Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary is cooperatively managed by the Mass Audubon and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The sanctuary encompasses 245 acres of forest, field, and wetland habitats, each offering exciting opportunities for nature exploration. The 2 miles of trails on the sanctuary include a scenic boardwalk across a pond and marsh, and a trail for the visually impaired. Indoors, the visitor center contains displays on various natural history topics, program space, and a gift shop with nature-oriented items.

Educational programming on site takes advantage of the unique features of this varied landscape. Stony Brook’s staff is well versed in ecological and educational concepts and strives to provide only the highest quality programs stressing hands-on, experiential learning.

Mass Audubon

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 35,000 acres of conservation land; provide school, camp, and other educational programs for 225,000 children and adults annually; and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Founded in 1896 by two inspirational women who were committed to the protection of birds, Mass Audubon is now one of the largest and most prominent conservation organizations in New England. Today we are respected for our sound science, successful advocacy, and innovative approaches to connecting people and nature. Each year, our statewide network of wildlife sanctuaries welcomes nearly half a million visitors of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds and serves as the base for our work. To support these important efforts, call 800-AUDUBON (800-283-8266) or visit www.massaudubon.org.

Program Options and Fees

At Stony Brook

2 hours or less $6.75/student
4 hours or more $12.00/student

A maximum of 6 chaperones per class attend free of charge. Additional adults are $4.00 each.

Stony Brook Season Package

Plan a Fall and Spring trip to Stony Brook and get a Winter field trip free

At Other Sites or In the Classroom

1 hour program inside $80/class
1 hour program outside $6.75/student
*two Audubon teachers per class

Things To Remember...

* A minimum of 4 chaperones per class is required for all field trips.
* Chaperones are responsible for the safety and discipline of students.
* Chaperones are expected to participate fully in all activities.
* Stony Brook has a carry in carry out policy. Please take any trash home with you when you leave.
* Please respect the sanctuary’s habitat by refraining from collecting plants or animals.
* Stony Brook maintains a gift shop with a variety of nature-related items. You and your students are welcome to visit it after your program.

School Programs

Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary 108 North Street Norfolk, MA 02056
508-528-3140
stonybrook@massaudubon.org

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Mass Audubon

Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts
At the Sanctuary

On site programs take advantage of the unique features of our varied landscape to excite and motivate students. Students are encouraged to make discoveries and ask questions as they explore the sanctuary through hands-on investigations and activities.

At Your School

In the Classroom:
Our staff will visit your school for a one hour class which introduces your students to any number of topics. All are designed to support a field trip to Stony Brook.

In the Schoolyard:
Many of our field trip topics can be adapted for you. Two Audubon Teachers are provided for a schoolyard. Two Audubon Teachers are provided for a one hour class that utilizes the landscape around your school as a springboard for investigation. Outdoor components may be combined with classroom visits to enhance your students’ experience.

Preschool and Elementary Programs

Natural Wonders
1 1/2 hours    grades PK

Discover nature's wonders on this hike as your preschoolers sharpen their sensory skills. Listen for the singing birds, smell the skunk cabbage, feel the soft moss, and look for basking turtles. Sensory exploration and the wonder of nature will be the focus of the field trip.

Sensory Nature Ramble
2 hours    grades PK-2

Awaken your students' senses to the natural world, with a little closer attention to looking, smelling, listening, and touching. Discover how much you can learn and appreciate all that nature offers in your backyards. Each season brings new things to explore and study along the trails at Stony Brook.

Pondering Ponds
2 hours    grades 1-3

Using nets and bug boxes, discover the animals and plants that live in the pond and their unique adaptations for survival in this watery habitat. Explore the habitat around the pond, followed by a hands-on examination of the animals living in it. Older children will conduct a more in-depth survey of the pond with a focus on populations and specific identification.

Habitat Hunt
2 hours    grades 1-3

Investigate three different habitats at Stony Brook. Discover how a sow bug, painted turtle, and coyote interact with their habitats to find food, water, space, and shelter.

Insect Adventure
2 hours    grades PK-3

Creep, crawl, and scoop in search of insects. Investigate the habitats where insects live and learn about their physical features, adaptations, and life cycles. Using nets and bug boxes, discover the variety of insect life in Stony Brook’s pond, forest, and field.

Program Registration Information

Stony Brook offers school programs year-round. All programs must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance. Programs will be held rain or shine.

To schedule a program, contact
Marla Cohen, Education Coordinator
Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary
108 North Street, Norfolk, MA  02056
(508) 528-3140 ext. 7122
stonybrook@massaudubon.org

Middle School Programs

Wetlands, Watersheds, and Water Quality
4 hours    grades 3-8

Do you know your watershed address? This introduction to wetlands and watersheds uses models and hands-on activities to define these concepts. Students will learn about the importance of water quality to the lives of plants, animals, and humans. Using chemical tests and scientific methodology, students will determine the water quality of Stony Brook’s pond or a pond near your school. Students will also use macroinvertebrate sampling as a method of determining the health of a pond. Data collection and analysis techniques will be emphasized. To increase the effectiveness of this program, an in-class introduction to watersheds is suggested.

Terrific Trees
4 hours    grades 4-8

How are trees important to people? This full-day field trip introduces students to tree identification, anatomy, and the important roles trees play in our lives and the lives of native animals. We will illustrate the mystery of photosynthesis inside a giant leaf and take a closer look at tree decomposition and decomposers in forming forest soils.

SOS (Save our Salamanders)
4 hours    grades 4-8

This full day field trip introduces students to vernal pools, ephemeral wetlands that fill annually. We will investigate vernal pool biology, habitat protection, and rare and endangered species. Using chemical tests we will monitor pH levels and the effects of winter/spring runoff on the salinity levels.