths and teaches about this amazing mammal. We will learn about our Vermont bats using puppets, activities, & hands-on items.

Pond Exploration (TNM)

1 Hour Program Only: Perfect for Spring, Summer or Early Fall
A pond is an amazing habitat and home to an astounding number of critters. Using dip nets students will explore a pond ecosystem in search of insects, fish and amphibians.

Story Book Stroll (TNM, OS)

½ hour and 1 hour program available
Listen to a fun and educational seasonal story followed by a stroll to explore the natural world. We never know what we might discover outdoors! This program weaves together imagination and experience and is a perfect introduction to nature for young children.

World of Owls (TNM, OS)

½ hour and 1 hour program available
Whooo WhOOoo! Lots of hands-on items such as talons, wings and feathers make this program a favorite. Puppets, activities, games and much more will keep your little owlets happy!

1ST & 2ND GRADE PROGRAMS

AVAILABLE FOR 1 HOUR UNLESS NOTED

Abenaki and Nature (TNM, OS) / hour program

This program teaches the interdependence of all things in the environment through experiential hands on learning. The Nature Museum highlights the Native American philosophy of kinship with nature, connection to the earth and respect for every form of living creature through activities, stories and games. We will learn about Abenaki life pre-contact to the Europeans (late 1500's) and discover what tools, skills, and natural resources were utilized.

Amazing Adaptations (TNM, OS, NG - LSI.A, LSI.D)

1 Hour Program

From silent flights to super senses and kooky camouflage, animals have evolved to survive in a competitive world! Using observation, hands-on examination and discussions participants will enjoy learning about the physical and behavioral adaptations animals use to thrive in their habitats.

Amazing Powers of Amphibians (TNM, OS)

1 hour program available

Amphibians have remarkable adaptations for hibernation, escaping predators & catching food. We will explore the amphibian life cycle while learning about native New England species. We'll meet a local amphibian when seasonally available. Hands-on items, activities & songs engage participants!

Animals in Winter (TNM, OS) /hour program

How do animals survive in the cold? This interactive program will explore animal hibernation, migration & winter adaptations using lots of touchables such as furs, feathers & pelts.

1ST & 2ND GRADE PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Fort Building (TNM, NG - ETSI.A, ETSI.C)

1 ½ hour program

This program will get your students outdoors with an engineering challenge. Building forts is an excellent way for participants to make observations, process possible solutions and develop team-building skills. Students will determine the best materials, site and method for building a safe and effective structure. This lesson combines creative innovation and nature!

Pond Exploration (TNM)

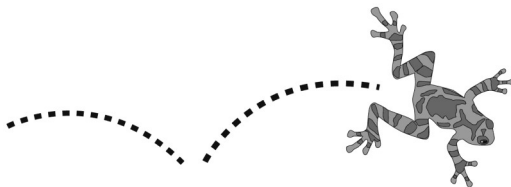
1 Hour Program Only: Perfect for Spring, Summer or Early Fall
See page 4.

Seeds on the Move: Plants & Pollination (TNM, OS , NG – LS2.A) *1 hour program*

Did you know that the relationship between animals & plants is a two-way street? When a bear eats a raspberry, he just doesn't get a tasty treat! Animals are nature's movers, shakers and pollinators, providing transportation for pollen and seeds. Students explore the interdependence between plants & animals through games, activities, & our extensive seed collection.

Who Lives in This Habitat (TNM, NG – LS4.D)

1 hour program:-Perfect for Spring, Summer & Early Fall
Participants explore several different habitats & learn the four components needed for an animal to live in its home. Time spent outside is key to this program. Discovery & exploration of wildlife homes are combined with activities and games.



3RD & 4TH GRADE PROGRAMS

I HOUR PROGRAMS UNLESS NOTED

Abenaki and Nature (TNM, OS) / hour program

This program teaches the interdependence of all things in the environment through experiential hands on learning. The Nature Museum highlights the Native American philosophy of kinship with nature, connection to the earth and respect for every form of living creature through activities, stories and games. We will learn about Abenaki life pre-contact to the Europeans (late 1500's) and discover what tools, skills, and natural resources were utilized.

Animals in Winter (TNM, OS) /hour program

How do animals survive in the cold? This interactive program will explore animal hibernation, migration & winter adaptations using lots of touchables such as furs, feathers & pelts.

Cycles of Life (TNM, OS, NG – , LSI.A ,LSI.B)

1 hour program

Discover the unique and diverse life cycles of a variety of organisms. For each animal, students will examine the sequence of the stages of life while learning about adaptations and habitats. We will study hands-on examples and find out how animals use skills and behaviors to survive.

Fort Building (TNM, NG - ETSI.A, ETSI.B, ETSI.C)

1 ½ hour program

This program will get your students outdoors with an engineering challenge. Building forts is an excellent way for participants to make observations, process possible solutions and develop team-building skills. Students will determine the best materials, site and method for building a safe and effective structure. This lesson combines creative innovation and nature!

3RD & 4TH GRADE PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Moving and Shaking, Rocking and Rolling – The Rock Cycle and Fossil Formations – (TNM, OS, NG – ESS2.A)

1 hour program

By observing a portion of the Museum’s extensive collection of rocks, minerals and fossils, participants will learn the rock cycle, types of rocks, and the different processes that form fossils. Games and stories will enhance student understanding of how wind, water and living things shape the land.

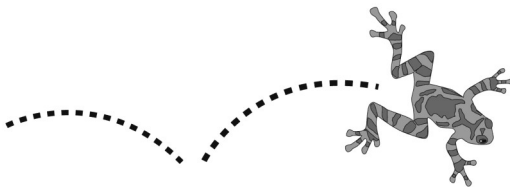
Pond Exploration (TNM)

1 Hour Program Perfect for Spring, Summer or Early Fall

A pond is an amazing habitat and home to an astounding number of critters. Using dip nets students will explore a pond ecosystem in search of insects, fish and amphibians.

Wonderful Wetlands (TNM: Howeville 20 min. drive from Museum) 1.5 hour program Spring, Summer, Early Fall

Visit and explore a real wetland, beaver pond and vernal pool. Wetlands offer animals a space to rest, live, and raise their young. This program will highlight the importance of the wetlands in the ecosystem while students search for aquatic species, insects, turtles, frogs and other wetland dwellers.



5TH GRADE & UP PROGRAMS

I HOUR PROGRAMS UNLESS NOTED

Abenaki and Nature

(TNM, OS)

1 hour program

See page 7.

Energy and Ecology

(TNM, OS, NG – PS3.D, LSI.D, LS2.A)

1 hour program

Participants in this program will learn about how the flow of energy moves from the sun to plants and animals with a focus on the interconnectedness of living and non-living things in the food web. Using hands-on items, discussion, and games students will study animal adaptations to conserve energy.

Fort Building

(TNM)

1 ½ hour program

See page 7.

Pond Exploration (TNM)

1 Hour Program Perfect for Spring, Summer or Early Fall

A pond is an amazing habitat and home to an astounding number of critters. Using dip nets students will explore a pond ecosystem in search of insects, fish and amphibians.

Wonderful Wetlands

(TNM: Howeville 20 min. drive from museum)

1 1/2 hour program Spring, Summer, Early Fall

Visit and explore a real wetland, beaver pond and vernal pool. Wetlands offer animals a space to rest, live, and raise their young. This program will highlight the importance of the wetlands in the ecosystem while students search for aquatic species, insects, turtles, frogs and other wetland dwellers.

1ST GRADE - ADULT PROGRAMS

CUSTOMIZABLE FOR ALL AGES

Art & Nature (TNM, OS)

1 hour program: Perfect for Spring, Summer and early Fall.

We provide the supplies, you supply the creativity! This exciting program provides an avenue for students to explore their own connection to nature by creating an eco-inspired work of art!

Bats (TNM, OS) 1 hour program

We love bats & hope you will too! This program dispels myths and teaches about this amazing mammal. We will learn about Vermont bats using puppets, activities, & hands on items.

Beaver Pond Exploration (TNM – Howeville 20 min. drive from museum) 1 1/2 hour program

Visit and explore a real beaver pond. Students will learn about what an amazing creature the beaver is while exploring the pond and searching for other aquatic critters.

Every Hero has a Story: Buzzy Bumble Bees (TNM, OS)

1 hour program. Buzz buzz buzz! Did you know native bumble bees can pollinate plants which honeybees can't? Learn about these unsung heroes with hands-on items, fun facts & bee crafts.

Fairy House Building (TNM, OS) 1 hour program outdoors

Calling all Fairies, Elves & Imps! This unique program is offered from late spring to early autumn. Fire up your imaginations by creating a Fairy Village building for our Fairy House Festival held the last weekend in September. This collaborative project gets students outside & taking a fresh look at nature's small wonders.

Fur, Feathers & Bones (TNM, OS) 1 hour program

The Nature Museum has an amazing collection of natural specimens. This wonderful hands-on program will inspire everyone to learn more about our animal friends.

Howeville: An Historic Look at How Humans Changed the Land Over Time (TNM – Howeville 20 min. drive from Museum) 2 hour program

Explore the ruins of the town of Howeville and discover how settlers changed the Vermont landscape. Where did the people go? Historic pictures & stories about the settlement engage all!

Nature Journaling (TNM, OS)

1 hour program: Perfect for Spring, Summer and early Fall.

Written reflections & drawings strengthen scientific observation skills while allowing each participant to explore their own relationship to nature. We provide journals to use & take home.

Seeds to Trees to Soil (TNM, OS) 1 hour program

Touch cool seeds, count the rings on some tree cookies and get down & dirty in soil bins to learn about how nature composts. This is a great interactive program for all ages!

Snowshoe Adventure (TNM, OS) 1 hour program. Limited number of child size snow shoes are available. Winter doesn't mean students have to stay inside! Kids learn to snowshoe and explore the wintry landscape with our outdoor educators.

Soaring, Diving & Fast-flying Predators (TNM, OS)

1 hour program. Raptors are amazing predators that can be found all around the world including right here in our own backyards. Learn what makes raptors unique, the differences between native raptor species, and why they are important to the environments that they live in, including our own!

Participants will discover the world of raptors through visual materials, hands-on items, and activities that can give them a raptor's perspective.

Stream Exploration (TNM)

1 hour program: Perfect for Spring, Summer and early Fall.

Practice using your senses as we explore a stream and its surroundings. Participants will discover stream life by examining and collecting specimens at a local stream here in Grafton.

Our programs are taught by professional educators with experience, enthusiasm, and energy.

Visit our website to meet the dedicated educators who bring nature into the classroom.

Contact Us

Contact Caitlin Holden, Education Coordinator, for more information or to reserve a program.

Fall and Spring schedules fill up quickly, so please plan ahead:

(802) 843-2111 • nature-museum.org

caitlin@nature-museum.org

Group Size

Preschool programs are designed for groups of 15 children or fewer. Elementary and middle school programs are designed for groups of 20 students or fewer.

Costs

We work hard to keep our fees low. You can save 5% when you schedule more than one program for the same day.

30 minute program: \$60

60 minute program: \$110

90 minute program: \$170

120 minute program: \$220

For programs at your location, we have an additional round-trip mileage charge of \$0.75 per mile round trip.

If an additional Environmental Educator is needed, add \$25.

Additional costs may apply if large groups need to be split.



Our Mission

The Nature Museum is a regional resource for nature, science and environmental education in Southern Vermont. The Museum provides information and experiences which engage and enlighten our audiences and inspire stewardship of the natural world.