

Dear Teachers, Classroom Enrichment Chairs and Administrators,

Using the Connecticut State Science Curriculum as our guide, we have developed hands-on science programs designed to complement and enhance your science lessons. We offer hour-long, naturalist-led programs consisting of live animal demonstrations, games and interactive activities. Each of the programs can be modified to your class's specific unit or learning needs.

We also offer a field trip component for all grade levels. A trip to the Nature Center has much to offer—our pond, forests, fields, animal habitat room, natural science library and theatre can all be a part of your experience.

A classroom membership, for an annual fee of \$75, entitles each class to a naturalist-led program as well as three seasonal issues of Nature Matters, a newsletter for students. A one-hour program for non-members is \$80 per in-school program.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and hope you'll consider making the Darien Nature Center part of your students' learning experience.

Below is a sampling of some of the programs we offer for each grade level:

Kindergarten

Animals in Winter

Where do animals go when the cold winds blow? Who sleeps and who hunts? Students will meet animals who know how to keep warm in the coldest of seasons and find food under layers of snow.

Nocturnal Animals

The fun begins after you're tucked in. Soaring bats, moony-eyed owls and midnight mice come to life after dark. This program introduces animals who are active when the sun goes down.

First Grade

Animal Movement

Animals move in different ways based on how they are built and what they weigh. See how the animals use motion to escape predators and find food. Students will observe live demonstrations of the principles of motion.

Habitats

Students will explore life in the forest, desert, mountains, ocean, pond and grasslands. They will learn about the adaptations that allow animals to survive in different habitats and climates.

Second Grade

Insects

What's got compound eyes, a skeleton on the outside ears or ears on its back? The most successful animals on earth—insects. Students identify local insects by sight and sound, learn about insect anatomy and examine their habits and habitats.

I Dig Dirt

The soil beneath our feet provides minerals and nutrients for growing things and a home for small animals. Students will explore the properties of several soil types and learn about the creatures that rely on them for life.

Third Grade

Rocks and Minerals

What do the rocks we find in our backyards tell us? Students will use mineral tests to identify several local minerals and learn to make a scientific collection.

Animal Behavior

Some animals hoot...others spin and some play possum. Learn what animals do to survive ~ learn the tricks and traits that keep them alive. Students will learn the difference between instinctive and learned behavior.

Fourth Grade

Skulls and Bones

We'll play the anatomy game and find out that all skeletons are not the same. Students will compare mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian and fish skeletons.

The Night Sky

Stars, planets, meteors and comets all come into view if you know where and how to look for them. We will talk about all the sky sights you can spy with the naked eye.

Fifth Grade

Watersheds

Water is constantly on the move. It evaporates, percolates and travels through the air and underground. Follow the journey of a drop of water through a watershed and learn basic hydrology along the way.

Tree ID

Did you know that leaves have teeth? Which tree has the shaggy bark? Learn the names of the most common trees in Darien's forests. Students will examine bark, twigs, leaves and silhouettes to discover the identity of trees.

Program Information

Program Length:

One hour

Program Cost:

Classroom Member: \$75

Non-Member: \$80

Discounts:

\$20.00 discount for scheduling back-to-back programs or for one teacher scheduling three or more programs for the year.

Cancellation Policy:

The Darien Nature Center reserves the right to send a substitute instructor or reschedule programs in the event that the naturalist is unavailable due to illness.

Class Membership: \$75

Membership benefits include:

One in-class visit by our Naturalist

Our student newsletter, *Nature Matters*

Didn't find what you're looking for?

If you're looking for something special, whether it's rainforest critters or desert adaptations, our naturalist will work with you to custom-design a program to fit your students' needs.

To register:

For class memberships, in-school programs and field trips, please contact our Naturalist at 655-7459

Field Trips:

We also invite you to consider making a field trip to the Nature Center. We will design a program of your choice, using our on-site resources including our animals, trails and pond.