

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Park outreach brings environmental education and nature study right to you. Or let our staff host your group at the Echo Hill Lodge, the Arboretum, or Mountain Farm (seasonally). Programs run approximately one hour.

*On-site \$30/ Off-site \$50
Out-of-County \$75 (Limited range)*

Lecture Series

Slideshows provide striking visuals while our staff shares their expertise on the topic. For any audience, grade three through adult.

Batty About Bats

Birds of Hunterdon

Butterflies and Moths

Herptiles of Hunterdon

(Reptiles and Amphibians)

Mammals of Hunterdon

Magical Mushrooms, Mischievous Molds (New!)

Owls of Hunterdon

Planets of the Solar System

Raptors of Hunterdon

(Hawks and Falcons)

Wildflower Folklore

Wildlife of Hunterdon

Adult Lecture Programs

Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation

An overview of our parks, facilities, programs, and services. (Free)

Attracting Birds to your Backyard

Learn about common backyard birds, wildlife-friendly landscaping, and other tips to get birds into your yard.

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural resources, providing safe parks and facilities, and offering educational and recreational opportunities, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

Indoor Exploration

Animal Strategies

All Ages

Students will learn about local animals and how they survive in their environments. Through the use of mounted specimens, the students will get a close look at the physical features of these animals.

Reptiles Alive

All Ages

Our scaly and slimy wildlife is often misunderstood. Learn all about reptiles and amphibians as we meet a few live animal friends.

Rocks and Minerals

Grade 3 & up

Discover the differences between “rocks” and “minerals.” We will learn about the rock cycle and conduct a short lab experiment to identify three mystery mineral samples.

Introduction to Birding

Grade 3 & up

Students will learn how to use field guides to identify birds and participate in a fast-paced identification game. This lesson complements our outdoor Birding Program.

Skull Workshop (New!)

Grade 2 & up

Using stations the group will answer a few questions about each animal skull. Then we will discuss how the skulls are a key feature in learning about our wildlife.

Maple Sugar To Go (New!)

All Ages

Learn about maple trees, hear a Native American story, see the tools used to tap a tree, learn about the boiling process, and taste real maple syrup. (February—April)

Emergency Preparedness (New!)

Grade 3 & up

Gain knowledge of First Aid and CPR (not a certification). We will go over what to do in an emergency: basic bandaging, bleeding, choking, other medical emergencies, and a CPR demo. Taught by an EMT. (10 participants maximum)

Environmental Issues

Recycling

Grade 1 & up

Students will develop an understanding of the importance of recycling. They will explore how recycling and conservation go hand in hand and how they can help improve the environment. Older students will explore how “cost” plays a factor in recycling.

Water Issues

Grade 1 & up

Students learn how important water management is to both the environment and human needs. Through physical demonstrations and visual aids, explore how the water supply is limited and how pollution affects that supply.

Composting for the Home

Grade 3 & up

Learn how you can turn organic household waste into rich, healthy compost for your home and garden. We will consider different composting techniques and the benefits of each.

Sun and Solar Energy (New!)

Grade 4 & up

We will see how the sun is the source of all energy on the planet, and discuss the pros and cons of solar energy. Includes photosynthesis, the water cycle, and weather patterns. (15 participants maximum)

Registration Information

Call (908) 782-1158 to speak with a naturalist or recreation leader to set up a program. We can accommodate multiple classes for many of our programs. Be prepared to provide the following information:

- the program/topic you are interested in
- potential dates for the program
- which park area you wish to visit
- the age, grade, and number of students
- contact person name, phone, and address



Hunterdon County
Division of
Parks & Recreation



Group Programs



*Nature Studies
Environmental Education
Outdoor Skills
Lectures & Presentations*

P.O. Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

Office Location:

1020 State Route 31, Lebanon, NJ 08833

Telephone (908) 782-1158

Fax (908) 806-4057

www.co.hunterdon.nj.us

(click on “Parks & Recreation”)

E-mail: parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Office Hours:

Mon.-Wed, Fri. 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Thur. 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Bringing People and Parks Together

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation currently preserves over 8,000 acres of valuable open space. Our Visitor Services team is here to share all that our parks have to offer. We host a wide range of indoor and outdoor group programs. Minimum group size is six participants.

Our Park Locations

Our Parks feature diverse habitats and natural features. Our group programs usually take place at the parks listed below that have the best facilities and accessibility. Other locations are available by special arrangement.

County Arboretum

1020 Highway 31 North, Lebanon 08833

The County Arboretum features formal gardens, a wetland study area, fields, woodland trails, and an indoor classroom.

Mountain Farm/Teetertown Preserve

20 Pleasant Grove Road, Port Murray 07865

Mountain Farm is scenic with open fields and views of the surrounding mountains. This is a popular site for pond studies, and we can also conduct indoor programs (fall and spring).

Echo Hill (South Branch Reservation)

42 Lilac Drive, Flemington 08822

Conveniently located off of Route 31, Echo Hill is a popular park with easy access to woodlands, fields, a pond, and a stream. The Main Lodge can accommodate large groups for indoor activities.

Deer Path Park

120 West Woodschurch Rd., Flemington 08822

Deer Path Park is a recreationally-oriented park. Nature trails through meadow areas skirt the park and circle the pond.

(Revised 12/2012)

Outdoor Skills

These hands-on workshops get your group ready for outdoor adventure. Skill Clinics cost \$30 per group and run approximately 1.5 to 2 hours, unless otherwise noted. Recommended maximum group size is 15 participants.

Animal Clues *Grade K & up*

Animals leave behind many clues as they travel through the woods. In this program, we will look at footprints and other signs to unravel the mystery of “What happened here?” (1 hour)

Orienteering *Grade 4 & up*

Learn how to use a compass, then set out on our course through the forests and fields of Echo Hill.

Initiatives & *Grade 4 & up*

Team Building
Our fun challenge activities foster teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills. A great way to get your group acquainted with one another.

Bike Safety *(New!)* *Grade 3 & up*

We will cover NJ bicycling laws, equipment, how to pick the right bike, and where to ride. We will demo how to check and fix your bike and how to size it, and talk about helmets.

Preparing for an *Grade 3 & up*

Outdoor Adventure *(New!)*
We will go over the hazards you may find while hiking, and what you can do to minimize your risk of injury. Then we will walk the trails at Echo Hill to find potential risks.

Preparing for a *Grade 4 & up*

Campout
Preparation is key to camping fun. Consider what your group needs to do *before* your trip begins. Learn how to set up a safe and functional campsite.

How to Use a Knife, *Grade 4 & up*

Saw, and Hatchet
Participants will learn proper handling techniques, safety, and maintenance for these tools. We will get hands-on experience using these tools by performing basic skills.

Camp Knot Workshop *Grade 4 & up*

Learn how to tie the knots that are most important for camping success such as the square knot, taut-line hitch, and bowline.

Canoe Clinic *Grade 5 & up*

Clinic focuses on safety, equipment, and basic strokes. Includes plenty of practice time on the pond. (\$175 group fee/ 16 people maximum)

Nature Studies

Join a County Naturalist to explore the habitats and wildlife of the County Parks. Nature Study programs cost \$30 *per group* and run approximately 1.5 hours, unless otherwise noted. Maximum group size is 25. Additional topics are available by special arrangement.

Seasonal Nature Walk *All Ages*

Whether crunching through fall leaves, following tracks through the snow, or spying the first spring blossoms, a seasonal nature walk is fun outdoor exploration any time of year. (1 hour, \$20)

Amazing Adaptations *Grade K & up*

Explore the park while learning more about the adaptations that allow our local plants and animals to thrive. Along the way we will play games that demonstrate specific adaptations.

Incredible Insects *Grade 1 & up*

What makes an insect an insect? Why are they important anyway? This hands-on program offers an up-close look at some of the park’s smallest inhabitants. (April—October)

Trees are Terrific *Grade 1 & up*

We all need trees, whether we know it or not. Discover the importance of trees while learning how to identify maples, oaks, and other common species.

Birding *Grade 3 & up*

Take a bird walk with a Naturalist to learn how to find and identify local birds. We will discover how field marks, songs, and behavior can help us distinguish our feathered friends.

Pond or Stream Study *Grade 1 & up*

Get your feet wet while finding and identifying the many freshwater organisms of the pond or stream. Learn what these creatures can tell us about the health of the water. (April—October)

Beaver Fever *(New!)* *Grade 1 & up*

Explore the ponds at Hoffman Park for signs of beaver activity, and learn about beavers’ adaptations to their aquatic environment.

Craft Workshop

Basketry *Grade 3 & up*

Our workshop is a great introduction to the timeless art of basketry. After learning about materials and techniques, each student will weave a small round basket of their own using a wooden base. (2 hours, on-site \$30/off-site \$50, plus a \$2 per person material fee/ 12 people maximum plus 2 adult assistants)
*For information on more advanced classes, please contact Liz Fulmer at (908) 782-1158.

Visiting our Parks

Make sure your group is ready to learn and have fun during their park visit. Encourage all participants (including chaperones) to dress for the **outdoors**. Please let your group know that the program leaders expect all visitors to respect our parks and each other.