

Education Programs 2017-2018

*Engaging communities in conservation action
through education, science, and stewardship.*



School Programs • Outreach • Service-Learning

“Audubon trips are always fun, professional, and full of GREAT information. I've been taking students for YEARS and have always felt really good about the connections kids make to their in-class learning with the beautiful area in which they live!” - Richmond Elementary Teacher

Experience Audubon

From bird watching to winter tracking, maple sugaring to pond scooping, there are many ways to experience the outdoors. **Audubon Vermont has connected people with nature for more than 50 years.**

Our programs offer...

Connection, Inspiration, and Conservation

Our inquiry-based science programs encourage exploration, foster critical thinking, and build confidence. Audubon Vermont's professional Teacher Naturalist staff designs programs focusing on interconnectedness, environmental awareness, and conservation action.

Flexible Length and Location

Choose full- or half-day programs. Visit the Audubon Center in Huntington or invite us for outreach at your school or local park. **Take your class outside more often** with professional development and training on how to make use of your school's natural settings.

Diverse learning opportunities for:

schools • adults and senior citizens • work place team-building • scouts • service-learning
teacher training • homeschool families • preschools • camp groups

Program Details...

At the Audubon Center:

Half-Day:

Trip to Audubon - \$6/person
(\$60 minimum)

Full-Day:

Trip to Audubon - \$8/person
(\$120 minimum)

Service Learning:

Fees depend on project

Outreach fees:

\$100/hour + mileage

Chaperones:

Teachers are free
Chaperones are welcome
Suggested donation of \$4/adult chaperone

Cancellation Policy:

Cancellation fees apply
No fee for inclement weather

To schedule a program, contact Debbie Archer at **(802) 434-3068** or darcher@audubon.org

Scholarships available. Apply online.

Preschool and Kindergarten Programs (1 ½ hours)



Autumn

Critter Construction*

Do you wonder how beavers build a lodge or squirrels build a drey? We'll discover different ways critters construct their homes and work on creating our own cozy hideaways. No hammers or nails necessary!

Season of Change*

The nights are getting colder, the leaves are changing color, the wind is beginning to bite! Finding and hiding food, building a home, and getting ready for winter is hard work! We'll make the work easy by preparing for this season of change together!

Let's Talk Turkeys*

Find out what wild turkeys eat for Thanksgiving! We'll hit the trail to discover how turkeys nest, find food, and stay safe from predators. Gobble, gobble!

Winter

Solstice Celebration*

Embrace and explore everything the solstice season has to offer. From snow and cold to stories of light and dark, we'll get as cozy as Vermont's animals do. Bring your warmest mittens along as we adventure outdoors and welcome back the sunlight!

Tricky Tracks*

Winter is a wonderful time to learn about the comings and goings of our furry and feathered neighbors. We'll discover how animals move through the snow. Then we'll head outdoors to search for and make our own tracks.

Who's Hooting*

Swoop into the world of owls to find out why they are silent and successful predators. Search for nests, feel real feathers, and discover what's inside an owl pellet. We'll search for real owls and learn how to call to them in the night!



Public Preschool Programs are a great way to connect with other nature-loving families!
Details and registration: vt.audubon.org/events

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Preschool and Kindergarten Programs (1 ½ hours)



Spring

Journey from Sap to Syrup

Follow a droplet of maple sap as it turns to sweet syrup. Find out what it takes to become a real Vermont sugar-maker as you tap a tree, collect sap, and help boil.

Salamander Sleuths*

Put on your sleuthing hat and explore the world of slithering salamanders! Scoop in our ponds and journey to the forest in search of our amphibian friends. We'll pretend to be salamanders as we check under logs and rocks, then slither to our favorite vernal pool to do the wobble dance!

Flowers and Fairy Houses*

Do you believe in fairies? Spring is enchanting at Audubon. Bring your fairy wings (real or imagined) and spread some Audubon magic as we venture into the miniature world of wildflowers. Then we'll build fabulous fairy houses!



Summer

Feathery Friends*

What would it be like to have feathers and a beak? Join us on an avian adventure as we build a nest, guard our eggs, and learn to fly. We'll spot birds through binoculars, sing secret bird songs, and see what it takes to migrate.

Watery Worlds

What could be better than a visit to the water on a hot summer's day? Search and discover what lurks under the river rocks and sand. Find water striders, stoneflies, or salamanders. Build boats, watch them float, and stay cool down by the river.

Spectacular Spiders*

Get your spinnerets ready! Once you've launched your draglines, we'll dive into the world of spiders. Explore forests and fields looking for spiders, search for spider food, and practice weaving your own web.

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Education Programs (Half Day)



Elementary School

Seasonal Inquiry *

Theme: **CYCLES** and **ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS**

Students engage all five senses to observe seasonal changes and cycles in Vermont's woods. Explore changing leaf colors and animal migrations, observe bird nesting, animal tracks, or peeper pond critters. There's no limit to the seasons!

The Secret Lives of Trees *

Theme: **STRUCTURE** and **FUNCTION**

As we visit these noble and gentle giants, we'll study their structure, life cycles, and function in the forest. We'll also learn about the habitats and food that trees provide for birds and consider how climate change is impacting our northern forests.

Insect Investigations

Theme: **ADAPTATIONS**

Students investigate insect adaptations and metamorphosis as they search for insects in forest, field, and wetland habitats. Get an up-close look at the diversity of these incredible organisms and explore their connection to our local birds.

All About Birds *

Theme: **ADAPTATIONS** and **ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS**

Students master the basics of birding through active games about bird song, migration, and identification. Discover how Audubon protects birds and their habitats through projects like *Plants for Birds*. We'll inspire action by learning how native plants in schoolyard gardens and homes can help birds. *Option to visit Birds of Vermont Museum.



Bird-Friendly Maple Sugaring

Theme: **CYCLES** and **MODELS**

Tap a tree, gather sap, and transform it into sweet maple syrup. Discover what it takes to be a *Bird-Friendly Sugarbush* and how climate change is affecting Vermont's sugaring heritage. Top off your trip with our famous reward of a sweet maple syrup taste test!

Winter Wildlife *

Theme: **PATTERNS, SIMILARITY, DIVERSITY**

Students investigate how animals have adapted to survive Vermont winters. We'll explore the winter woods and learn how to identify and interpret animal tracks and sign.

Aquatic Discoveries

Theme: **SYSTEMS** and **CYCLES**

Get your feet wet and become a drop in the water cycle. Study wetlands through collecting invertebrates, observing life cycles, and discovering systems that wetlands animals rely upon.

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Education Programs

(Half or Full Day)



Middle School, High School, and Adults

Vermont Bird Conservation *

Theme: **ADAPTATIONS** and **ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS**

Learn classic birding skills like identifying sweet melodies and vibrant colors, then use Audubon's conservation success stories to figure out how our actions can improve bird-friendly habitat. We'll consider how climate change is affecting birds and focus on team-oriented approaches to solutions.

* Spend a full day by visiting the Birds of Vermont Museum.

Aquatic Ecosystems *

Theme: **ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS**

Students study the water cycle and its role in aquatic ecosystems like ponds, swamps, and rivers. Students then study, compare, and contrast soil, water quality, wildlife, and botany within each aquatic ecosystem.

Wilderness Skills

(Full day, all seasons) Explore wild edibles, wildlife tracking, shelter building, knot tying, and fire making. This course offers an excellent opportunity to incorporate team building.

Winter Tracks and Sign *

Theme: **PATTERNS** and **SIMILARITY**

Students learn stories of wildlife in the winter woods, interpret wildlife tracks and sign, and discover wildlife behavior during our coldest season. Learn how animals adapt and survive the cold winter.



Orienteering

(Full day, Fall only)

Learn to navigate off trail! Orienteering builds math, problem solving, and teamwork skills. Students test their map and compass skills on our orienteering course.

Forestry 101 *

Theme: **PATTERNS, SIMILARITY, DIVERSITY**

Analyze a forest with mathematics and measurements. Calculate tree height, assess tree diversity, and identify trees with dichotomous keys. Consider how forest management affects bird habitat and how we can address threats to Vermont's forests.

Bird-Friendly Maple Sugaring

Theme: **CYCLES** and **MODELS**

A biologically and structurally diverse sugarbush offers great places for birds to forage, hide, and raise young. Students learn how to assess a *Bird-Friendly Sugarbush*, learn the basics of maple sugaring, and enjoy a sweet maple syrup taste test.

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