Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary

School Programs

GRADES PRE-K to 12

massaudubon.org/oakknoll
Welcome to Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary, a wonderful place to interact with and learn from our natural world. Our trail systems offer forest and wetland views, brought to life by our knowledgeable staff and hands-on activities.

Please review program offerings listed in this brochure for both Programs at Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary or Programs at Your School.

If you have a specific request for a theme that fits your needs do not hesitate to ask our staff.

About Mass Audubon Programs

Through field studies and classroom exploration, 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, climate change, and interrelationships between people and nature.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Programs at Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary

Your neighborhood wildlife sanctuary, with forest, field, and wetland habitats, is located just off Park Street in Attleboro, MA. The Ottmar Nature Center hosts bathrooms and a small animal collection. Two loop trails, with round trip distances of 0.5 and 1 mile hikes respectfully, make any visit to Oak Knoll manageable for pre-k through grade 12 activities and visits. Trained teacher naturalists are prepared and ready for your group's needs.

At Oak Knoll Program Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Field Trip Program Fees</th>
<th>Grades Pre-K to Kindergarten</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Grade Pre-K - Grade 12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic (1.5 hours): $8 per student</td>
<td>Welcome to the Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum program fee: $80</td>
<td>What is a wildlife sanctuary and why do we protect wildlife and land? Enjoy a guided tour of our Nature Center, our animal collection, and sanctuary trails. Pre-K ESS2-2, ESS3-1, ESS3-2 - K ESS 3-3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General (2 hours): $9 per student</td>
<td>Habitats are Homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum program fee: $160</td>
<td>Students will learn why all animals need food, water, shelter, and space in order to survive. Visit a field, wetland, and forest to compare how they are different. Pre-K ESS2-1, ESS2-6, ESS2-3, LS2-2 – K ESS2-2, LS1-1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended (3 hours): $11 per student</td>
<td>Sensory Hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum program fee: $240</td>
<td>Explore your senses and imagine what it would be like as an animal who lives in the wild. Use binoculars to see from a different perspective, and play a game to test your hearing. Pre-K ESS1-2, PS4-1, LS1-2, LS1-3 - K PS3-1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Day (4.5 hours): $13 per student</td>
<td>Wildlife Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum program fee: $320</td>
<td>Use nets and viewers to explore our field or pond depending on the season. Collect and release critters while learning what makes them special. Pre-K ESS2-2, LS1-1, LS2-3, LS3-1 - K LS1-1, LS1-2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seasons at the Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discover how plants and animals respond to seasonal weather. Explore life cycles, changes, and temperature. Pre-K ESS2-4, ESS2-5, ESS2-6 - K ESS2-1, PS3-1.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Chaperones/Teachers: One-on-one aides and teachers are free of charge. 1 adult is free per 5 students. Additional adults pay the student rate.

Groups of 75: can be accommodated at one time with indoor access in case of rain.

The Visitor Center is handicap accessible as are some trails with the use of an all-terrain wheelchair (not provided). Larger loop trail around Lake Talaquega is not accessible by wheelchair.

At Oak Knoll Program Fees

Basic (1.5 hours): $8 per student
Minimum program fee: $80

General (2 hours): $9 per student
Minimum program fee: $160

Extended (3 hours): $11 per student
Minimum program fee: $240

Full Day (4.5 hours): $13 per student
Minimum program fee: $320
Full Day includes a 30 minute break for snack or lunch.

Welcome to the Sanctuary
What is a wildlife sanctuary and why do we protect wildlife and land? Enjoy a guided tour of our Nature Center, our animal collection, and sanctuary trails. Pre-K ESS2-2, ESS3-1, ESS3-2 - K ESS 3-3.

Habitats are Homes
Students will learn why all animals need food, water, shelter, and space in order to survive. Visit a field, wetland, and forest to compare how they are different. Pre-K ESS2-1, ESS2-6, ESS2-3, LS2-2 – K ESS2-2, LS1-1.

Sensory Hike
Explore your senses and imagine what it would be like as an animal who lives in the wild. Use binoculars to see from a different perspective, and play a game to test your hearing. Pre-K ESS1-2, PS4-1, LS1-2, LS1-3 - K PS3-1.

Wildlife Exploration
Use nets and viewers to explore our field or pond depending on the season. Collect and release critters while learning what makes them special. Pre-K ESS2-2, LS1-1, LS2-3, LS3-1 - K LS1-1, LS1-2.

Seasons at the Sanctuary
Discover how plants and animals respond to seasonal weather. Explore life cycles, changes, and temperature. Pre-K ESS2-4, ESS2-5, ESS2-6 - K ESS2-1, PS3-1.
## Programs at Our Wildlife Sanctuary

### Elementary School: Grades 1–5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life Cycles and the Seasons</strong></td>
<td>Take simple weather measurements and predict a forecast. Explore how the land, communities of people, and local wildlife respond to short term weather events and longer term seasonal patterns. Hike the sanctuary during the Fall, Winter or Spring with your students depending on your curriculum.</td>
<td>1ESS1-2, 2ESS2-1, 2LS2-3, 3ESS2-1, 3LS1-1, 4LS1-1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wetlands &amp; The Water Cycle</strong></td>
<td>Discover what a wetland habitat is and it's place in the water cycle. Use maps, dip nets, and ponding tools to learn about the water, it's inhabitants, and what makes this type of land special. Our sanctuary has trails to help explore vernal pools, ponds, streams, marsh, and swamp. Learn how each one is special in its own way.</td>
<td>1LS1-1, 2ESS2-2, 3LS3-2, 4ESS1-1, 5ESS2-1, 5ESS2-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wildlife Adaptations &amp; Classification</strong></td>
<td>Students will learn how and why scientists classify living things in our world. To help understand, students will use hands on group activities to help organize certain traits. In addition we will explore physical and behavioral adaptations of various wildlife and how it helps them to survive.</td>
<td>1LS1-2, 1LS3-1, 2LS4-1, 3LS3-1, 3LS3-2, 3LS4-2, 4LS1-1, 5LS1-1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Field &amp; Forest Exploration</strong></td>
<td>Use field nets, field guides, and scientific equipment to explore and compare two different habitats. What types of plants can we find in each? How does that determine what types of animals we may find? Learn what makes each one special to wildlife and people.</td>
<td>1ESS1-2, 2LS4-1, 3 LS1-1, 3LS4-2, 4ESS3-1, 5ESS3-1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Chains &amp; Webs</strong></td>
<td>Students will create a local food chain &amp; food web while learning about the different stages within the cycle. We will discuss terms like producer, consumer, and decomposer as we explore how energy moves through these stages. Work in large groups to build a local food web and search for local wildlife on the trails.</td>
<td>1LS1-2, 2LS2-3, 3LS4-5, 4LS1-1, 5LS2-1, 5LS2-2, 5PS3-1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rocks &amp; Fossils</strong></td>
<td>Through hikes, activities, and observations students will identify various rocks and their meaning in the landscape. Explore our Puddingstone Loop trail to discover a special type of conglomerate that is our state rock. We will also learn our land's past through fossils.</td>
<td>2ESS2-4, 3LS4-1, 4ESS2-2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Programs at Our Wildlife Sanctuary

**Middle School: Grades 6–8**

**Renewable Energy**
A hands on investigation of how energy makes its way through the environment in the forms of light and wind, and how we can capture that energy for our communities.
6MSETS1-5, 7MSLS2-5, 7MSLS2-6, 8MSESS3-5.

**Landforms of Oak Knoll**
Discover natural and human caused impacts of the land at Oak Knoll. What evidence do we see of plate tectonics or glaciers? Explore why land was altered for human use and how it benefited our community over time.
6MSESS1-4, 6MSESS2-3, 7MSESS3-2, 8MSESS2-1.

**Forest Ecology**
Explore the life cycle of the forest and how living things respond to changes through structure and behavior. Look at foliage characteristics to determine biodiversity.
6MSLS1-1, 7MSLS2-2, 7MSLS2-3, 8MSLS4-4, 8MSLS4-5.

**Weather vs Climate**
Through activities and games explore the difference between weather and climate. Learn how it impacts the land, and visit our wetlands to explore it's benefit for our local community.
6MSETS1-5, 7MSESS2-4, 7MSESS3-4, 8MSESS2-5, 8MSESS3-5.

**Watersheds & Pollution Solutions**
Students will explore a watershed model and run an experiment to discuss outcomes of runoff, flooding, sediment distribution, and potential pollution impacts. We will discuss ground water and study bio-indicator species in our wetland to help monitor it’s health.
HS-ESS2-5, HS-ESS3-5, HS-LS2-6, HS-LS2-7.

**High School: Grades 9–12**

**Climate Change**
Students will define climate, learn the carbon cycle, discuss the impacts of climate change in Attleboro, and explore ways to positively impact their environment. The sanctuary is a perfect place to see renewable energy devices in action. Visit our solar panels and discover alternative energy options.
HS-ESS2-4, HS-ESS2-6, HS-ESS3-2, HS-ESS3-5.
Programs at Your School & in Your Community

When an Oak Knoll teacher naturalist comes to your school, you’ll open opportunities for exploration and hands on learning. We incorporate Massachusetts’ science education objectives (S.T.E.M.), state standards, and encourage cross disciplinary thinking in all of our outreach programming. Oak Knoll uses place-based, play-based, and inquiry-based learning as the foundation of our science and environmental education.

Programs at Your School - Fees & Information

Pre-K to K Program Fees & Information
$55 per class
(All programs run for 30 minutes)

Monthly/same day series:
$50 each class in the series

Class size: designed for a class of up to 20 students so everyone can participate in activities.

Grades 1 - 12 Program Fees & Information
$75 per class (45 minutes)

Monthly/same day series:
$70 each class in the series

Class size: designed for a class of up to 30 students so everyone can participate in activities.

Additional Program Information
Programs are adapted to the level of the students:
Topics listed in this brochure may be chosen outside the suggested grade level section and adapted for your needs.

Additional fees: A $25 surcharge will be applied to sites beyond a 30-minute drive.

Class Size: Designated class sizes are stated for best program participation. We do work with groups to find the best situation for a program. In some circumstances we can be flexible with group size while in some circumstances we may need to split a group and deliver two programs.

Animal Encounters: Our collection includes small mammals, arthropods, reptiles and amphibians. Please ask at time of registration to ensure encounter is included. Not all programs have this component and we can’t guarantee specific animals.

Custom Programs: In some cases teachers request custom made programs that are outside the lessons developed in this brochure. Additional charges may be applied for time spent developing a custom program.
Programs at Your School & in Your Community

Grades Pre-K to Kindergarten Themes

Programs are listed below to best fit the suggested timing of certain school lessons according to the month and season: **Themes do not have to be chosen in the suggested month listed.**

Programs are adapted to the age of the class: Topics are adapted to include different learning experiences for younger & older students.

Programs can include: Felt board lessons, stories, group and individual activities, discussions, games, experiments, animal encounters, and/or crafts.

Animal Encounters: Our collection includes small mammals, arthropods, reptiles and amphibians. Please ask at time of registration to ensure encounter is included. Not all programs have this component.

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**September**
- **Animals of the Forest** - Explore local forest wildlife.
- **Trees & Leaves** - Learn about shapes & Fall colors.

**October**
- **Bats** - Play games to learn about these mammals.
- **Spiders** - Build a web and catch some food.

**November**
- **Bird Migration** - Discover why birds fly South.
- **Turkeys** - Explore feathers and turkey calls.

**December**
- **Animals in Winter** - What is hibernation?
- **Rocks & Minerals** - Play with our rock collection.

**January**
- **Owls** - Learn their calls and body adaptations.
- **Arctic Animals** - Discover the far north.

**February**
- **Animal Tracking** - Learn about signs and tracks.
- **Water, Ice, & Snow** - Play with liquid and solid water.

**March**
- **Frogs & Salamanders** - Explore their life cycles.
- **Turtles** - Discover different types and feel various shells.

**April**
- **Eggs** - Learn about various eggs and nest building.
- **Flower to Seeds** - Study the life cycle of a plant.

**May**
- **Volcanoes** - Create a volcano and a chemical reaction.
- **Butterflies & Moths** - How are they different?

**June**
- **Wiggly Worms & Decomposers** - Play with a worm bin.
- **Ocean Life** - Explore aquatic wildlife on a felt board.

**Other topics can include:**
- Native Culture Studies
- Recycling
- Weather
- Planets
- What’s for Lunch
Life Cycles
Students will explore the life cycle of several groups of animals and discover how each one is special in its own way. For insects, we will identify the difference between complete and incomplete metamorphosis, and which species has them. Live animals included.
1ESS1-2, 2LS2-3, 3LS1-1, 3LS4-4, 3LS4-5, 4LS1-1.

Adaptations
Students will explore different types of animal adaptations and how they have learned to survive in different environments. We will meet live animals to inspire enthusiastic discussions.
1LS1-1, 2LS2-3, 2LS4-1, 3LS4-2, 4LS1-1.

Habitats
Learn why all animals need food, water, shelter, and space. Various habitats will be discussed and students will be challenged to think about biotic & abiotic components in a game called habitat charades.
2ESS2-1, 2LS2-3, 3ESS2-2, 4ESS1-1, 4ESS2-1, 5LS1-1.

Intro to Animals & Classification
Students will learn how and why scientists classify living things. They will participate in classification activities and by the end of the program will be able to identify the five animal vertebrate groups.
1LS1-1, 1LS3-1, 2LS4-1, 3LS3-1, 3LS3-2, 3LS4-2, 4LS1-1, 5LS1-1.

Food Chains & Webs
Students will create a local food chain & food web while learning about the different stages within the cycle (producers, consumers, and decomposers). We will meet some animal ambassadors to study and discuss what role their energy has in this cycle.
1LS1-2, 2LS2-3, 2LS4-5, 4LS1-1, 5LS2-1, 5LS2-2, 5PS3-1.

Rocks & Fossils
Learn about the rock life cycle and study real rocks and minerals hands on. Group activities will help students explore how they form. Then, examine fossils and explore the study of past living organisms.
2ESS2-4, 3LS4-1, 4ESS2-2.
Intro to Wetlands
We will learn about several types of wetland habitats, how much freshwater they store, and what role they serve in our community. Meet some animal ambassadors.
6MSPS4-1, 6MSPS4-2, 7MSESS2-4, 7MSLS2-1, 8MSLS1-5

Bones & Skulls
By studying bones & skulls we can see a story of evolutionary response and variance. We can also hypothesize behaviors or function and compare our ideas with live specimens in the classroom.
6MSLS4-1, 6MSLS4-2, 7MSLS1-4, 8MSLS4-4, 8MSLS4-5.

Planets, Plates Tectonics, & Volcanoes
Explore Earth in the past and present. How has geological activity helped create various living conditions on our planet, and how do people prepare for the future based on this information?
6MSESS1-4, 6MSESS2-3, 7MSESS3-2, 8MSESS2-1.

Renewable Energy
A hands on investigation of how energy makes its way through the environment naturally, and how we can benefit from its conversion to heat and electricity.
6MSPS1-6, 7MSESS3-4, 7MSPS3-3, 8MSESS3-5.

Understanding Endangered Species
What are some of the challenges conservation scientists have when trying to protect local endangered species like the Timber Pine Rattlesnake and The American Chestnut Tree? Students will review literature and data sets to drive group discussions and potential solutions.
HS-LS2-1, HS-LS2-2, HS-LS2-6, HS-LS2-7, HS-LS4-5

Climate Change
Students will define climate, learn the carbon cycle, discuss the impacts of climate change in Attleboro, and explore ways to positively impact their environment. Group discussions will connect students to local efforts and how they can get involved.
HS-ESS2-4, HS-ESS2-6, HS-ESS3-2, HS-ESS3-5.
Wildlife Explorers
Afterschool Programs

Have an Oak Knoll teacher naturalist come to your afterschool program to enrich your student’s extended stay experience. Themes can be chosen, from any grade level included in this brochure, as a one off program or series of programs at a discount. We also work with you to include themes that are not in this brochure and meet a specific goal. Activities may include; animal encounters, games, activity stations, or school yard hikes.

Contact our registrar today to discuss what Afterschool options work best with your group’s age, space, and abilities.

$100 per class (60 minutes)

Monthly/same day series:
$90 each class in the series

Class size: designed for a class of up to 20 students so everyone can participate in activities.

Fairs & Special Events

Educational activity tables, animal presentations, and guided naturalist tours at your facility are something we can accommodate. Reserve our trained staff and naturalist resources, like artifacts, bones, skulls, pelts, rocks, minerals, live animals and more for your Fair or Special Event.

$100/hour

Additional fees: A $25 surcharge will be applied to sites beyond a 30-minute drive and/or when the break between programs exceeds 1 hour.

About Oak Knoll

Oak Knoll, minutes from downtown Attleboro, offers a natural respite with wooded trails and boardwalk winding through a red maple swamp, upland forest, and freshwater marsh, and around the lake’s perimeter.

Sanctuary Highlights

Native turtle species, invertebrates, and other exhibits in the nature center, a former residence built in 1759.

Fragrant and colorful gardens, with native plants offering food and shelter to birds and butterflies.

Easy-to-see tracks and signs of wildlife such as deer, turkey, raccoons, and foxes.

Salamanders and frogs in and around the vernal pools, and at our cover-board research array.

The Nature Play Area, where kids can use found objects to build fairy homes, play nature tic tac toe, and hop along Sid the Snake Stump Jump.

Our historic Lake Talaquega for wildlife viewing opportunities and peaceful walks.
Adaptive Programs

Programs at Attleboro Springs

Our Attleboro Springs Wildlife Sanctuary location has an all persons wheelchair accessible loop trail. The 1/2 mile loop is complete with sensory maps and a guide-ropе for the visually impaired. Our teacher naturalists are specially trained to work with your students in an outdoor setting. Please note there are no bathrooms at Attleboro Springs. An extra 1/2 hour is given, to the time frames listed below, to stop at Oak Knoll for use of bathrooms before heading over to Attleboro Springs.

Contact our registrar today to discuss what Adaptive Program options work best with your group’s age and abilities. We can accommodate any theme in the brochure with more of a sensory based experience.

School Field Trip Program Fees
(Grade Pre-K - Grade 12)
See page 1 for field trip fees and chaperone ratios

Adaptive Programs at Your School

Our staff is trained to integrate and develop sensory based programming with any theme listed in the brochure. We aim to make nature accessible for all classrooms with special needs and considerations. We can bring nature to you in a fun and engaging way.

Contact our registrar today to discuss what Adaptive Program options work best with your group’s age, space, and abilities.

Adaptive Programs at Your School Fees & Information
(Grade Pre-K - Grade 12)
See page 3

Attleboro Springs

Once a center for healing, with former greenhouses and Sanitarium, Attleboro Springs Wildlife Sanctuary at La Salette has long been a place for renewal and contemplation. Nature has reclaimed the land, and it now provides habitat for forest birds as well as trails for all to enjoy. Attleboro Springs is located just 1 mile up the road from Oak Knoll, behind La Salette Shrine.

Sanctuary Highlights

Brother’s pond, a vernal pool, red maple swamp, quiet streams, and a large rock outcropping of puddingstone.

Fully rope-guided universally accessible Reflection Trail with interpretation available in seasonal audio tours, large print, braille, and tactile formats. Materials for self guided tours, and bathrooms, are available at Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary.

Education pavilion at the trailhead that makes a great gathering spot for classes or groups.
Mass Audubon protects 37,500 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 125,000 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.