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 and the states of water. 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: $8 per visitor; max 75 students for each 1.5 hour program and $16 per visitor for each 3 hour program.
Outreach: Max 4 classes of 25 students. $175 for first class, $100 for additional classes during the same day.

Length and Setting:

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

Outreach: Each program is approximately 45 minutes long. Choose 1 program that can be repeated up to 5 times. Outdoor activities dependent on school setting and weather.

More Information:

- ✓ Programs outside our general operating hours include $20 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.
- ✓ Programs are correlated to the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. Available on request.
- ✓ Work with Center Staff to tailor programs to your needs and the ability level of your students.
- ✓ 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 1 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 Register

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.
- ✓ You will receive a follow-up phone call, confirmation packet with our Field Trip Guidelines with everything you need to know for your trip!

It's that simple! 973.228.8776

All ability and education levels welcome!

Environmental Education Programs

Essex County Environmental Center

621 B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ 07068
www.essexcountynj.org
973.228.8776

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

County of Essex New Jersey · Essex County Environmental Center · Essex County Park System Est. 1895

~ 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 — Grades 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.

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.

Green Choices — Grades 2 to 4

Students are introduced to the concept of renewable and nonrenewable energy sources and learn about how we can conserve energy through the introduction of "Green Choices." Students discuss a "dark day" without electricity to better understand their own ecological footprint and

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

Grow Dome Experience — Grades 2 & Up

Students examine soil, participate in our geodesic greenhouse plantings, see what's already growing, and learn how and when to harvest. It will be a sensory experience. (offered September through April 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 and 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

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

All programs can be adapted to any age and ability level.

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, as well as learn to use descriptive language when observing wildlife. This class facilitates discussions on bird populations, habitats, nesting, and survival techniques. In addition, human impacts on bird populations and how birds act as indicators of a healthy environment will be discussed. 1.5 hours

This Green Home: Energy Conservation Choices — Grades 4 to 8

Take our Green Building Tour and uncover and discover everyday choices that we make to help use or lose energy in our lives. Participate in our Energy Expo to present different ways we can "go green" and conserve energy. 1.5 hours

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**

Science of Energy Lab — Grades 6 & Up

Students use hands-on experiments from the National Energy Education Project to teach themselves and their classmates about forms of energy and the energy transformations taking place. **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. **3 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 the 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.
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 NJ Native American Life and Culture. This interpretive journey will allow participants to identify similarities and differences between their culture and ours and create a clay pot or sew a medicine bag (teacher's choice). $2 per student material fee. 1.5 hours

**The Lenape Living Class and Native New Jersey Crafts programs can be booked as companion programs or as stand-alone programs. Lenape Living is available as outreach.*

Please turn over to view our most popular outreach programs.