



Environmental Education Catalog

2018-2019

Create an *engaging, memorable, and educational nature experience* for your group!



The Nature Museum
186 Townshend Rd, Grafton, VT 05146
<http://www.nature-museum.org>
Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

Jill Bruning, Education Coordinator: jill@nature-museum.org

Jill can answer questions & suggest a program for you!



Welcome to The Nature Museum's collection of exciting nature programs!

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 group benefit from a hands-on program in the great outdoors?

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. These programs are also appropriate for groups of all ages.

How to use this catalog

We offer a wide variety of natural science programs which can be modified to suit different age ranges, locations, and interests. Use the [Table of Contents on page 3](#) to find the right program for you.

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

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.

Our programs are taught by professional educators with experience, enthusiasm, and energy. [Visit our website](#) to meet the dedicated educators who bring nature into your classroom.

Contact Us

Contact Jill Bruning, Education Coordinator, for more information or to reserve a program. Fall and Spring schedules fill up quickly, so we recommend that you plan ahead!

Jill Bruning, Education Coordinator

(802) 843-2111 x2

jill@nature-museum.org



Table of Contents

Click on a section below to learn more about each age range and the exciting nature programs we offer for your group!

[Introduction:](#)

[Programs, Next Generation Science Standards, Group Sizes, & Program Costs](#) (page 3)

[Find-a-Program Tool](#) (page 4)

[Pre-K and Kindergarten Programs](#) (page 5)

[1st and 2nd Grade Programs](#) (page 7)

[3rd and 4th Grade Programs](#) (page 11)

[5th Grade + Up Programs](#) (page 14)

[Adults, Kids, and Families: Programs For All Ages](#) (page 17)

Introduction: Programs, Next Generation Science Standards, Group Sizes, & Program Costs

Next Generation Science Standards Disciplinary Core Idea Arrangements

Many of our environmental education programs address the Next Generation Science Standards Disciplinary Core Idea Arrangements. This catalog includes the acronyms for these standards next to the title of the program. To see how these programs align with these learning standards, visit <http://www.nextgenscience.org/get-to-know>.

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 (codes next to program titles)

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. To ensure our programs provide a quality learning experience for all learners, large groups may need to be split up.

Costs

We work hard to keep our fees low. Save 5% by scheduling multiple programs for one 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 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 up.

Find-a-Program Tool

Program Name	Pre-K & K	1st & 2nd Grade	3rd & 4th Grade	5th Grade & Up	Adults + All Ages
Abenaki & Nature (TNM, OS)		x	x	x	
Amazing Adaptations (TNM, OS, NG - LS1.A, LS1.D)		x	x		
Amazing Powers: Amphibians (TNM, OS)	x	x			
Animals in Winter (TNM, OS)	x	x			
Art & Nature (TNM, OS)		x	x	x	x
Bats (TNM, OS)		x	x	x	x
Beaver Pond Exploration (TNM + 20 min drive)		x	x	x	x
Beavers: Nature's Architects (TNM, OS)	x				
Caterpillars, Moths, & Butterflies (TNM, OS)		x	x	x	x
Cycles of Life (TNM, OS, NG – LS1.A, LS1.B)			x		
Energy & Ecology (TNM, OS, NG – PS3.D, LS1.D, LS2.A)				x	
Every Hero: Buzzy Bumble Bees (TNM, OS)		x	x	x	x
Fairy House Building (TNM, OS)	x	x	x	x	x
Fort Building (TNM, NG - ETS1.A, ETS1.C)		x	x	x	
Fur, Feathers,, & Bones (TNM, OS)		x	x	x	x
Howeville: An Historic Look (TNM + 20 min drive)		x	x	x	x
Inspecta Insecta (TNM, OS)	x				
Inside a Bat's World (TNM, OS)	x				
Nature Journaling (TNM, OS)		x	x	x	x
Pond Exploration (TNM)	x	x	x	x	
Seeds on the Move (TNM, OS, NG – LS2.A)		x			
Snowshoe Adventure (TNM, OS)		x	x	x	x
Soaring Predators (TNM, OS)		x	x	x	x
Story Book Stroll (TNM, OS)	x				
Stream Exploration (TNM)		x	x	x	x
Secret Lives of Winter Animals (TNM, OS)		x	x	x	x
Tremendous Trees (TNM, OS)		x	x	x	x
Who Lives in this Habitat (TNM, NG – LS4.D)		x			
Wonderful Wetlands (TNM + 20 min drive)			x	x	
World of Owls (TNM, OS)	x				

Pre-K and Kindergarten Programs

Preschool programs are designed for groups of 15 children or fewer. To ensure our programs provide a quality learning experience, large groups may need to be split up.

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 hands-on items and amazing facts about this crafty creature.

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.

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 through hands-on items, activities, and a story reading.

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! Learn about these magnificent silent predators! Lots of hands-on items such as talons, wings and feathers make this program a favorite. Activities, games and much more will keep your little owlets happy!

1st and 2nd Grade Programs

Elementary school programs are designed for groups of 20 students or fewer. To ensure our programs provide a quality learning experience, large groups may need to be split up.

Abenaki and Nature (TNM, OS)

1 hour program

This program teaches the interdependence of all things in the environment through hands on learning. The Nature Museum highlights the Native American philosophy of kinship with nature 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 - LS1.A, LS1.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

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)

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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 through hands-on items, activities, and a story reading.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.

Caterpillars, Moths, and Butterflies Oh My! (TNM, OS)

½ or 1 hour program

The woods and fields close by are home to a wide variety of caterpillars, moths and butterflies. These magical insects come in all different shapes, sizes and colors! Learn about their amazing life cycle and the many species that are found right here in New England! Hands-on items, tales about magnificent moths and beautiful butterflies, along with a craft will captivate all ages.

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

1 hour program

Buzz buzz buzz! Did you know native 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.

Fort Building (TNM, NG - ETS1.A, ETS1.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!

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)

1 ½ 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 observations while allowing each of us to explore our own relationship to nature. We provide journals to use & take home.

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.

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. Explore the relationship between plants & animals through games, activities, & our seed collection.

Snowshoe Adventure (TNM, OS)

1 hour program. Limited number of child size snowshoes 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.

The Secret Lives of Winter Animals (TNM, OS)

1 hour or 1.5 hour program. Note: Outdoor tracking activity dependent on conditions and outdoor space.

When you look out into the winter landscape in northern New England, it's often hard to believe that there's much of anything happening in the forests and fields. But, life continues! To discover this winter world, you must look for hints and clues! Come learn about the many sneaky animals of winter and how to find the hints and clues of their winter wanderings. Feel real animals pelts, learn the basics of animal tracking, and be ready to head out on snowshoes to test out your winter animal detective skills!

Tremendous Trees (TNM, OS - Requires outdoor forest space)

1 hour program

Did you know there are 110 different species of trees and shrubs in Vermont? Local trees and shrubs have some amazing secrets and can tell great stories about Vermont's natural history. One of The Nature Museum's naturalists will help you unlock the mysteries of our woods and practice tree ID skills. A hike through the forest, taking a close look at different tree species, and games will engage all learners!

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 and 4th Grade Programs

Elementary school programs are designed for groups of 20 students or fewer. To ensure our programs provide a quality learning experience, large groups may need to be split up.

Abenaki and Nature (TNM, OS)

1 hour program

This program teaches the interdependence of all things in the environment through hands on learning. The Nature Museum highlights the Native American philosophy of kinship with nature 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)

1 hour program

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Art & Nature (TNM, OS)

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

We provide the supplies, you supply the creativity! This program provides an avenue for students to explore their 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 through hands-on items, activities, and a story reading.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.

Caterpillars, Moths, and Butterflies Oh My! (TNM, OS)

½ or 1 hour program

The woods and fields close by are home to a wide variety of caterpillars, moths and butterflies. These magical insects come in all different shapes, sizes and colors! Learn about their amazing life cycle and the many species that are found right here in New England! Hands-on items, tales about magnificent moths and beautiful butterflies, along with a craft will captivate all ages.

Cycles of Life (TNM, OS, NG – LS1.A,LS1.B)

1 hour program

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

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

1 hour program

Buzz buzz buzz! Did you know native 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.

Fort Building (TNM, NG - ETS1.A, ETS1.B, ETS1.C)

1 ½ hour program

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1 hour program. Limited number of child size snowshoes are available.

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1 hour program.

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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.

The Secret Lives of Winter Animals (TNM, OS)

1 hour or 1.5 hour program

Note: Outdoor tracking activity dependent on conditions and outdoor space.

When you look out into the winter landscape in northern New England, it's often hard to believe that there's much of anything happening in the forests and fields. But, life continues almost secretly. To discover this winter world, you must look for hints and clues! Come learn about the many sneaky animals of winter and how to find the hints and clues of their winter wanderings. Feel real animals pelts, learn the basics of animal tracking, and be ready to head out on snowshoes to test out your winter animal detective skills!

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1 hour program

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Wonderful Wetlands (TNM: Howeville 20 min. drive from Museum)

1.5 hour program: perfect for 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

Middle school and high school programs are designed for groups of 20 students or fewer. To ensure a quality learning experience, large groups may need to be split up.

Abenaki and Nature (TNM, OS)

1 hour program

This program teaches the interdependence of all things in the environment through hands on learning. The Nature Museum highlights the Native American philosophy of kinship with nature 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.

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1 hour program

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½ or 1 hour program

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Energy and Ecology (TNM, OS, NG – PS3.D, LS1.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 nonliving things in the food web. Using hands-on items, discussion, and games students will study animal adaptations to conserve energy.

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

1 hour program

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Fairy House Building (TNM, OS)

1 hour program outdoors

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Adults, Kids, and Families: Programs For All Ages

These programs can be customized for groups of adults, children of any age, and for groups with a mix of ages. We can create an engaging experience that is right for your group and its interests and skill levels!

To ensure a quality learning experience, large groups may need to be split up.

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!

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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 observations while allowing each of us to explore our own relationship to nature. We provide journals to use & take home.

Snowshoe Adventure (TNM, OS)

1 hour program. Limited number of child size snowshoes 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.

The Secret Lives of Winter Animals (TNM, OS)

1 hour or 1.5 hour program

Note: Outdoor tracking activity dependent on conditions and outdoor space.

When you look out into the winter landscape in northern New England, it's often hard to believe that there's much of anything happening in the forests and fields. But, life continues! To discover this winter world, you must look for hints and clues! Come learn about the many sneaky animals of winter and how to find the hints and clues of their winter wanderings. Feel real animals pelts, learn the basics of animal tracking, and be ready to head out on snowshoes to test out your winter animal detective skills!

Tremendous Trees (TNM, OS - Requires outdoor forest space)

1 hour program

Did you know there are 110 different species of trees and shrubs in Vermont? Local trees and shrubs have some amazing secrets and can tell great stories about Vermont's natural history. One of The Nature Museum's naturalists will help you unlock the mysteries of our woods and practice tree ID skills. A hike through the forest, taking a close look at different tree species, and games will engage all learners!



Contact Us

Contact Jill Bruning, Education Coordinator, for more information or to reserve a program. Fall and Spring schedules fill up quickly, so we recommend that you plan ahead!

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