Mass Audubon Metro West

School Programs

GRADES PRE-K–12

2021 | 2022
massaudubon.org/schools

Protecting the nature of Massachusetts
Mass Audubon School Programs

Through field studies and classroom explorations, Mass Audubon programs provide hands-on, inquiry based experiences with science content and practices. Our educators enhance students’ scientific understanding of species and habitats; ecological concepts such as food webs, cycles, systems, adaptation, and evolution; climate change; and interrelationships between people and nature.

About Mass Audubon Metro West

The Metro West wildlife sanctuaries support science learning and the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks through hands-on and student-centered programs. The unique setting of Drumlin Farm, part wildlife sanctuary and part working farm, provides opportunities to delve into the interdependence of people, land, and wildlife. Broadmoor’s extensive wetlands and diverse landscape inspires exploration into the ecological value of aquatic ecosystems and the geologic processes that shaped the land. Habitat serves as an integral parcel of connected conservation areas through urban environments, inviting people to reconnect with nature within this oasis of green.

Drumlin Farm, Lincoln
Broadmoor, Natick
Habitat, Belmont

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We Meet You Where You Are

Programs at Your School, in Your Community, or at Our Wildlife Sanctuaries

Whether you want to bring nature into the classroom or take lessons outside, our programs offer insight into New England habitats and native species and enrich natural history and science lessons while strengthening students’ connections to the environment.

Look for these icons to indicate programs that take place at your school, at a Mass Audubon wildlife sanctuary, or a hybrid of the two according to your needs. Most programs can include the chance to meet native wildlife in the classroom.

Classroom Discovery: A teacher naturalist visits your classroom or schoolyard, either in-person or virtually.

Field Experience: A teacher naturalist guides you and your students through one of our wildlife sanctuaries or a nearby habitat.

Cover Images: ©Gretchen Ertl
Mass Audubon’s Metro West Region

Our Wildlife Sanctuaries

**Drumlin Farm**, Lincoln
At Drumlin Farm, you can experience life on a working farm and explore a wildlife sanctuary at the same time! Visit pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, and cows in the farmyard; learn how crops are sustainably grown on-site; walk the trails to explore field, forest, and wetland habitat; and observe resident owls, hawks, and a fox in native wildlife exhibits.

**Broadmoor**, Natick
An expansive retreat along Indian Brook and the Charles River, Broadmoor is an ever-changing environment teeming with wildlife: dragonflies darting, turtles basking, otters leaving tracks in the mud or snow, and more than 150 species of birds. Easy-to-moderate well-groomed trails lead you through the shade of mature woodlands into open fields and along the edges of streams, ponds, and marshland.

**Habitat**, Belmont
Gentle trails wind through deciduous and evergreen forests, across meadows, and around ponds and vernal pools at Habitat, located just seven miles from downtown Boston. A long-standing center for environmental education, Habitat offers year-round programs for all ages. Examples of sustainability—including goats that help control invasive plants and a community garden with plots for rent—make this a great spot to learn about green practices while you explore.

Cover Images: ©Gretchen Ertl
Early Childhood & Elementary

Our Early Childhood and Elementary programs combine standards-aligned science content with the joy and excitement of learning about nature. We can bring the natural world to you through programs in your classroom, connect students to the ecology of their own schoolyard, or facilitate scientific exploration on a field trip at one of our wildlife sanctuaries.

Available Programs

**Wild Tales**
Pre-K–K | Fall, winter, spring
30, 45, or 60 minutes | Single program or multi-program series

Listen to a favorite children’s book and meet a wild character from the story! Learn about where the animal lives, what they eat, and their unique adaptations that help them to interact with their environment.

Locations: At your school

**Nature Detectives**
Pre-K–K | Fall, winter, spring
30, 45, or 60 minutes | Single program or multi-program series

Explore the mysteries of nature through the seasons, from the comfort of your classroom and/or schoolyard habitat. Students will use their senses, compare and contrast, meet a live organism, and learn through movement activities and observations.

Locations: At your school

**Life on the Farm**
Pre-K–K | Spring
2 hours | Single program

Explore fields, gardens, barns, and trails at your own pace as you experience life on a farm. Your self-guided adventure will include visits with staff at various hands-on farm and nature-based learning stations where you engage in daily farm activities and learn about the animals that live in New England.

Locations: Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

**Habitats & Homes**
Pre-K–K | Fall, winter, spring
2 hours | Single program or multi-program series

Explore field, forest, and wetland habitats as you look for tracks and other signs of native wildlife. Search for food, water, shelter, and space that supports the basic needs of the plants and animals that live here.

Locations: At a sanctuary; ask about options at your school or nearby nature area

**Naturalist-in-Residence Program**

**Weekly or monthly visits from a Mass Audubon naturalist at your school**

Get students outdoors and exploring the natural world right outside of their school doors. Every visit with your Mass Audubon Naturalist-in-Residence will engage students in a hands-on, inquiry-based science lesson. Our staff will work alongside school teachers to integrate these lessons into the science, literacy, ELL, arts, or other curriculum for any grade level. Frequency of visits can vary from weekly to monthly.

Available for all grade levels, Pre-K–Grade 12.
Adaptations & Biodiversity
Grades K–2 | Fall, spring
2 hours | Single program or multi-program series
Search along sanctuary trails for tracks and signs of the plants and animals that live there. Observe similarities and differences in body parts, structures, behaviors, and functions as you investigate what it means to be adapted to their home.
Locations: At a sanctuary

Life in the Water
Grades K–2 | Fall, spring
2 hours | Single program or multi-program series
Use dip-nets and other tools as you explore the unique life cycles of the organisms that live in the water and depend on wetland and upland habitats to survive.
Locations: At a sanctuary or water body near your school

Wet-lab
Grades 1–5 | Fall, spring
30, 45, or 60 minutes | Single program
Use scientific tools to investigate samples of aquatic life with the guidance from Mass Audubon staff. Program content is similar to Life in the Water and Wetland Communities programs (adapted for age-appropriateness) and makes for a great precursor to these programs. Add a live wildlife visit to complete your wetland food web exploration.
Location: At your school

Wild Adaptations
Grades 1–3 | Fall, winter, spring
30, 45, or 60 minutes | Single program or multi-program series
Meet live wildlife to support learning about specific adaptation connections, such as coping with seasonal changes, life cycles, and stages of development. Or, take an in-depth exploration into the physical and behavioral adaptations of a particular group of animals.
Location: At your school

Habitat Explorations
Grades 1–3 | Fall, spring
2 or 3 hours | Single program or multi-program series
Through observation and asking questions, investigate field, forest, and wetland habitats searching for the sources of food, water, shelter, and space that plants and animals need in order to successfully live there.
Locations: At a sanctuary; ask about options at your school or nearby nature area

The Science of Massachusetts

A multi-week science curriculum based at your school.

The Science of Massachusetts is a multi-week curriculum that gets students outside and engaged in hands-on science. Our inquiry-based units, which are tightly aligned to the Massachusetts Science Frameworks, explore the diversity of the people and habitats across our state.

Students will complete field journaling assignments, practice observation skills and be invited to find their place in nature and impact their world, whether in an urban, suburban, or rural setting. Ask us for a list of unit topics offered. Funding is available for districts serving a high proportion of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Units available for grades K–8.
Soil Investigations
Grades 1–3 | Fall, spring
2 or 3 hours | Single program or multi-program series
What is soil composed of and what lives in it? Compare different soil types and explore their properties using scientific tools. Learn about how healthy soil supports healthy food and a healthy planet at Drumlín, or learn how soil holds secrets to the past at Broadmoor and Habitat.
Locations: At a sanctuary; ask about options at your school or nearby nature area

Farm to Market
Grade(s) 1–3 | Fall, winter, spring
2, 3, or 4 hours | Single program or multi-program series
Learn about growing crops and raising livestock, helping directly with fun farm chores! Chores may include planting, weeding, harvesting, or caring for farm animals; set up a series to experience the farm in different seasons.
Location: Drumlín Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

Changing Landscapes
Grades 2–4 | Fall, winter, spring
2 or 3 hours | Single program
Explore evidence of the short-term and long-term changes in the landscape by examining signs of erosion and weathering, glacial features, and soil composition.
Locations: At a sanctuary; ask about options at your school or nearby nature area

Solutions for the Effects of Wind & Water
Grade 2 | Fall, winter, spring
45 or 60 minutes | Single program
Manipulate different substrates with water and moving air to investigate the effects of wind and water, then work in teams to create and test solutions to prevent erosion.
Location: At your school

Wetland Communities
Grades 3–5 | Fall, spring
2, 3, or 4 hours | Single program or multi-program series
Use dip-nets and other scientific tools to explore wetland plants and animals and their unique adaptations for living in water. Learn to identify specific organisms and understand the special characteristics of different water bodies and ecosystems.
Locations: At a sanctuary; Ask about options at your school or nearby nature area

Adaptations of Plants & Animals
Grades 3–5 | Fall, winter, spring
2, 3, or 4 hours | Single program or multi-program series
Explore field, forest, or wetland habitats to discover the amazing ways plants and animals use their unique adaptations to thrive—from behaviors to deal with changing seasons to structures to disperse seeds or body parts to hunt underwater—and more. Program can focus on animals, plants, or both and explore in different seasons.
Locations: At a sanctuary; ask about options at your school or nearby nature area

Science of Food & Farming
Grades 4–6 | Fall, winter, spring
2, 3, or 4 hours | Single program or multi-program series
Working directly in fields and barns, explore the challenges of raising food and how it connects with climate change. Depending on the season, chores may include planting, weeding, harvesting, mucking, or feeding.
Location: Drumlín Farm

Habitats & Adaptations
Grades 4–6 | Fall, winter, spring
30, 45, or 60 minutes | Single program or multi-program series
Meet live wildlife as you compare their physical and behavioral adaptations and how these relate to their roles within an ecosystem. Learn where it lives and how climate change may be affecting it. Can focus on an animal group, habitat, energy flow, or winter adaptations.
Locations: At your school

Soil Science
Grades 4–6 | Fall, spring
2 or 3 hours | Single program or multi-program series option
Compare soil from field, forest, and wetland, analyzing the composition and properties to understand its function in local ecosystems and determine its health. Learn how healthy soil can support resilient climate, and at Drumlín Farm, how it supports healthy food too.
Locations: At a sanctuary; ask about options at your school or nearby nature area

Explore at your own pace!
Contact us for information on self-guided visit options.
Middle & High School

Our Middle and High School programs make science content relevant and exciting through hands-on, place-based lessons that will support your life and earth science curricula. We offer standards-aligned programs that are based at your school, onsite at our wildlife sanctuaries, or a combination of both.

Available Programs

Ecosystem Dynamics
Grades 6–8 | Fall, spring
2, 3, or 4 hours | Single program or multi-program series
Explore patterns of change for the different communities in the temperate biome: fields, forest, and wetlands. Identify how organisms relate with one another (predation, mutualism, competition, dependency, and parasitism) and revisit how organisms are adapted to their environment and how energy moves through trophic levels.
Locations: At your school, at Broadmoor or Habitat, or a hybrid

Ecological Issues & Our Changing Climate
Grades 6–8 | Fall, spring
2, 3, or 4 hours | Single program or multi-program series
Learn how our local ecosystems are changing over time and how the ways humans live impact our climate. What is the balance between Earth's limited resources and our basic needs? Explore how a wildlife sanctuary manages our land and observe climate-friendly adaptations that can be made in our communities.
Locations: At a sanctuary

Farm Ecology
Grades 6–12 | Fall, winter, spring
2, 3, or 4 hours | Single program or multi-program series
Delve into the ecology of a working farm, exploring its energy, quality of life, and ecological issues. What does it take to manage healthy soil and protect habitats for a resilient climate, or raise animals and crops for market? Participate in seasonal farm chores such as feeding, mucking, planting, harvesting, and weeding.
Locations: Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

The Climate of Massachusetts

A multi-week climate change curriculum based at your school

Climate of Massachusetts is a multi-week curriculum that gets high school students outside and exploring the science of climate change. Our inquiry-based units, which are tightly aligned to Massachusetts Science Frameworks, investigate the impacts of climate change, and how we can build more equitable and resilient communities.
Throughout this unit, students will complete field journal assignments, collect and interpret data, and meet young people making change in their communities.
More Programs

**Climate Ambassadors**
Grades 6–12 | Fall, winter, spring
30, 45, or 60 minutes | Single program or multi-program series
Meet live wildlife ambassadors and explore how humans are impacting native species and the habitats on which they depend. Explore what we can do at home and in our communities to protect local ecosystems and support biodiversity for climate resiliency.
Locations: At your school

**Freshwater Ecology**
Grades 6–8 | Fall, spring
2, 3, or 4 hours | Single program or multi-program series
Explore freshwater ecosystems by observing animal and plant life hands-on and under microscopes. Exploration can focus on biotic and abiotic factors, evolution and adaptation, biotic health indicators, organism identification, and vulnerabilities to climate change. Specific freshwater locations vary by sanctuary or other natural areas and can include ponds, streams, marshes, rivers, or vernal pools.
Locations: At a sanctuary; natural areas near your school; or a hybrid

**River Schools**
Grades 5–8 | Fall-Spring
8 Program Series
River Schools is a unique program that combines comprehensive watershed and climate change programming with student-directed action projects, while simultaneously empowering participating teachers through content-based professional development, instruction modeling, and mentoring.

**River Schools**
Grades 5–8 | Fall-Spring
8 Program Series
Through hands-on learning in the classroom and in the field, students connect with and build understanding of watersheds as complex ecosystems, learn about climate change and how it impacts their watershed, and develop and implement action plans to mitigate a climate-related problem they identify. Over a 3-year cycle, teachers participate in professional development, learn to facilitate programs on their own, and eventually serve as mentors for new teachers.
Locations: At your school and local river/watershed destinations
iPlan: Mapping the Future

iPlan is a free online game that allows learners to construct, investigate, and solve simulated urban and regional planning problems. Using real geospatial, ecological, and economic data, iPlan transforms any location in the contiguous United States into an interactive land-use planning simulation.

Middle and high school students can design and test rezoning plans that address socioeconomic and environmental challenges and their plans are evaluated by virtual stakeholders who advocate for different community priorities.

Learn more and start playing at i-plan.us.

Accessible Programs

Mass Audubon is committed to providing engaging, exciting, meaningful, and enduring educational programs, field trips, and learning activities for students with a broad range of physical, sensory, and learning needs.

Our educators strive to design and deliver adaptive programs that align to educational best practices and meet the needs of all students. The award-winning, ADA-compliant, interpretive nature trails at many of our wildlife sanctuaries are open for all visiting school groups, providing access to wetland boardwalks, wildlife viewing areas, and gardens for birds, butterflies, and more.

We will gladly work with you to meet the needs of your classroom. For more information please contact your local sanctuary.

Afterschool Programs

Enrich your afterschool program with a nature-based option that will get students outdoors to learn, explore, and practice age-appropriate science skills in their own schoolyard. Whether you have asphalt and a few trees or a full forest surrounding your school, students will connect with the diversity and wonder of the natural world at their fingertips.

Animal Investigations
Grades 1–5 | Fall, Winter, Spring
60, 75 or 90 minutes | Single program or multi-program series
Discover local wildlife through a variety of activities including meeting live animals; exploring your schoolyard for tracks and signs; investigating natural items such as feathers, furs, and skulls; and playing games to solidify understanding of ecological concepts.

Schoolyard Habitat Explorations
Grade 1–5 | Fall, Winter, Spring
45, 60, or 75 minutes | Single program or multi-program series
Investigate your schoolyard habitat through the changing seasons. Use your science journal to make observations and explore your questions as you collect data and track the changes in schoolyard plant and animal communities.
Mass Audubon works with districts and schools to engage Pre-K-Grade 12 teachers in meaningful professional development experiences that immerse teachers in the science of nature and the nature of science. Our instructors are experienced educators, deeply interested in the experiences of teachers and able to relate to the challenges of classroom teaching.

### Available Programs

**Explore Climate Change through Positive Messaging & Activities**

**Grades 4-12 | Fall, Winter, Spring**

**Single or Series Programs | $150 per hour**

Through age-appropriate and multi-disciplinary climate messaging and activities, learn to explain climate change simply and accurately, as well as how to facilitate activities that help students understand the impact of climate change on their communities and local ecosystems. Share take-home actions with students and their families to promote engagement in making climate-friendly choices and changes in school, at home, and within the community!

**Science Outside: Pedagogy & Practice**

**Grades K-8 | Fall, Winter, Spring**

**Single or Series Programs | $150 per hour**

Through science practices and pedagogy specific to outdoor education and methodology based on the Lawrence Hall of Science BEETLES professional learning sessions, participants will build their confidence in instructing outdoors and practice skills they can use with students. Program areas can include observation skills; questioning and discussion strategies; the nature and practice of science, evidence, and explanation; and best practice in teaching and learning, field journaling, and student activities.

Curriculum support and consultation options available, contact us for more information.
Pricing & Affordability

Mass Audubon is committed to providing inclusive and equitable access to nature. Our school programs are designed to be accessible to as many schools, educators, and children as possible. If cost is a barrier for your students or school, please contact us—we have financial aid available for schools with a high percentage of low-income students and discounts for multiple visits. Please note: There is a per person fee for additional chaperones beyond the required adults.

Field Trip Pricing

Field trip programs at Mass Audubon wildlife sanctuaries are priced at an hourly flat rate for groups of 15 or fewer students. Larger groups will be broken up into smaller groups of no more than 15 per Mass Audubon educator. Small group sizes enable us to provide each student with a high-quality experience and individualized attention.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 Hour</th>
<th>1.5 Hours</th>
<th>2 Hours</th>
<th>2.5 Hours</th>
<th>3 Hours</th>
<th>4 Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First group</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$145</td>
<td>$170</td>
<td>$190</td>
<td>$220</td>
<td>$270</td>
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<td>Additional</td>
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<td>$115</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$160</td>
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<td>$230</td>
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<td>groups of 15</td>
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School-based Program Pricing

Programs for which our educators travel to your school are priced at the rates below, per lesson, per class. Additional fees for travel time may apply. Special rates may apply for programs that require additional prep time, staff, or materials costs. There is a 2 session minimum for 30- and 45-minute lessons.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>30 Minutes</th>
<th>45 Minutes</th>
<th>60 Minutes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per Lesson</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>$205</td>
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Science of Massachusetts Program

Science of Massachusetts Program can be facilitated virtually or at your school, priced at the rates below. Additional fees for travel time may apply.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First Class</th>
<th>Subsequent Classes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45-60 Minutes</td>
<td>$155</td>
<td>$125</td>
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Mass Audubon protects more than 40,000 acres of land throughout Massachusetts, saving birds and other wildlife, and making nature accessible to all. As Massachusetts’ largest nature conservation nonprofit, we welcome more than a half million visitors a year to our wildlife sanctuaries and 20 nature centers. From inspiring hilltop views to breathtaking coastal landscapes, serene woods, and working farms, we believe in protecting our state’s natural treasures for wildlife and for all people—a vision shared in 1896 by our founders, two extraordinary Boston women.

Today, Mass Audubon is a nationally recognized environmental education leader, offering thousands of camp, school, and adult programs that get over 225,000 kids and adults outdoors every year. With more than 135,000 members and supporters, we advocate on Beacon Hill and beyond, and conduct conservation research to preserve the natural heritage of our beautiful state for today’s and future generations. We welcome you to explore a nearby sanctuary, find inspiration, and get involved. Learn how at massaudubon.org.