FIELD TRIP OFFERINGS 2022–2023

Environmental Education

Since 1964, Beaver Brook has been offering environmental education programming for all ages. Our highly knowledgeable environmental educators teach a wide variety of topics for a range of group types. Whether you are looking for a one-time class, a recurring topic-specific series, an alternative preschool option, a supplement for homeschooling, or a place for a field trip or group experience, Beaver Brook has something for you.

Nature is our classroom and programs change seasonally. Program participants of all ages will enjoy enriching hands-on experiences with nature that allow students to deepen their knowledge and expand their appreciation for the natural world.

We offer field trips for groups of all ages and various establishments: Public and Private Schools, churches, Homeschool groups, Scout Troops, Youth Groups, Afterschool Programs, Garden Clubs, Libraries, Adult Learning Communities, and more.

Location

Beaver Brook has two educational campuses with programs being held at either:

Maple Hill Farm located at
117 Ridge Rd, Hollis NH 03049

Brown Lane Barn located at
52 Brown Lane, Hollis NH 03049

Field Trip Hours

- Field trip programs are offered Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9am–5pm.
- We offer field trips seasonally: Fall, Winter, and Spring.
- Programs can be 1hr – 4hrs in length, depending on the needs of your group and the program of interest.
- Snack or lunch can be included during your program or you are welcome to stay and enjoy the grounds of BBA after your program.
Cost
The fee for field trips is $100 per class plus:
- up to 1hr: $5 per student
- up to 2hrs: $6 per student
- up to 3hrs: $8 per student

*Weekend programs are charged an additional $50

School programs can make payment in full on the day of their field trip. All other organizations require 50% deposit to reserve your experience.

Full or partial scholarships are available.

Refund & Cancellation Policy
Beaver Brook Association requires a 50% deposit to confirm your reservation and designate a teacher for your group. If you cancel a program before 14 days of the confirmed date a refund will be given minus a $50 processing fee. No refunds will be given if the program is canceled within 14 days. In the case of emergency or unforeseen circumstances refunds will be managed on a case by case basis.

Booking
To book a field trip please email or call our Program Manager:
Sarah Barrow
sbarrow@bbanature.org
(603)465-9513

Be sure to have the answers to the questions below when contacting us to ensure a quick booking process.

Questions for Booking
- Contact info for person booking
- Email
- Phone number
- Name of school/organization
- Grade/age
- Number of classes
- Total number of students
- Do you have any students that have special needs or need accommodations
- Time of year for the field trip
- Choice of dates. We recommend having two or three options as our schedule gets quite full!
- Program of interest (See below for program descriptions)
- Interested in applying for a scholarship? To be eligible, you must receive more than 50% reduced lunch to qualify.
- Have you been to Beaver Brook before?
Non-Discrimination

Non-Discrimination: Beaver Brook Association strives to create a diverse, equitable and inclusive community. Beaver Brook Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, family style, political beliefs, disability, military or veteran status with respect to access to employment, its educational programs, activities and election of trustees, and complies with all applicable federal and state laws. Beaver Brook Association welcomes and appreciates everyone.

Weather & Cancellation

If the Hollis-Brookline Public Schools are closed due to weather or road conditions, we will also close. We can work on rebooking your field trip if this happens. Otherwise we run our programs in all weather.

What to Wear

As the saying goes, “there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing”. Because your program will be going out in all kinds of weather, it will be very important that all students have the proper gear. We find that with the proper gear, kids can be comfortable, engaged learners in all kinds of weather!

We suggest:

- Sturdy footwear appropriate for the weather (boots if wet/raining, sturdy sneakers or hiking shoes etc)
- Dress in layers
- A jacket appropriate for the weather (wind/rain proof, insulated for cold weather etc)
- Sun hat or warm hat and gloves depending on the season

First Aid

Beaver Brook teachers will have a first aid kit with them at all times. All teachers have up-to-date First Aid and CPR certifications. Minor injuries such as scrapes and abrasions will be handled by BBA teachers. If emergency care beyond minor injuries is required, 911 will be called.

Teachers and chaperones are responsible for bringing and carrying any special medical supplies that students may need (inhalers, epi-pens, etc)

Discipline

Beaver Brook’s programs are meant to be educational and fun for all children involved. However, we recognize that different environments, circumstances, and settings can impact a child’s behavior and interactions with peers. During field trips it is the attending teachers and chaperones who are to manage the behavior of their class. It is best to set clear expectations at the beginning of each program, and use positive reinforcement so that behavior does not become an issue and take away from the experience of others. Our teachers are here to support your teachers as best we can.
Chaperone Guidelines

1. Turn off pagers and cell phones.
2. Stay with your assigned group of students.
3. Monitor student behavior during the program and encourage safe behavior on the trail.
4. Model desired behavior such as being attentive, curious and unafraid of wildlife.
5. Allow students to respond to questions posed by the nature guide.
6. Assist the nature guide with handouts and passing educational materials.
7. Encourage students to behave respectfully to fellow students, to plants & animals (Leave No Trace!) And their nature guide.
8. Monitor student behavior during lunch and snack breaks, if applicable. Reminder we are a carry in/ carry out facility. Bring all trash home with you.
9. No younger siblings allowed during school field trips.

Beaver Brook Practices "Leave No Trace"

The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace provide an easily understood framework of minimum impact practices for anyone visiting the outdoors. Although Leave No Trace has its roots in backcountry settings, the principles have been adapted so that they can be applied anywhere — from remote wilderness areas to local parks and even in your backyard. They also apply to every recreational activity. Beaver Brook teachers use these guiding principles when developing curriculum, allowing Free Play, or assessing Risk Play.

1. Plan and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impact
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Others

For more detailed information on these principles please visit https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/.

We practice LNT and we are a carry in/ carry out facility. All trash that you accumulate during your field trip must go home with you.
Native Americans of the Woodlands

Beaver Brook is located on N’dakinna, which is the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. During this interactive field trip students will learn the history of these people, how they lived on this land, and participate in Native American tasks, games, and storytelling. Interacting with our large collection of replica Native American tools, students will come to understand the deep respect and dependence that these early people had for the land that they lived on. Extended classes will learn the use of important native plants and trees.

- 1 – 4 hours
- PreK and up

Exploring Habitats

While taking a hike through our nearby wetlands, forests, and fields, students will make and record observations about these three different habitats and some of the animals that live there. As they begin to observe the main components of each habitat they will compare and contrast the different environments and learn how these differences/similarities will determine which plants and animals would live where. Students will use sampling devices and sorting activities to provide an engaging conclusion to their hike. This field trip takes place outside, rain or shine.

- 2 hours
- 2nd grade and up
- NGSS: 2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4

YEAR ROUND
Skulls & Teeth, What Do You Eat?

Take advantage of our extensive New England Mammal Skull collection! Students will examine these skulls up close and by making observations to compare and contrast details, they will determine which of these native species are carnivores, omnivores, herbivores, and or insectivores. Students will further explore the skull’s components and their functions to see how these internal structures support the animal’s survival, growth, and behavior. With the help of some hands-on activities we bring the food chain to life. Students will develop an understanding of how energy is passed from the sun not only to these animals, but to the plants, insects, and primary consumers they may be eating! To wrap up this unique class, we take a quick peek at some local scat because what goes in has to come out! Longer classes will have an opportunity to hike through different habitats to see where these animals live.

- 1 – 2 hours
- 3rd grade and up
- NGSS: 3–LS3–1, 3–LS3–2, 4–LS1–1, 5–LS2–1, 5–PS3–1

Map & Compass: Navigating in the Outdoors

Learning map reading is a very empowering and valuable life-long skill. In this class, participants will learn how to read maps, use compasses and navigate on trails in search of orienteering markers on our property. The challenges increase the longer you stay! This can be combined with team-building activities or natural science challenges to accomplish along the trail. After the introductory lesson, students will put their new skills to use by traveling on the trails in small groups with chaperones.

- 2 – 4 hours
- 4th grade and up / Excellent for middle & High School students
- NGSS: 4–ESS2–2
A Worm’s Work

During this program, students will get an up close, hands-on experience with our hardworking, composting worms who are composting food scraps into nutrient-rich soil around the clock! Interacting with our Working Worms is a great opportunity to excite students about the important work that earthworms and other decomposers perform and how important they are to our gardens and forests. Students learn that earthworms are living invertebrates and discover ‘scientific evidence’ while conducting mini “worm safe” experiments. A trip outside to our composting court and gardens allows students to investigate different types of soils and to use a soil sieve to separate soil down to its basic layers. Older students delve into the processes of vermiculture composting and the internal workings of our worm friends as we look carefully at soil layers and composition.

- 1 – 2 hours
- PreK and up
- NGSS: K–ESS2–2, K–ESS3–3, 3–LS1–1, 4–LS1–2, 5–LS2–1

New England Wildlife: Who Goes There?

Several interesting clues can be found at Maple Hill Farm! Who left them? What do they tell us? Using their detective skills, students will examine animal clues such as tracks, skulls, feathers, and bones to determine what animal it is from. Once their observational skills are honed, they will head out onto the trails to hike through the different habitats to search for more clues left by the animals who make Beaver Brook their home. Every day brings new findings out on the trails. Our outdoor discoveries are guaranteed to lead to teachable moments. Students will make memorable connections to the animals and understand how their adaptations allow them to survive in the wild.

- 1 – 2 hours
- K and up
- NGSS: 2–LS4–1, 3–LS1–1, 4–LS1–1, 5–LS1–1
Fine Feathered Friends

What makes a bird a bird? While understanding that birds have defining characteristics, students will observe the wide diversity and see how each bird’s traits are specially adapted for their lifestyles and habitats. By making observations of a bird’s feet, beak, and size, students will hypothesize about its habitat and eating habits. As a group, we will practice identifying some common bird songs, take a hike through our various habitats, and use binoculars to look for nests and evidence of bird activity. Rounding out the experience is a visit to our Maple Hill Bird Museum for a scavenger hunt!

- 1 – 2 hours
- K and up
- NHGS: K-ESS3-1, 1-LS3-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1

Habitat Quest

Are you ready for a treasure hunt? After an introduction to using a map and compass, students will head out in small groups with chaperones to follow the clues for one of Beaver Brook’s native animals. These animals represent the four main types of eaters: omnivores, carnivores, insectivores and herbivores as well as three main habitats: fields, forests, and wetlands. When the groups reconvene at the end, they will each “present” the habitat requirements of their animal. As discussions take place the class can compare and contrast the diversity of life from each habitat while beginning to understand how these New England animals survive out in the wild. This program combines well with the Skulls & Teeth program.

- 1 –1.5 hour
- 2nd grade and up
- NGSS: 2-LS4-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4
Animals Get Ready for Winter

How do our New England animal friends survive the winter? From the smallest chickadee to the largest black bear, many species deal with winter differently. Even people adapt to the winter weather. We are mammals after all! This program animates the concepts of hibernation, adaptation, and migration with a humorous and informational puppet show which showcases common New England animals and the strategies they use to survive the winter. A hike outside to explore nearby habitats is a good way to hunt for signs and clues of what NE wildlife have been up to.

- 1.5 – 2 hours
- PreK – 3rd grade
- NGSS: K-ESS2-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, K-LS1-1, 1-ESS1-2, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS4-3, 3LS3-2
**Snowshoeing & Animal Tracking**

Students and grown-ups will put on a pair of Beaver Brook snowshoes and head out into the fields and forests for a guided winter adventure! Test your snowshoe skills on an obstacle course in the gardens before heading onto the trails. As we hike, students have the opportunity to explore for evidence of wildlife activity in winter. Finding animal tracks is inevitable and students will learn to correctly identify these into the main groups of trotters, hoppers, walkers, and waddlers. These tracks naturally lead to conversations about the winter behaviors of animals and how these active animals are responding to the changes of winter, and what has happened to the animals that have opted out.

- 1.5 – 2 hours
- 1st and up
- NGSS: K-PS2-1, K-ESS2-2, 2LS4-1, 5PS2-1

**Animals Adaptations & Antifreeze**

Students will experience several hands-on ‘lab’ stations on winter animal adaptations and be able to observe feathers under a microscope, test out different types of insulation in snow or ice, and examine furs, animal foods, and animal signs up close. By end of their lab, the students will learn that the environment dictates how an animal adapts and will also understand that not all animals adapt; some choose to migrate and others simply lay eggs and die. Two-hour classes will migrate outside for an Animal Antifreeze experiment in which they will work in pairs to quickly forage for supplies and create an insulated shelter for their “warm-blooded creature” (a little container of hot gelatin). This experiment follows the basic outline of the Scientific Method and touches on hypothesis, control and independent variables, and conclusions. As the experiment runs, a hike to look for animal signs keep everyone warm, and then it’s back to see if the little “buddies” survived!

- 1 – 2 hours
- 3rd grade and up
- NHSS: 3-LS2-1, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1
**EARLY SPRING**

**The S.T.E.M. of Maple Sugaring**  
Late February to Early April

Biology, Chemistry, History, Physical Science—Talk about S.T.E.M.! This fascinating class encompasses everything from photosynthesis to tree identification and measurement. We start with the historic process by Native Americans who discovered how to cook tree sap into sugar. Students will use measuring tapes, hand drills, spiles, and buckets to set their taps. They then learn how to collect sap buckets and add them to the wood-fired evaporator pan in the sugarbush where they can see evaporation, condensation, and combustion in action. Students can take a taste test to see if they can tell the difference between syrup from a tree and syrup from corn. Longer classes can try out antique shoulder yokes in a sap relay. Younger classes can enjoy a fun puppet show which explains the magic behind maple syrup!

- 1 – 3 hours
- PreK and up
- NGSS: K–2ETS1–2, K–2–ETS1–3, K–ESS2–1, K–PS3–1, 1–ESS1–2, 2–PS1–4, 3–LS1–1, 3–ESS2–2, 4–LS1–1, 5–LS1–1, 5–LS2–1, 5–PS1–1
Aquatic Wonders

Explore a diverse pond ecosystem! Students will have the opportunity to investigate aquatic food chains and life cycles as they use pond nets and magnifiers to search for and collect not only frogs and fish, but the smallest and most interesting of aquatic life. Meet a water scorpion who breathes from his tail and a caddis fly who attaches whatever he finds to himself to create a cocoon-like home. Every unique animal in the pond has adapted their internal and external structures to survive, grow, and reproduce. Students will make observations and identify the species they find with the help of identification charts. Older students will also focus on the life cycle of the pond itself and will assess water quality by identifying indicator species found in “healthy” and “unhealthy” water systems. An optional watershed model is available for assessing human impacts on our water resources.

- 1 - 2 hours
- K and up
- NGSS: K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1

Bugs, Butterflies, Beetles

Take to the fields and create a classroom insect collection! Using nets and bug boxes students will get an up close look at the components of an insect. Students will learn about the anatomy, adaptations, sometimes odd habitats and always interesting life cycles of insects. They will develop an understanding of these largely beneficial creatures that outnumber us a million to one! Longer programs will have the opportunity to hike into a forested habitat for further insect examination under logs and explore the new Pollinator Garden.

- 1 - 2 hours
- K & up
- NGSS: K-ESS3-1, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS2-2, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 4-LS1-1
If you don’t see what you are looking for please let us know! We would be happy to suggest some ideas and help you put together an amazing and memorable experience for your students. Other ideas include:

- Discover the Seasons: Guided Hikes
- Get to Know Owls with Owl Pellet Dissection
- Unbelievable Bats
- The 5 R’s of Sustainability | Make and Take Boomerang Bags
- Tree ID and Forest Ecology

Outreach

Many of our field trip programs can be transformed into “Outreach Programs” and be brought to schools, libraries, or senior centers as enrichment programs or “Visiting Scientists”.

We have constructed school-specific letterboxing scavenger hunts, snowshoeing obstacle courses, and nature trails in schoolyards and playgrounds. Just ask and we can guide you to options that meet your needs.

**Cost:** The cost of our outreach programs varies depending on length, program, and materials needed. All include $50 set up and travel fees.