



[vt.audubon.org](http://vt.audubon.org)

# Education Programs

## 2016 - 2017

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



School Programs • Outreach • Service-Learning



**"Our students learned a lot! They keep asking to do more programs at Audubon."**

**-Burlington 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 connects people with nature.**

## Our programs offer...

### Connection, Inspiration, and Conservation

For over 50 years we've been connecting adults and youth with nature. Our inquiry-based science programs encourage exploration, foster inquiry, and build confidence. Audubon's professional-teacher naturalist staff designs programs to focus 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!** Teacher trainings and professional development or making use of your school's natural settings.

**We offer programming for schools, adults and senior citizens, work place team-building, scouts, service-learning, teacher training, homeschool families, preschoolers, and camp groups.**

## Program Details...

### At the Audubon Center:

#### Half-Day:

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

#### Full-Day:

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

### Birds of Vermont Museum

Add an additional \$3/student

### 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 Jamie Montague at **(802) 434-3068** or [jmontague@audubon.org](mailto:jmontague@audubon.org)

Scholarships available. Apply online.

# Preschool and Kindergarten Programs (1 ½ hours)



## Autumn

### Critter Construction\*

Have you wondered how a beaver builds a lodge or a squirrel builds a drey? We'll explore different styles of critter construction and work on creating our own cozy hideaways. No hammers or nails necessary!

### Fall-ing into Winter\*

What would you do if you had to live outside during the winter? Find out what animals at the Audubon Center do to get ready for the cold, snow, and hard-to-find food.

### 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

### Predator Prowl\*

Can you crunch with your canines, catch with your talons, and munch with your mandibles? If so, you might be a predator! We'll forage for food, sniff for a snack, and hone our hunting skills. Let's howl, growl, and prowll!



### 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 head outdoors in search of fresh tracks.

### Bears! Oh My!\*

Join us for a grrrreat hour of activities and investigations as we waddle into the world of bears. We'll walk like a bear, talk like a bear, and even pretend to eat like a bear! If you're feeling furry, this program is for you.

Public Preschool Programs are outdoors and a great way to connect with other nature-loving families!  
See monthly program dates at [vt.audubon.org/events](http://vt.audubon.org/events). Pre-register to [jmontague@audubon.org](mailto:jmontague@audubon.org)

\* Outreach available at your school or local park  
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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 & Fairy Houses\*

Do you believe in fairies? Summer is enchanting at Audubon. Bring your fairy wings (real or imagined). Spread some Audubon magic as we venture into the miniature world of spring wildflowers and build our own fairy houses.



## Summer

### Pinkletinks & Pollywogs\*

Pull on your boots and come prepared to get wet as we search Peeper Pond for signs of life. Get ready to sing your own frog chorus, look for tadpoles, and perhaps catch a glimpse of the elusive water tiger!

### Down by the River

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.

### Best of Audubon

Discover insects, birds, and wildlife at the ponds, rivers, and forests during a summer discovery adventure. Hone your deer ears, play camouflage, and explore the most popular stops along Audubon's trails.

\* Outreach available at your school or local park

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## 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 discovery.

### The Secret Lives of Trees \*

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

Trees start life as small as an ant, grow taller than a building, and provide food and shelter for wildlife. Students will meet a tree, learn about tree life cycles, and how to identify our most familiar tree species.

### Insect Investigations

Theme: **ADAPTATIONS**

Students investigate insect adaptations and metamorphosis as they observe insects in forest, field and wetland habitats. Get an up-close look at the diversity of these incredible organisms and the role they play in our environment.



### Aquatic Discoveries

Theme: **SYSTEMS**

Visit ecosystems like the Peeper Pond and the brook. Students explore wetland and watershed dynamics through life cycles, specialized adaptations, and relationships between animals and their environment.

### All About Birds \*

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

Learn about bird migration, life cycles, and habitat. Build a nest, sing a bird song, and use binoculars to search for our feathered friends. Combine this program with a visit to the Birds of Vermont Museum for a full-day adventure. Options for in-depth bird studies, Friends of Forest Birds outreach programs, **Migration Stories** or conservation service learning.

### Bird-Friendly Maple Sugaring

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

Tap a tree, gather sap, and magically transform sap into sweet maple syrup. Discover what makes our maple syrup bird-friendly, then go in search of our birds of the sugarbush. All of our work will be rewarded with 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.

\* Outreach available at your school or local park

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## Middle School, High School, and Adults

### Forests for the Birds\*

Theme: ADAPTATIONS and ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS

Learn about bird adaptations, identification, and classification. Examine how forest management techniques impact birds and their habitats. Combine this program with a visit to the Birds of Vermont Museum. Call to discuss options for in-depth bird studies, **Migration Stories**. Add a Bird-Friendly Maple Habitat option in which students learn to assess a sugarbush.

### Orienteering (4 hour)

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.

### 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 sugarbush, learn the basics of maple sugaring, and enjoy a maple syrup taste test.



### Measuring Forests and Trees\*

Theme: PATTERNS, SIMILARITY, DIVERSITY

Learn to analyze a forest based on mathematics and measurements. Students calculate tree height, graph tree size, and use dichotomous keys to identify tree species.

### Winter Tracks and Sign\*

Theme: PATTERNS, SIMILARITY, DIVERSITY

Students learn to read the stories of wildlife in the winter woods, interpret wildlife tracks and sign, and discover the wealth of activity taking place during our coldest season. **Wild City** option: Take tracking to the next level by using the tools of biologists, such as trail cameras, to monitor local wildlife at your school, local park, or at the Audubon Center.

### Aquatic Ecosystems\*

Theme: ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS

Students compare and contrast different aquatic ecosystems at Audubon's Peeper Pond, hemlock swamp, or brook. Students compare and contrast soil, water quality, wildlife and botany within each aquatic ecosystem.

### Wilderness Skills

(4 hour) \*

Students spend a full day discovering the challenges and opportunities of living off of the land. Explore wild edibles, tracking, shelter-building, and fire-making. This course offers an excellent opportunity to incorporate team building.

\* Outreach available at your school or local park

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