

Registration And Other Information

Program Format:

Our programs are interdisciplinary and we make every attempt to integrate an outdoor component with most lessons. You may select one program for your field trip. The length of your day is indicated in the program description. We will do our best to complete all programs during the length of your visit.

MarshAccess:

Most school programs are available for students with special education needs through our MarshAccess program. The incorporation of specialized program adaptations and assistive technologies ensures that all learners can participate. Please indicate "MarshAccess" on the registration form under Class Information. Class size is limited to 15 students with at least one chaperone for every 5 students.

Fee and Payment:

Program fee is \$3.50 per student. There is no charge to teachers and chaperones. We ask that there be at least 1 adult for every 10 students; kindergarten classes must have 1 chaperone for every 6 students.

PAYMENT POLICY!! Payment in full must be received 2 weeks prior to your visit in the form of cash, money order, or a check payable to the Meadowlands Environment Center.

If a purchase order is required to initiate payment, please forward a copy, with all relevant trip information, to our attention for signature. Your payment must be made for the exact number of pre-registered students regardless of the number of students in attendance.

Cancellation Policy:

Cancellations must be made in writing within 10 working days prior to your trip date. The letter can be faxed to 201-842-0630 or e-mailed to education@njmeadowlands.gov.

NO CANCELLATIONS will be taken over the phone. If a cancellation is received after 10 working days, a refund will not be issued.



Registration:

All school program registrations are taken via our web-site only! **We will not be taking registrations by phone.**

Registration will open on-line Monday, September 8th for field trips (Sept. 22nd through June 26th).

Trips are scheduled on a first come first served basis. Before logging on, please have the following information with you:

- Your program date
- An alternate date
- Grade level
- Number of students*
- Number of classes
- School name
- School phone
- Registering teacher's name
- Contact phone and fax numbers
- Contact E-mail
- Address to send confirmation to
- Program choice

* We ask that you keep classes to their regular size. Students will have a better experience if class sizes are kept below 28.

Trip Preparation:

Some program choices may have a Pre/Post Lesson Package available. These should be used to prepare your students for their field trip. Packages contain background information, assessment activities, NJCCCS, and important vocabulary words. Click under the "Educator" tab to access the Pre/Post Lesson plans.


Questions:

Any questions regarding programs should be e-mailed to: education@njmeadowlands.gov.



Meadowlands Environment Center
Two DeKorte Park Plaza
Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071

Environment Center Hours:
Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

 The Meadowlands Environment Center seeks to make all of its programs accessible to individuals with disabilities. Prior notification to the MEC about students with special needs in your group will better ensure their full participation in all program activities. If any student requires a specific disability-related program accommodation, please contact the MarshAccess director at 201-460-8300 at least two weeks prior to the scheduled program.

Visit our website at www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec

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2008/2009 SCHOOL PROGRAMS



MANY NEW PROGRAMS!

A NEW JERSEY MEADOWLANDS COMMISSION FACILITY

Operated by

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Three DeKorte Park Plaza Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Phone: 201-460-8300 Fax: 201-842-0630

Program Selections

All programs include a 45 minute lunch recess in between program modules.
Weather permitting, all programs include indoor and outdoor components, unless otherwise specified.

FIVE ALIVE: Salt Marsh Senses

Grades: K-1
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Your young scientists will explore the five most important tools of science – our senses! Students will get to test each of their senses at hands-on learning stations, and, weather permitting, take a guided hike through DeKorte Park to practice observing nature. On rainy or very cold days, students will each make a take-home craft to reinforce the role of our senses in learning about our surroundings.
NJCCCS: 2.2, 3.4, 5.1, 5.10

MARSH MUCKERS

Grades K-1
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
INDOOR ONLY

Visit the salt marsh and meet the animals that make this amazing habitat their home. Students will interact with live specimens, collecting then sorting them according to observations they make. Later, through interactive storytelling, they'll be introduced to the salt marsh food chain, a concept that will be reinforced with a take-home craft.
NJCCCS: 3.4, 4.1, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.10
Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

NATURE'S COURSE

Grades: K-1
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Follow the course of an uneaten apple to the soil beneath the tree it came from. Through participation in the telling of a fictional story, students will learn the facts behind the recycling of nature's waste. Students will also learn what differentiates nature's waste from some of the contents of the trash bin at home.
NJCCCS: 3.4, 4.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.8, 5.10

STORY OF THE SUN

Grades: K-1
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Follow Emile Egret on his journey from his evening roost just outside the "big city" to his daytime feeding grounds in the salt marshes of the Meadowlands and back again. Through an interactive, multimedia story-telling experience, students will track the sun on its apparent path across the sky and understand the important role this apparent motion plays in the lifecycles of plants and animals.
NJCCCS: 1.2, 3.1, 5.9

INCREDIBLE INSECTS

Grades 1-3
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Learn about the largest group of animals in the world. Classification, life cycles, and characteristics will be investigated. Students will collect and study live insects and discuss their role in local habitats.
NJCCCS: 5.1, 5.5, 5.10

Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

PAWS AND CLAWS, BEAKS AND FEET

Grades 1-3
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
INDOOR ONLY

Whose feet are designed for swimming? Whose beak is better for eating worms? What good is a shell anyway? Find out how plants and animals survive in the salt marsh. Through cooperative learning and hands-on experimentation, students will investigate plant and animal adaptations.
NJCCCS: 3.3, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.10
Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

MARSH EXPLORERS

Grades 2-3
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

April-November

Get immersed in the salt marsh habitat. Following an introduction to this unique wetland community, students will act as field biologists, collecting and identifying live specimens. As a means of developing their observational skills, students will next be challenged to recognize geometric shapes in the specimens caught as well as in other elements of nature. Through various sketching exercises they will then learn to effectively render drawings of their observations of nature.
NJCCCS: 3.3, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.8, 5.10

Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

December-March

What happens to the plants and animals in the salt marsh when winter comes? Come find out first-hand. After an introduction to this unique habitat, students will explore in-depth animals' survival methods, then venture outdoors to look for evidence of these adaptations in action.
NJCCCS: 3.3, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.8, 5.10

Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

STARRY FACES IN FARAWAY PLACES

Grades: 2-3
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

This program will have your students reaching for the stars! Through song and kinesthetic activities, students will experience the depth and dynamic nature of the solar system with an emphasis on the sun and familiar constellations. Included in the program will be an investigation of the earth's movement and how this movement affects what we observe in the sky.
NJCCCS: 1.2, 2.5, 4.2, 5.9

WATER WATCHERS

Grades: 2-3
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

If water is one of earth's most abundant resources, why do we need to conserve it? This program answers this question. Students will learn good water use habits and participate in kinesthetic activities that help to convey several take-home methods of water conservation.
NJCCCS: 3.4, 4.1, 5.5, 5.10

ASTOUNDING ADAPTATIONS

Grades 4-6
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM
INDOOR ONLY

What helps animals and plants survive in the wild? Through live animal interaction, tool manipulation, and cooperative work, students will investigate the ways animals obtain food, move, and protect themselves in their environment. Students will also participate in a dynamic activity to create organisms that can survive in the salt marsh.
NJCCCS: 3.3, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.10

Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

GREEN AND CLEAN

Grades: 4-6
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

With the country placing more emphasis on environmental consciousness, the concepts of sustainable materials and water conservation have come to the forefront. Touring the new science facility at the Meadowlands Environment Center, students will investigate alternative energy, renewable resources, and native vegetation. Students will be introduced to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.
NJCCCS: 1.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.10, 6.5

MIGRATION JOURNEYS

Grades 4-6
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

New Jersey has been called the crossroads of migration. Who, what, when, where, and WHY do so many animals pass through the Garden State, despite its human population density? Students will study New Jersey geography to understand this phenomenon and participate in a simulation to discover the many challenges. We will also use map skills to track a bird's migratory route, and, weather permitting, take an outdoor hike to locate the local natural resources that attract so many wildlife visitors.
NJCCCS: 4.2, 5.5, 5.1, 5.10, 6.6

PEEK AT THE PAST

Grades 4-6
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Come discover how the early settlers lived in the Meadowlands. Students will become junior archaeologists as they uncover and analyze artifacts. This interpretive journey will allow students to identify natural resources from the past and present.
NJCCCS: 3.3, 3.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.10, 6.2, 6.5, 6.9

Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

SOLAR ENERGY: That's Hot!

Grades: 4-6
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

This program will illuminate the various ways in which our nearest star affects life on earth. Students will learn about the apparent motion of the sun, (the not-so-famous AMOS), and how we use that motion to heat and/or cool our habitats. Students will learn how the tilt, rotation, and orbital pattern of the Earth relative to the sun produce seasons and weather patterns. Solar weather will also be covered and students will get to view and map the sun with their aided eyes through solar viewing equipment and experience the coolest hot object in our solar system.
NJCCCS: 5.1, 5.2, 5.7, 5.9

WORMS & FRIENDS EAT OUR GARBAGE

Grades 4-6
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Get down and dirty in this program that introduces you to the inhabitants of our compost bin and the benefits of composting. Unearth the secrets to vermicomposting and discover how Wiggly Organic Recycling MachineS (WORMS) convert kitchen scraps and yard trimmings into nutrient rich soil. Indoors, we will use stereomicroscopes and hand lenses to discover these critters and their incredible anatomy. Outdoors, we will collect, observe, and classify live arthropod specimens. We will also discuss how decomposers play an important role in our local habitat.
NJCCCS: 3.1, 3.2, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.8, 5.10

Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

ESTUARY EXPLORERS

Grades 4-8
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

April-November

Come discover the salt marsh! Field experiences will have students testing water samples, collecting live specimens, and examining plant life. Students will also practice microscope skills in observing live plankton. Food chains, adaptations, and wetland values will be discussed.
NJCCCS: 3.3, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.8, 5.10

Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

December-March

Discover how our local estuary adapts to the changing seasons. Students will conduct tests on estuary water and participate in a winter salt marsh scavenger hunt. Students will also practice microscope skills in observing live plankton samples. Food chains/ webs and wetland values will be discussed.
NJCCCS: 3.3, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.8, 5.10

Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

GO WITH THE FLOW

Grades 7-8
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM
INDOOR ONLY

Look into the murky waters of our local estuary in this program that introduces the roles and diversity of plankton in aquatic environments. Even with limited microscope experience, students will refine their skills with this important tool while viewing live, mobile specimens. Observation, recording, and identification will follow. We will also investigate in more depth adaptations of plankton to maintain a wanderer's existence, including a team challenge to Design-a-Drifter and test its performance.
NJCCCS: 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.10

MIGRATION MAPPING

Grades 7-8
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

The Meadowlands has long been recognized as a rest stop and passageway for migration, but much remains a mystery. Students will explore interactive maps to investigate some of the environmental cues that guide wildlife in their seasonal movements, including landforms, land cover, and the potential impacts of human alterations to landscape. Students will also manipulate biofacts to understand the mechanics of flight and conduct a simulated research investigation to monitor bird health during migration.
NJCCCS: 4.4, 4.5, 5.5, 5.7, 5.10, 6.6

STUDYING STARS NEAR AND FAR

Grades 7-8
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Our Sun is the source of life on Earth; could other stars possibly support life on their own orbiting planets? In this program, we'll cover what makes stars the energy powerhouses that they are, and how we study these distant bodies. Students will be introduced to the electromagnetic spectrum, create visualizations of the properties of light and use spectroscopes to analyze stellar composition. Weather permitting, we will also participate in safe solar viewing, or study the optics of telescopes to understand how these important tools gather astronomical information.
NJCCCS: 5.1, 5.2, 5.7, 5.9

BIODIVERSITY BASICS

Grades 7-12
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

What would we do if tuna fish were to become extinct? Humans depend heavily on the Earth's biodiversity. Join us as we discover what biodiversity is, its importance for humans and what we can do to preserve it. Students will participate in a bird survey in DeKorte Park as well as a hands-on demonstration of a disrupted food chain and the consequences it brings to the ecosystem.
NJCCCS: 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.3, 5.5, 5.10

DO₂ In Your H₂O

Grades 9-12
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Come and explore the chemistry of the interrelationships among plants, animals, and the water in which they live. We will investigate the importance of dissolved oxygen (DO₂) as an indicator of the health of our aquatic system. Students will collect water samples, perform field and laboratory tests, record their data, and analyze the results. Pre-lesson required.
NJCCCS: 5.1, 5.8, 5.10

ECOLOGY OF THE ESTUARY

Grades 9-12
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

April-November

Explore the interconnected life of the salt marsh community. Through field experience, water chemistry, and data analysis, students will discover the values and function of wetlands and estuaries. Students will also use their observational skills to capture the natural environment through field sketching.
NJCCCS: 3.2, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.8, 5.10

Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

December-March

Explore the seasonal variability of an estuarine community. Students will conduct water tests to discover the hidden relationships and values of our tidal wetlands. Food chains/ webs, wetland values, and resource management will be discussed.
NJCCCS: 3.2, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.8, 5.10

Available as a MarshAccess program selection.

FISH MURDER MYSTERY

Grades 9-12
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

In this exciting and challenging program, students solve a fish kill mystery in the Hackensack River. Using hands-on water sampling techniques and problem-based learning strategies, students decide what is responsible for causing a massive fish kill.
NJCCCS: 3.1, 3.3, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 5.8, 5.10, 6.5

POWER TRIP: A Journey into Renewable Energy

Grades 9-12
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Join us as we explore renewable technologies through a hands-on activity. We will be using the new science building at the Meadowlands Environment Center as a working model to develop a sustainable site that incorporates Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles focusing on renewable energy.
NJCCCS: 5.1., 5.2., 5.4., 5.10., 6.6., 8.2., 9.2

SPECIAL ASTRONOMY SEMINARS

Grades 9-12
Times by special arrangement

New this year, Physics classes, Astronomy clubs, or other interested high school groups can arrange for a customized seminar. Select from topics such as Cosmology, Origins of the Universe, Archaeoastronomy, the Space Program, or Astrobiology. Prerequisite materials will be provided. Contact us to take advantage of this special opportunity.
NJCCCS: 5.1, 5.2, 5.9