

Outreach Programs For PK—8

Invite us into your classroom!

We'll be glad to create an interactive learning experience right in your classroom, library or recreation center! With hands-on activities, lively games, and discussion, we make the curriculum come alive. Activities vary according to grade level.

4R's & You (Paper Making or Worm Composting)

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink! Investigate the benefits of recycling through hands-on demonstrations that explore recycled materials in our lives, daily green choices that reduce our waste and either a paper making project or composting lab with live worms —You Choose! 45 minutes

Wild about Wildlife

Test your wildlife wisdom in a hands-on exploration as you play games of inquiry to examine a variety of skulls, tracks, furs, feathers and scat! Compare and contrast form and function and discuss with a naturalist. Make and take a clay animal track for an additional \$2 per student material fee. 45 minutes

Seasonal Discovery

Discover and discuss plants and animals that live in New Jersey. We'll examine furs, feathers, tracks and more to investigate animal adaptations. Or choose a specific theme for study (birds, bugs, trees). 45 minutes

Amazing Water

Learn what makes water so special by conducting lab experiments and investigating the water cycle. Get up and move around with our fun and interactive games and activities. 45 minutes

Predators & Prey

Investigate the food web and how energy flows through the trophic levels of producers, consumers and decomposers. Play games that demonstrate an individual species' relationship with their environment. Dissect owl pellets to determine the predator and prey food chain. 45 minutes

Bright Green Futures

Many people work for the environment—taking care of plants, animals, and the earth. Students will dress up as scientists, biologists, archeologists, landscape designers, beekeepers, herpetologists, and more while we explain what these jobs involve and why they are so important. 45 minutes

Program Details

Field trips: \$15 per visitor for each 1.5 hour program and \$30 per visitor for each 3 hour program.

Each program is approximately 1.5 hours long. Choose up to 2 programs for your field trip. All visits have an outdoor component except in extreme weather.

Outreach: Max 4 classes of 25 students. \$175 for first class, \$100 for additional classes during the same day.

Each program is approximately 45 minutes long. Choose 1 program that can be repeated up to four times. Outdoor activities dependent on school setting and weather.

More Information:

- ✓ Programs outside our general operating hours include \$25 per half hour add-on fee.
- ✓ Pre- and post-activity packets are included for programs upon request.
- ✓ All programs include hands-on, multidisciplinary activities that encourage classroom connections.
- ✓ Pre-registration and advance payment required for all programs.
- ✓ Cancellations must be made in writing 10 business days prior to your visit date or you will be billed for 50% of your program fee.
- ✓ At least 1 adult chaperone per 10 students is required. Kindergarten classes must have 1 adult chaperone per 6 students.
- ✓ To best enjoy your trip please remember to dress for the weather and wet conditions at the Center.

The Essex County Environmental Center is a facility of the Essex County Parks System and is located in Essex County West Essex Park. The immediate grounds include over one mile of trails, a boardwalk, and a wooded wetland habitat with access to the Upper Passaic River.



Every month of the year, families and children of all ages can learn something new about nature at the Environmental Center—right in their own Essex County back yard. We are never too young to learn how to protect our world—so sign up and join us for an environmental adventure.

- Joe D.

TO SCHEDULE A TRIP

Email or call today to set up your field trip or outreach program.

- ✓ Contact us with your name, school name, grade or ability level, number of students, topic, times and requested dates.
- ✓ We'll follow-up with you on the details and send out a confirmation that includes our Field Trip Guidelines with everything you need to know for your trip!

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Environmental Education Programs



Essex County Environmental Center

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Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive
& The Board of County Commissioners



~ Putting Essex County First ~

Field Trip Programs For Schools and Groups

4R's & You

All Grades

(Paper Making or Worm Composting)

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink!

Investigate the benefits of recycling through hands-on demonstrations that explore recycled materials in our lives, daily green choices that reduce our waste and either a paper making project or composting lab with live worms

—You Choose! 1.5 hours

Seasonal Discovery

PK to Adult

Through indoor and outdoor activities, students use their senses and other scientific tools like binoculars and magnifiers to investigate animal and/or plant adaptations and behaviors. Each class focus is on the current season and will include a seasonal nature craft. 1.5 hours. Winter class adds a \$2 material fee per student for clay animal track craft or pine cone birdfeeder.

*All programs correspond
to Core Curriculum
Content Standards &
Next Generation Science Standards.
Available on Request.*

*Our Naturalists can work with you
to design programs to fit your needs.*

Mighty Migrations

Grades 1 to 4

Become a Monarch Butterfly and migrate to 'Mexico.' Discover how their lifecycle and unique habitat needs have created conservation efforts in the United States and Mexico. Students become the "playing pieces" in a game of migration and then make and take a "Build-A-Bug" craft. 1.5 hours \$2 per student material fee.

Art and Nature

Grades 2 & Up

Allowing ourselves to be inspired by nature, we'll walk outdoors to observe the different colors, shapes, textures and sounds that the season has to offer. We'll collect materials from nature and bring them indoors to create expressive and unique works of art that can range from collage, sculpture, plant prints or mixed media. The season, age and ability level will help determine the project. 1.5 hours

Grow Dome Experience

Grades 2 & Up

Students visit our geodesic greenhouse, record observations, explore what's already growing, and learn how and when to harvest. It will be a sensory experience. (offered September through May only, due to heat restrictions) 1.5 hours

Discovering Forests

Grades 2 to 8

Explore the wonders of trees and forest habitats in this interactive program. Learn about how trees function, tree identification and the importance of forests and forest products in our lives. 1.5 hours

Discovering Wetlands

Grades 3 to 8

What do wetlands do for us? Why are they so important? Through lab, field and classroom activities, students will investigate the value of wetlands in New Jersey and what we can do to protect them. 1.5 hours

Nature Journaling

Grades 3 & Up

Take a journey through the Center's varied habitats. Frogs in the pond, butterflies in the garden, dragonflies at the river, birds building nests in the forest—we'll find many natural subjects to study and sketch. 1.5 hours

Predators & Prey

Grades 4 to 8

Investigate the food web and how energy flows through the trophic levels of producers, consumers and decomposers. Play games that demonstrate an individual species' relationship with their environment. Walk our trail to discover owl pellets that we dissect to determine the predator and prey food chain. 1.5 hours

Hatchet Scavenger Hunt

Grades 4 to 8

Students work together to complete challenges and use maps, compasses and clues based on the book *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen to find natural treasures along our trail system. Through this dynamic scavenger hunt, students will encounter all sorts of obstacles that eventually lead to their rescue! 1.5 hours

Frog Pond Science

Grades 4 to 8

Use the *tools of the scientist* to explore the depths of our 'famous' frog pond. Using nets and magnifiers the students will collect biological data for our "Pond Inventory" and discover what lives in the pond as well as the health of the pond. 1.5 hours

Birds and Their Habitat

Grades 4 & Up

Find and identify life-size bird replicas on our 'Bird Lane' trail by using binoculars and field guides. This class facilitates discussions on bird adaptations (beaks, weights, wingspan), sounds, habitats, nesting, and survival techniques. In addition, how birds act as indicators of a healthy environment will be discussed. 1.5 hours

Green Home: Energy Conservation Choices

Grades 4 to 8

Students learn about how we can conserve energy through "Green Choices." Students discuss a "dark day" without electricity to better understand their own ecological footprint and consider energy use, efficiency and conservation. Participate in our Energy Expo to present different ways we can "go green" and conserve energy. 1.5 hours

Lenape Living *

Grades K to 12

Ever wonder what life was like before European settlements? Visit our Lenape Learning Area to better understand how they hunted, fished, foraged and farmed using sticks, stones and bones. Participate in native life skills and explore topics such as fire-friction, plant identification, games, clothing, and more. (Available as outreach!) 1.5 hours

Native New Jersey Dig & Crafts*

Grades K to 12

Available All Year

Participants will become archaeologists as they uncover and analyze artifacts to better understand aspects of Native American Life and Culture. This interpretive journey will allow participants to identify similarities and differences between their own culture and create a clay pot or sew a medicine bag. \$2 per student material fee. 1.5 hours

**The Lenape Living Class and Native New Jersey Crafts programs are most often booked as companion programs*

Passaic River Studies

Grades 5 & Up

Take a journey through the Passaic River system. Students analyze aquatic life and water quality of this river through hands-on field and lab experiences. The history and human impacts of the Passaic River will be studied as well. **3 hours**

Balancing Energy Needs with Real Life Issues—A Town Meeting

Grades 9 & Up

Students may have an understanding about current concerns related to our energy demands and their impact on the environment, but have little knowledge of the problems faced by individuals and communities when addressing these concerns. Students will participate in a "town meeting" focusing on a town's need for more energy that introduces both environmental and governmental processes using role-playing and discussion. **1.5 Hours**