

Knee-High Naturalists at Moose Hill

About the Staff

Patti Austin (a.k.a Miss Patti) is the lead teacher for this special program. She has worked in the environmental education field for 23+ years, with 16 of those years at Moose Hill. She is certified in first aid and adult/child/infant CPR and has extensive experience with young learners. A qualified class assistant will be present if there is an adequate number of participants.

If you have questions about any aspect of this program or would like registration information, please contact Patti Austin at 781-784-5691 x8103 or paustin@massaudubon.org.



Seasonal explorations

Children will have the opportunity to:

- * Develop their own meaningful relationship to nature
- * Spend time outdoors in all kinds of weather
- * Explore specific habitats in a variety of seasons
- * Observe seasonal changes
- * Hone observation skills
- * And express themselves via art.

About the Program

This is a drop-off program where your three and/or four-year old child can explore the wonders of Moose Hill once a week, all season long. The class begins indoors with topic-related activities and then heads outside to continue the exploration. We will spend some time outdoors every day (unless it is pouring rain or dangerously cold), so please dress your child for the weather. Each week will offer a new nature or science-related theme to explore and discover through games, songs, art, and fun outdoor experiences.

We want to encourage young children to enjoy and explore the outdoors through games and other safe learning experiences. We want to facilitate their natural curiosity and joy about the world around them, and help them to establish a lasting relationship with the natural world. Children have the freedom to play and interact with their environment under the guidance of trained staff.

We are offering two identical sessions scheduled on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30 to 12 noon. Session begin in September, January, and March. Please note that if the Sharon Schools are canceled due to inclement weather, we will be canceled too. If the schools have a weather-related delayed opening, we will proceed as normal.

Children need to be toilet trained/self-sufficient in the bathroom, as we do not have the facilities or time to change them. We will deal with any bathroom emergencies, but for the most part, if a child is in diapers, they will not be changed. We will remind children to use the bathroom at various times throughout the program.

Sample Daily Schedule

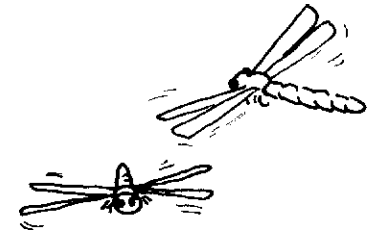
Opening Activity: Children choose from a variety of activities (which may include an art project, games, puzzles, blocks, puppets, and more) where they explore on their own under the supervision of the staff.

Opening Circle: Features songs, stories, and/or sharing about the daily theme.

Snack Time: Children need to provide their own snack and drink.

Outdoor Exploration: Dress for the weather and head outside to explore, play games, and have fun.

Closing Circle: A final activity to wrap up the day.



Possible Daily Themes

Fall: apples, colors, chipmunks, senses, pumpkins, spiders, fields, coyotes, hawks, insects, and bats.

Winter: snow, ice, tracks, bears, owls, groundhogs, birds, science experiments, winter animals, skunk cabbage, and forests.

Spring: maple sugaring, flowers, wetlands, frogs, kites, rainbows, salamanders, insects, and eggs.