

# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

## Nature Detective

1-2.5 Hours, Available Year-round

An interactive nature walk that asks participants to do a lot of “figuring out.” You’ll learn how to “read” nature and interpret wildlife clues such as tracks, scratch marks and scat. This is a great program any time, but especially in winter when we can interpret wildlife tracks in the snow.

*Learning Standard Applications: Skills of Inquiry, Patterns, Observed Characteristics, Problem Solving*

## Introduction to Birding

1-3 Hours, Available Year-round

Depending on the ages and abilities of the participants we can discuss field guides and teach you how to set up binoculars, or just get outside and begin birding. We’ll take advantage of whatever species are out and listen for calls, observe behaviors, do an activity or two, and lean basic identifications.

*Learning Standard Applications: Needs of Living Things, Life Cycles, Seasonal Change, Adaptations, Environmental Change/Extinction, Classification, Patterns, Food Chains*

## Habitat Exploration

1.5-3 Hours, Available Year-round

Participants will compare two or three habitats, noting soil differences, plant communities, and the animal species that each plant community can support. Habitats that may be studied include woodlands, wetlands, vernal pools, stream/riparian areas, and meadows.

*Learning Standard Applications: Living/Non-Living, Habitats/Ecosystems, Producer/Consumer/Decomposer*

## Ponding/Streaming

1.5-2.5 Hours, Available April-October

Using the sanctuary’s vernal pools and stream, participants will capture, isolate, and sort aquatic macro-invertebrates. This may include mayfly nymphs, aquatic sow bugs, daphnia, damselfly naiads, water boatman, copepods, and mosquito larvae.

*Learning Standard Applications: Adaptations, Life Cycles, Classifying/Sorting, Food Chains-Predator/Prey*



## Wonder Walk

Up to 1 hour, Available Year-round

This walk is a gentle exploration that focuses on using participants’ senses to lean about nature. What can we hear, smell and safely touch in nature? This program is great for preschoolers!

*Learning Standard Applications: Living/Non-living, Life Cycles, Seasonal Changes, Skills of Inquiry*

## Narrated Slide Presentations

45-60 minutes, Available Year Round

Our slide presentations allow us to take participants anywhere at any time. Engaging naturalists ask questions and encourage audience participation. Some of the programs we offer are listed below:

- *Southern New England Habitats*
- *Birds of Massachusetts*
- *Butterflies and Moths*
- *Attracting Wildlife to Your Backyard*
- *The Beauty of Wildflowers*
- *Exploring the Blackstone River (Historical Ecology)*
- *The Wildlands and Waterways of Worcester*
- *Restoring the Blackstone River — Fishable/ Swimmable By 2015: How You Can Help!*

## Mathematics in Science

We conduct activities such as shadow measurement, interpreting tracks in the snow, determining endangered populations, measuring tree volume or growth, conducting animal sound surveys, and running transects for many grade levels.

Depending on the activity, the featured mathematical skills and content areas may include:

- *Geometry*
- *Algebra*
- *Estimating*
- *Measurement*
- *Using compasses*
- *Gather, organize, interpret (pattern recognition), and share data*
- *Problem solving*

Most programs are conducted outside, either at Broad Meadow Brook or at a schoolyard, park or other open space. Some programs can be done inside such as slide presentations. All are led by a Mass Audubon staff member and are usually done in small groups (12-15 people).

Program fees vary according to the length of the program. Minimum 1-hour charge per program. Please see the back page for pricing information.

## Van Tours

\$75 per van / per hour  
Min 6 people / Max 18 people

Using Broad Meadow Brook’s two vans, we can take up to 18 people on customized tours. Destinations include Worcester County, the Blackstone River Valley and other special places in Massachusetts. Please call us to discuss specific itineraries.



## Add Canoes To Your Program

\$10 per person / per hour.  
Min 6 people, Max 18 people  
Minimum 2 hours

The use of canoes can really enhance the experience or add an entirely new dimension to your program (canoes are available May through mid-October).

Our six canoes, PFDs, paddles, and two staff are available. Organizers should understand that the weather or water conditions may force the cancellation of a program, and that our safety guidelines must be adhered to at all times.



## Professional Development Programs for Teachers and Youth Leaders

Our workshops range from one-hour programs to full-length graduate level courses (offered in cooperation with our higher education partners.) We can help you:

- *Bring inquiry into your classroom*
- *Train your camp staff in outdoor interpretation*
- *Enhance your preschool program with outdoor explorations*

Graduate credit courses are charged out at \$125 per hour; the college's administrative fee is extra. If you would like to have us present a professional development program for your teachers or youth leaders (we have presented to scout leaders, YMCA staff, private school teachers, and camp staff in the past), please ask us.

## Pricing & Fees

### Educational Programs

*Minimum of 10 people per group  
Minimum 1-hour charge  
Teachers and Chaperones are free  
Fees are per person / per hour*

\$3.00 pp / hr

### Rent a Trail Guide

\$40 per hour – at Broad Meadow  
\$50 per hour – off-site location  
Up to 15 people  
Additional people: \$3 pp / hr  
*\*Includes admission to the sanctuary*

### Narrated Slide Presentations

\$100 per hour

### How Do I Make a Reservation??

Call 508-753-6087 and ask to speak to an educator.

Please have several date choices available when you call, in case your first choice is not available.

We will need to know the following information:

- the topic you are interested in
- how many students will be attending
- the length of time you want to spend

*Didn't see what you wanted? Just wanted a simple nature walk? Looking for a program on tree identification, watersheds, wildflowers, "signs of the seasons," or something else? Please ask us!*

Mass Audubon Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary  
414 Massasoit Rd.  
Worcester, MA 01604



## Broad Meadow Brook Programs for Schools & Community Groups



Broad Meadow Brook is a 400+ acre wildlife sanctuary in the heart of Worcester. We offer a wide variety of educational programs and services to schools, community groups, and the public.

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