



# Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut, Inc.

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The Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut offers diverse, hands-on, and experiential programs to inspire the appreciation and enjoyment of nature in your students. Field trip programs take place at Indian Rock Nature Preserve utilizing the preserves 280-acres with trails, a scenic pond, and farm. If you cannot come to us, we can also bring programs into your classroom.

Programs can be adapted for any grade level, so if there is a particular program that you are interested in that is listed for a different grade level please call to discuss options.

For program scheduling or questions please contact the Education Director, Kirsten Tomlinson, at 860-583-1234x105 or [ktomlinson@elcct.org](mailto:ktomlinson@elcct.org).

## **Indian Rock Nature Preserve Field Trip Programs**

### **\* K-2 Grade Band Field Trip Programs**

#### **Apples & Cider (1.5 Hours)**

What do apples need to grow? Are all apples the same? Students will investigate these questions and more while visiting our apple orchard. During the program students will have an opportunity to pick their own apple to take back to the classroom, taste a variety of apples while learning their history; press and sample fresh apple cider. (**Available: September and October**)

*Key Concepts: Life Cycle of plants, plant structure, producer, photosynthesis, interdependent relationships, growth, observing similarities and differences.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS2-2

**Fee: \$150.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$7.50 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 6**

#### **Bees and Honey (1.5 Hours)**

Investigate the life and importance of a honey bee. Explore the process of pollination, the inner workings of a hive, how honey is made, and taste different types of honey. This is a three-part program that involves: visiting the hive, a presentation on the inner workings of a hive, and tasting different types of honey.

*Key Concepts: Life cycles, interdependent relationships, response to stimuli, growth, energy, reproduction, body structure, human impacts.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS2-2

**Fee: \$150.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$7.50 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 3**

### **Farm Animal Encounters (Formerly Farm Tour) (1.5 hours)**

Students will use the farm and its animals as a fun way to learn about living things. Kindergarten classes will focus on what the needs are of the animals and why they live where they do. After visiting the farm animals, students will compare the farm animals needs to those of wild animals in the forest. 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes will focus on the external structures and how they help the animals to grow and survive. Students will spend ~15 minutes with each animal including; chickens, cow, sheep, pig, turkey or rabbit.

*Key Concepts: Life cycles, living vs. non-living, observing similarities and differences, body structure, food chains, structure, herbivore, carnivore, producers, consumers.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-1, K-2ETS1-2

**Fee: \$150.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$7.50 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 5**

### **Maple Sugaring: Past-Present (1.5 Hours)**

Who first discovered and made maple syrup? How have the original techniques been modified over time? What is sap? Answer these questions and more while learning about the history of maple syrup production and the process to transform sap into syrup. Learn how to know if maple syrup is ready and finish off with the opportunity to taste maple syrup. (Available Mid-February -Late March)

*Key Concepts: Life Cycle of plants, plant structure, producer, photosynthesis, boiling, temperature, air pressure, dissolved particles, seasons, weather, social studies.*

NGSS: K-ESS2-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-PS1-4

**Fee: \$150.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$7.50 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 3**

### **Discovery Ride (1.5 Hours)**

Discover the diverse habitats of the Preserve on an engine pulled hay wagon ride. Using their senses students will investigate the terrestrial and aquatic life on the Preserve to discover what resources the plants and animals require and how they adapt to changing seasons.

*Key Concepts: Habitats, ecosystems, adaptations, food webs, natural resources, seasons, decomposers, herbivores, carnivores, consumers, producers, camouflage, senses, hibernation, migration.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1

**Fee: \$150.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$7.50 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 2**

### **Fall Foliage Walk (1.5 Hours)**

Experience the forest at its colorful best. Unravel the reasons for the changes in the woodland colors, begin a leaf collection for the classroom, and learn how plants and animals have adapted various strategies to survive winter. **(Available: October – November)**

*Key Concepts: Adaptations, seasons, photosynthesis, hibernation, migration, life cycle of plants, response to stimuli, energy, herbivore, carnivore, producers, consumers.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1

**Fee: \$150.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$7.50 for each additional student**

**Max classes: 4**

### **Life Cycles of Plants (1.5 hours)**

Where do plants come from? How do plants grow? How do seeds disperse? Develop answers to these questions and more while exploring a variety of plant types in their natural habitats. We will also examine the decomposition of a log and leaf litter to complete the life cycle.

**(Available: September – October & May – June)**

*Key Concepts: Life cycles of plants, photosynthesis, plant structures, seed production and distribution, producers, decomposers, energy, growth, natural resources, food webs, interdependent relationships.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2, 2-LS4-1

**Fee: \$150.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$7.50 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 3**

### **Water life (1.5 Hours)**

As a hatchery, nursery or grocery the pond is a natural system that fulfills many needs for the plants and animals that live in and around it. We will take a close-up look at this aquatic habitat and its inhabitants during a walk around the pond including locating the inlet and outlet, shoreline sampling, and examination of pond inhabitants. **(Available: May – June)**

*Key Concepts: Adaptations, ecosystems, food chains, biotic vs abiotic, erosion, photosynthesis, aquatic, producers, consumers, decomposers, herbivore, carnivore, watershed, camouflage, life cycles, stability of systems, natural resources, metamorphosis.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, 2-LS4-1

**Fee: \$150.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$7.50 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 3**

### **Add On Hayride (30 minutes)**

Have you ever been on a hayride? Well, there's something about the smell of dry grass that instills that old time feeling of days gone by. You can get back in touch with yesterday on an engine pulled hayride through the woodlands and around the waters of the Preserve. The hayride is a great addition to one of our other programs.

**Fee: \$50.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$2.50 for each additional student**

## **\*3-5 Grade Band Field Trip Programs**

### **First American Experience - Foods of the Earth (1 Hour)**

Observe firsthand the various foods, gathered and cultivated, by the Native Americans. Learn how different foods were prepared and stored. Students will try grinding corn and sample a variety of native foods.

*Key Concepts: Land use, resources, geography, foods, adaptations*

CSSF: GEO 3.7, GEO 3.8, HIST 5.4, GEO5.2, GEO 5.3

NGSS: 3-LS4-4, 3-5-ETS1-1

**Fee: \$100.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 1**

### **First American Experience - Native American Tools (1 Hour)**

Tools were essential to the survival of the Native Americans. Investigate the making of and the uses of Native American tools through viewing relics and using reproductions. Learn first-hand what materials were used to create tools and work in small groups to designs and engineer a tool.

*Key Concepts: Land use, resources, geography, tools, adaptations, population distribution*

CSSF: GEO 3.4, GEO 3.5, GEO 3.6, GEO 3.7, GEO 3.8, HIST 5.4, GEO5.2, GEO 5.3

NGSS:3-5-ETS1-3

**Fee: \$100.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 1**

### **First American Experience - Tunxis Indians (1 Hour)**

Visit Indian Rock and learn about its legend while unearthing the history of the first inhabitants. Travel through the preserve to learn how the Tunxis Indians used this land to hunt and gather food.

*Key Concepts: Land use, resources, geography, adaptations, population distribution*

CSSF: HIST 3.2, HIST 3.6, GEO 3.4, GEO 3.5, GEO 3.6, GEO 3.7, GEO 3.8, HIST 5.2, HIST 5.4,

GEO5.2, GEO 5.3

NGSS:5-ESS3-1

**Fee: \$100.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 1**

### **First American Experience - Wigwam Adventure (1 Hour)**

Travel back in time with a visit to our authentic Native American Wigwam. Nestled deep within the forest of the preserve, you will rediscover how the Native Americans lived in harmony with the natural world. Learn how the wigwams were built and what daily life was like for the Native Americans.

*Key Concepts: Land use, resources, geography, culture, adaptations, population distribution*

CSSF: GEO 3.4, GEO 3.6, GEO 3.7, GEO 3.8, HIST 5.2, HIST 5.4, GEO5.2, GEO 5.3

NGSS: 3-LS4-4, 3-5-ETS1-1

**Fee: \$100.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 1**

### **Maple Sugaring: Past-Present (1.5 Hours)**

Who first discovered and made maple syrup? How have the original techniques been modified over time? What is sap? Answer these questions and more while learning about the history of maple syrup production and the process to transform sap into syrup. Learn how to know if maple syrup is ready and finish off with the opportunity to taste maple syrup. (Available Mid-February -Early April)

*Key Concepts: Life Cycle of plants, plant structure, producer, photosynthesis, boiling, temperature, air pressure, dissolved particles, seasons, weather, social studies.*

NGSS: 4-LS1-1

**Fee: \$150.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$7.50 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 3**

### **Pond Study (3 Hours)**

This program will lead students on an investigation of the ecology of the pond and its watershed. What are the rolls of the diversity of plant and animal in this watery environment? Sample the water to find out how non-living factors affect life in the pond. Includes biotic and abiotic shoreline sampling and microscope use. (**Available: May – June**)

*Key Concepts: Adaptations, ecosystems, food chains, biotic vs abiotic, erosion, photosynthesis, aquatic, producers, consumers, decomposers, herbivore, carnivore, watershed, camouflage, life cycles, stability of systems, natural resources, metamorphosis.*

NGSS: 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1

**Fee: \$300.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$15.00 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 4**

### **Woodland Walk (1.5 Hours)**

Using the outdoors as the classroom, students will hike the trails of the Preserve in search of animals and signs of animal activity. Exploration on and off the trail will reveal footprints, droppings, food sources, fur, feathers and other indications of animal activity. Rotten logs, stones and ground debris will be examined for signs of small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Through their exploration's students will unravel the story of the animal that call the Preserve home.

*Key Concepts: Habitats, ecosystems, adaptations, food webs, natural resources, seasons, decomposers, herbivores, carnivores, consumers, producers, camouflage, senses, hibernation, migration.*

NGSS: 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-PS3-1

**Fee: \$150.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$7.50 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 4**

### **The Water We Drink (1.75 Hours)**

*Before We Drink* is a partnership between the Bristol Water Company and the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut (ELCCT) and is held at the Bristol Water Treatment Plant. It is a hands-on, interactive program for students describing the functionality of the water filtration process and technology, the importance of a healthy environment to clean water and the responsibility of all citizens to reduce water contaminants. During the tour of the plant students will conduct experiments with the Enviroscape Model and discuss the function of a watershed, test turbidity and pH, create filters and brainstorm ways to conserve water.

*Key Concepts: Watershed, point and non-point source pollution, how substances dissolve in water, conservation, surface and ground water, human impacts.*

NGSS: 5-ESS2-2, 5-ESS3-1, 3-5EST1-1, MS ESS3-1, MS ESS3-3

**Fee: \$220.00 per class up to 20 students  
\$11.00 for each additional student**

**Max. Classes: 4**

## **Programs in Your Classroom**

### **\*K-2 Grade Band Classroom Education Programs**

#### **Apples & Cider (1 Hour)**

What do apples need to grow? Are all apples the same? Students will investigate these questions and more. During the program students will taste a variety of apples, learn the history of the apples, and press and sample fresh apple cider. (**September and October Only**)

*Key Concepts: Life Cycle of plants, plant structure, producer, photosynthesis, interdependent relationships, growth, observing similarities and differences.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, 2-LS2-2

**Fee: \$100.00 per class up to 20 students  
\$5.00 for each additional student  
\$70 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**

#### **Exploring the Animal Kingdom (1 Hour)**

What makes a bird a bird? Do mammals lay eggs? Do frogs have hair? During this hands-on and interactive program, students will see a variety of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and birds to learn about their similarities, differences, and adaptations that help them survive. This program gives students the unique opportunity to view live animals and animal mounts up close.

*Key Concepts: Describing/sorting/classifying organisms, adaptations, herbivore, carnivore, consumers, camouflage, senses, body structures, biodiversity.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1

**Fee: \$100.00 Per class up to 20 students  
\$5.00 for each additional student  
\$35 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**

### **Fabulous Frogs (1 Hour)**

Students will discover the diversity of frogs and toads in Connecticut by meeting a variety of live frogs and toads. Compare and contrast different species of frogs and toads to see what makes each one unique. Students will also learn about the life cycle of frogs from an egg to an adult.

*Key Concepts: Observing similarities and differences, life cycle, metamorphosis, adaptations.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1

**Fee: \$100.00 Per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**\$35 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**

### **First American Visit (1 Hour)**

Students will discover the tools, the foods, and the culture of Connecticut's early Native Americans. Hands-on examination of reproduction artifacts and storytelling will bring to life the ways of our first native inhabitants. Presentation is adapted to the grade level for which it is scheduled.

*Key Concepts: Land use, resources, geography, culture, adaptations, population distribution*

CSSF: HIST K.1, HIST K.3, HIST 1.1, GEO 2.4

**Fee: \$100.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**\$35 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**

### **Hibernation & Migration (1 Hour)**

When the weather turns cold why do some animals hibernate, while others migrate, and others go on with life as usual? Observations of live and mounted animals will guide the students through an exploration of the secrets of winter survival.

*Key Concepts: Hibernation, migration, adaptations, seasons, weather, observing similarities and differences, interactions with environment.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, 2-LS4-1

**Fee: \$100.00 Per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**\$35 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**

### **Reptiles & Amphibians (1 Hour)**

What is an amphibian? What is a reptile? Using a variety of live animals students will discover the answers to these questions by observing the animals to figure out the similarities and differences between reptiles and amphibians.

*Key Concepts: Describing/sorting/classifying organisms, adaptations, life cycle, food webs, body structure, camouflage.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1

**Fee: \$100.00 Per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**\$35 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**

### **Terrific Turtles (1 Hour)**

Students will discover the diversity of turtles in Connecticut by meeting and touching a variety of live specimens. Compare and contrast different species of turtles to see what makes each one unique.

*Key Concepts: Observing similarities and differences, life cycle, adaptations, habitats.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1

**Fee: \$100.00 Per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**\$35 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**

### **Turkey Time (30 Minutes)**

Have a Tom and a Hen Turkey visit your classroom. Get up close and observe the similarities and differences between the Tom and Hen by watching their display behaviors and listening to the different sounds that turkeys make. Students will have an opportunity to touch the turkeys and learn about snoods, beards and caruncles.

*Key Concepts: Observe similarities and differences, body structure, life cycle, adaptations.*

NGSS: K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1

**Fee: \$50 per class up to 20 students**

**\$2.50 for each additional student**

**\$35 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**

## **\*3-5 Grade Band Classroom Education Programs**

### **Hibernation & Migration (1 Hour)**

When the weather turns cold why do some animals hibernate, while others migrate, and others go on with life as usual? Observations of live and mounted animals will guide the students through an exploration of the secrets of winter survival.

*Key Concepts: Hibernation, migration, adaptations, seasons, weather, observing similarities and differences, interactions with environment.*

NGSS: 3-LS2-1, 4-LS1-1

**Fee: \$100.00 Per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**\$35 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**

### **Reptiles & Amphibians (1 Hour)**

What is an amphibian? What is a reptile? Using a variety of live animals students will discover the answers to these questions by observing the animals to figure out the similarities and differences between reptiles and amphibians.

*Key Concepts: Describing/sorting/classifying organisms, adaptations, life cycle, food webs, body structure, camouflage.*

NGSS: 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1

**Fee: \$100.00 Per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**\$35 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**

### **First American Experience (1.5 Hours)**

Experience a Native American visit in the classroom. Students will discover the tools, the foods, and the culture of Connecticut's early Native Americans. Hands-on examination of reproduction artifacts, storytelling and samples of native foods will bring to life the ways of our first native inhabitants. Presentation is adapted to the grade level for which it is scheduled.

*Key Concepts: Land use, resources, geography, culture, foods, adaptations, population distribution*

CSSF: GEO 3.4, GEO 3.6, GEO 3.7, GEO 3.8, HIST 5.2, HIST 5.4, GEO5.2, GEO 5.3

NGSS: 3-LS4-4, 3-5-ETS1-1

**Fee: \$150.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$7.50 for each additional student**

**\$35 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**

### **First American Visit (1 Hour)**

Students will discover the tools, the foods, and the culture of Connecticut's early Native Americans. Hands-on examination of reproduction artifacts and storytelling will bring to life the ways of our first native inhabitants. Presentation is adapted to the grade level for which it is scheduled.

*Key Concepts: Land use, resources, geography, culture, adaptations, population distribution*

CSSF: GEO 3.4, GEO 3.6, GEO 3.7, GEO 3.8, HIST 5.2, HIST 5.4, GEO5.2, GEO 5.3

NGSS: 3-LS4-4, 3-5-ETS1-1

**Fee: \$100.00 per class up to 20 students**

**\$5.00 for each additional student**

**\$35 Set-Up and \$60/hr Round Trip Travel Fee**