

RYE NATURE CENTER'S education programs can be tailored to suit any grade level. Our naturalists create and customize programs to accommodate the curriculum of your class. For your convenience, many of the programs can be taught in your classroom.

Fees

- A one-hour, RNC on-site visit is \$150. Discounts are given for bookings of more than three one-hour programs.
- The fee for outreach programs is \$175. Discounts are given in January and February. Maximum class size is 25 students.
- Sliding scale discounts for multiple program bookings and school-wide contracts are available.

Reservations

To arrange an environmental program or for additional information, contact Friends of Rye Nature Center by phone, 914.967.5150; or by email at info@ryenaturecenter.org.



PHOTO CREDITS: Daffodils: Robert Crum, Rocks: Dominic's pics, Cover: ox_kiyo, Snake and Caddisfly: furryscaly, Pencil Shavings: Kailash Gyawali



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NATURE AT YOUR DOORSTEP

ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION
PROGRAMS



THE FRIENDS OF RYE NATURE CENTER (FRNC) provide environmental education for students and teachers. Our goal is to encourage the scientific inquiry and analysis of natural processes so students do more than just memorize facts. Whether you bring your class to our 47 acre preserve or we come to your classroom, you and your students will be able to experience the science of nature through firsthand observation and discussion.

Below is a sampling of our most popular programs that can be tailored to fit your needs.

Our Watershed

ALL YEAR

This program provides a perfect opportunity for students to learn how daily activities impact our water supply and what simple solutions can minimize pollution. Through the use of our watershed model, students will observe how water quality is impacted and predict the effect it could have on local ecosystems. Land-water connections are made and the importance of clean water stressed.

Pondering Ponds

BEST IN SPRING

Observe and compare pond life from its largest inhabitants (ducks and geese) down to its smallest (phytoplankton). We will introduce students to the wide variety of life that exists in and around the pond habitat. Students will get their hands wet scooping and collecting specimens from our pond and then learn how to use a microscope to get a first-hand look at the day's catch.



The Circle of Life: Life Cycles

BEST IN SPRING

Plants, animals, and insects – they all have life cycles. Through direct observation of our pond, forest, and gardens, students will be able to gather data to compare and contrast the various stages in the life of plants, ducks, frogs, and butterflies to name just a few. Live examples of insect metamorphosis and decomposition offer a host of surprises that students can uncover through guided investigation and scientific illustration.



Rock On: Geology

ALL YEAR

Students will learn about the formation of the earth and the difference between rocks and minerals. They will learn how rocks are formed and how to identify and classify them according to their various physical characteristics. The process of erosion and the affects of glaciation can be witnessed throughout the property's bedrock outcroppings. Our on-site test quarry exhibits a cross-section of earth where students can collect rock and mineral samples while manipulating some of the basic tools used by geologists.

To Everything There is a Season

ALL YEAR

Seasonal walks take place throughout the year. Students are guided in their discovery of the secrets of each season: an autumn of preparation, a winter of slowdown and slumber, a spring of rebirth. Each visit offers an opportunity for students to observe and compare squirrel and bird's nests, animal tracks, pond dwellers, salamanders, butterflies and migratory birds.

All About Apples: Old-Fashioned Apple Cidering

BEST IN FALL

Learn about the history of apples, how they grow, and their many uses for wildlife and humans. Students are given the opportunity to manipulate our old fashioned apple press and sample some locally made, pasteurized apple cider.

Surviving on the Land: Native Americans

BEST IN FALL

Discover the exciting life of the Northeastern Woodland Indians that inhabited our area long ago. Their activities and customs are illustrated through artifacts, stories, tools, food, ornamentation, and contributions to everyday life.

Animal Adaptations

ALL YEAR

This hands-on program allows students to visit with our live animals and learn about their extraordinary adaptations. We also explore various animal habitats that create the need for these special characteristics. Students extrapolate how human activities, natural disasters, and climate change affect these habitats.

Which Way Should I Go? Orienteering

ALL YEAR

Discover the skills and fun of orienteering. Students learn how and why a compass works and how to skillfully and effectively use it to find their way through our forest. Orienteering games and scavenger hunts with maps and compasses test the student's new knowledge to make it an exciting experience.

Explore Our Shores: Marine Ecology

ALL YEAR, BUT BEST IN FALL & SPRING

Investigate an intertidal beach for a close look at the rocky shore and tide pools of the Long Island Sound. Gather and classify various specimens to be observed and compared. If your class can't make it to the beach, we'll bring the beach to you with a virtual tour and live sea creature demonstration in your classroom.

How Sweet It Is: Maple-Sugaring

LATE WINTER

Tour the RNC grounds to find the source of maple sugar and observe how trees are tapped. Then visit our sugar shack where locally harvested sap is boiled down and transformed into syrup.

Forest Ecology

ALL YEAR

Search the forest with scientific equipment and field tools used by professional ecologists. In this hands-on program, students become ecologists and perform their own study of our deciduous forest. They will examine the canopy, ground cover, and soil. They will measure and record soil and air temperature, and take note of the variety of flora and fauna. An explanation of the basic types of forests around the world will be also be given to allow the students an opportunity to compare and contrast the unique characteristics of each.

