



School Programs

2023-2024



Field-based Programs that Engage Learners
100% NY Learning Standards Aligned
100% STEM & NGSS
100% Natural

Come see what we have to offer!

Dear Teachers -

Thank you for choosing Rogers Center for your learners' field experience!

Rogers Center has been providing outdoor field experiences to learners for over 50 years. We take pride in helping the next generation of New Yorkers learn about the natural world and their role in taking care of this precious resource.

Each of our programs is designed to introduce your learners to an aspect of nature while developing their observational skills and targeting the NYS Science Learning Standards appropriate for their grade level.

Each program is \$5/student, and you can register for up to two programs in a single day. Programs are 1.5 hours long unless otherwise noted.

Our educators can also come out to your school (see our Traveling Naturalist program). These programs include an additional fee to cover mileage.

New York State offers a reimbursement grant, called Connect Kids, to teachers to offset the cost of these programs. Individual teachers must apply for their class, and grants can be given to multiple classes from one school. For more information visit <https://parks.ny.gov/environment/connect-kids/grant-program.aspx>.

We look forward to working with you.



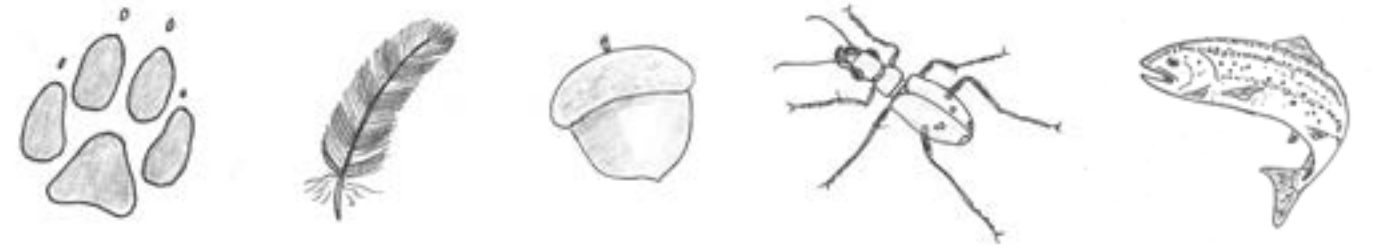
About Friends of Rogers & Rogers Environmental Education Center

Friends of Rogers is an environmental education non-profit based at the DEC's Rogers Environmental Education Center. Our mission is to provide Central New Yorkers with outstanding educational opportunities that excite, inspire, and motivate people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to enjoy, understand, appreciate, and protect our natural environment.

Rogers Environmental Education Center has 600 acres of varied habitats, including forests, farm fields and wetlands. Favorite activities at Rogers include birdwatching and feeding the fish in our ponds. With six miles of trails, there is a lot to explore.

Giving learners the opportunity to think like a scientist by making observations, asking questions, and constructing explanations, supports learners' growth as learners, offering them the opportunity to build critical thinking skills and learn behaviors they can apply in any context.

Beetles Project - <http://beetlesproject.org/partnering-to-develop-equitable-activities/>



Meeting the New York P-12 Standards

Our goal at Rogers Center is to help you meet New York's Learning Standards by providing you and your learners with programs that focus on the Science, Engineering, Math and Literacy Practices.

Using Nature and the outdoors as our classroom, our lessons are cross-curricular: even though we may be focusing on biology or ecology, our programs also help meet the standards for physics, engineering, math and literacy.

The following codes are used to indicate how our programs align with the Science & Engineering, Mathematics and English Language Arts **practices**, as set by the Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core Curriculum. It is our hope that these codes will help you choose the programs that best meet your classroom needs.

Science & Engineering

- S1: Ask questions & define problems
- S2: Develop & use models
- S3: Plan & carry out investigations
- S4: Analyze & interpret data
- S5: Use mathematics & computational thinking
- S6: Construct explanations & design solutions
- S7: Engage in argument from evidence
- S8: Obtain, evaluate & communicate information

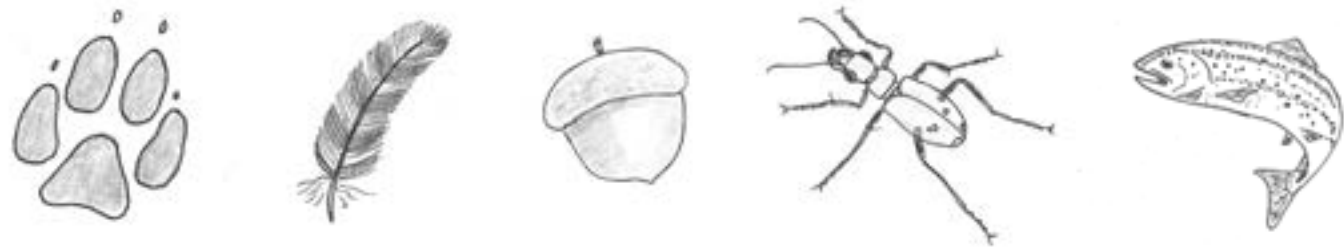
Mathematics

- M1: Make sense of problems & persevere in solving them
- M2: Reason abstractly & quantitatively
- M3: Construct viable arguments & critique the reasoning of others
- M4: Model with mathematics
- M5: Use appropriate tools strategically
- M6: Attend to precision
- M7: Look for & make use of structure
- M8: Look for & express regularity in repeated reasoning

English Language Arts

- E1: Demonstrate independence in reading complex texts, writing & speaking about them
- E2: Build a strong base of knowledge through context-rich texts
- E3: Obtain, synthesize & report findings clearly & effectively in response to task & purpose
- E4: Construct viable arguments & critique the reasoning of others
- E5: Read, write & speak grounded in evidence
- E6: Use technology and digital media strategically and capably
- E7: Come to understand other perspectives and cultures through reading, listening and collaboration





Programs at a Glance

The following list is designed to give you a quick look at our programs and which grade they are best suited for.

	Program	PS	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Science & Nature Outings	Animals Homes & Habitats	X	X	X	X										
	Discover Nature Hike	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Tracks & Traces	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Aquatic Adventures			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Invertebrate Investigations				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Nature Journaling				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Outdoor Skills				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Predator Prey Pandemonium				X	X	X	X							
	Owl, Duck, Sparrow					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Snow Patrol								X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Finding Your Way								X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Wildlife Ecology - Call for Availability									X	X	X	X	X	X
Traveling Naturalist	Mammals of NYS (Furs & Skulls)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	In Cold Blood	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Plants 101			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Watershed Wonders					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Don't forget to add time to your schedule to visit the ponds and feed the fish!



Science & Nature Outings at Rogers Center

Any Grade

Discover Nature Hike

What's better than going for a good old-fashioned exploration! Learners lead the way as they focus on discoveries they make while walking along the trails. Our leaders guide them in their investigations with questions and help them develop their observation skills. *S1; S3; S4; S6; S8; M2; M3; M8; E4; E5; E7*

Tracks and Traces

Wildlife is all around us, but we often never see it. Luckily, it leaves many clues to its activities, if you know what to look for. Learners investigate scat, chew signs, nests, and holes as they walk around Rogers' trails. *S1; S3; S4; S5; S6; S7; S8; M2; M3; M6; M7; E3; E4; E5; E7*

Preschool- 2nd Grade

Animal Homes & Habitats

Animals all need a place to live. And they all adopt strategies to exploit different niches. Learners discover how animal needs are not much different from their own, and we go outside to find what critters are where. *S1; S2; S3; S4; S6; S7; S8; M1; M2; M3; M6; E3; E4; E5; E7*

First Grade and Up

Aquatic Adventures - REVISED

Wetlands are full of life. We take an up-close look at macroinvertebrates, their adaptations, and how they help us understand water quality. *S1; S3; S4; S6; S7; S8; M1; M2; M3; M5; M6; M7; E3; E4; E5*

2nd-5th Grade

Predator Prey Pandemonium

The roles of predators and prey animals are important to the balance of any ecosystem. During this program, students learn how to identify specific traits of mammalian predators and prey, unpack "kits" to learn if the animal in their kit is a predator or prey, and play games to reinforce some of the concepts discussed. *S1; S2; S3; S4; S6; S7; S8; M1; M2; M3; M5; M6; E3; E4; E5; E7*

2nd Grade and Up

Invertebrate Investigation - REVISED

Insects and other invertebrates play important roles in our ecosystems - one might even say that insects run the world! Learners celebrate and explore insect diversity with hands-on activities. *S1; S3; S4; S6; S7; S8; M2; M3; M5; M6; E3; E4; E5; E7*

Nature Journaling

All science begins with observation. Too often, people believe that keeping a nature journal is about drawing the pretty picture, but it's more about being accurate in recording one's observations. Our staff introduce your learners to techniques that help them discover and record many of the wonders around them. *S1; S2; S3; S4; S6; S7; S8; M1; M2; M3; M5; M6; M7; M8; E3; E4; E5*

Outdoor Skills

Knots, shelter-building, fire-starting, and medicinal plants are some of the skills one can learn to enable one to be outdoors safely for an extended period of time. Learners participating in this program get real hands-on experience with some of these skills, and discover why they are important. *S1; S2; S3; S4; S5; S6; S7; S8; M1; M2; M3; M5; M6; M7; M8; E3; E4; E5; E7*

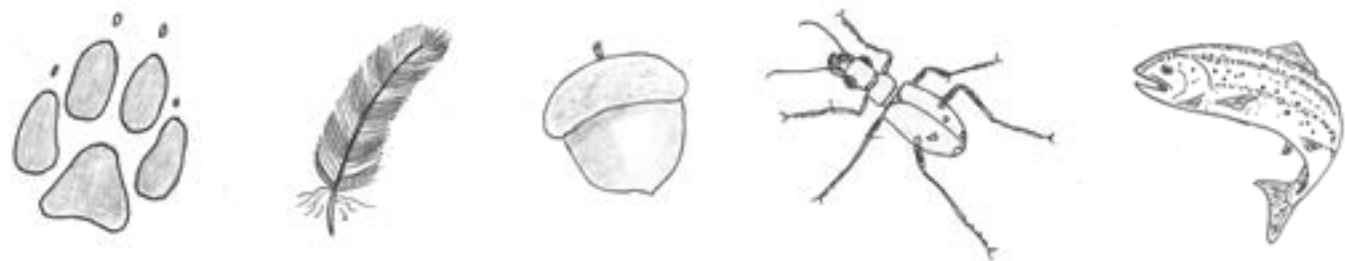
Grades 3 and Up

Owl, Duck, Sparrow - REVISED

Birds come in all shapes and sizes, and these differences in anatomy make them ideal for studying adaptations. Using our collection of feathers, wings, beaks, and feet helps your learners discover how each species fills a particular niche. *S1; S3; S4; S6; S7; S8; M1; M2; M3; M5; M6; M7; E3; E5; E7*

(more on next page)





Science & Nature Outings continued

Grades 5 and Up

Finding Your Way

GPS navigation is second nature to many people, thanks to smartphones and modern car technology. But how does one find one's way when the batteries die, or if there is no satellite coverage? Learning how to navigate with a compass is great for building many skills, including math and spatial awareness. Learners learn the fundamentals of a compass and how to use it through several hands-on activities. *S1; S4; S5; S6; S7; S8; M1; M2; M4; M5; M6; M8; E3; E5; E6; E7*

Snow Patrol

If you are looking for a winter field experience for your students, this is it! We spend half the day indoors learning the science of tracking, and the other half of the day learning how to use snowshoes and then going in search of tracks to identify. This is a FULL DAY lesson (3 hours plus lunch). *S1; S4; S5; S6; S7; S8; M1; M2; M4; M5; M6; M8; E3; E5; E6; E7*

Grades 6 and Up

Wildlife Ecology - Call for Availability

Basic concepts of wildlife survival are examined, such as population limiting factors, predator-prey relationships, and the balance of nature. Learners play a game to discover first hand just how population levels and predation keep the natural world functional. The game is physically active. *S1; S2; S3; S4; S6; S7; S8; M1; M2; M3; M5; M6; E3; E4; E5; E7*

** If there is a particular program/topic in which you are interested, we will work with you to see if we can develop a program to meet your needs. Contact Ellen at ellen@friendsofrogers.org or (607) 674-4733 for more information. **There may be an additional fee for custom program development.**

Sample Outings: What a Day at Rogers Might Look Like

Half-day Science & Nature Outing

(one program; \$5/learner)

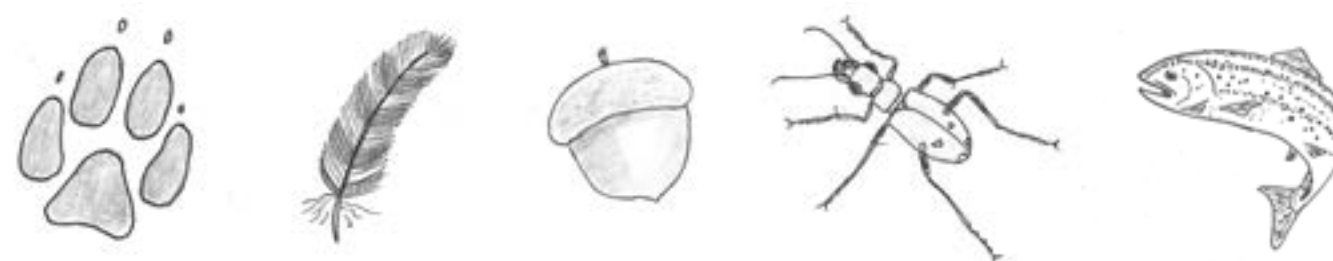
9:00-9:15 Arrival, orientation, bathrooms
 9:15-10:45 Discover Nature Hike
 10:45-11:15 Lunch
 11:15-11:30 Bathroom Break
 11:30-12:00 Feed the Fish
 12:00 Departure



Full-day Science & Nature Outing

(two programs, \$10/learner)

9:00-9:15 Arrival, orientation, bathrooms
 9:15-10:45 Group A: Discover Nature Hike
 Group B: Pond Ecology
 10:45-11:15 Lunch
 11:15-11:30 Bathrooms
 11:30-1:00 Group A: Pond Ecology
 Group B: Discover Nature Hike
 1:00-1:30 Feed the Fish
 1:30 Departure



Traveling Naturalist Programs

When you can't come to us, we can come to you! We have several programs that can be brought into your classroom. And if there is a specific lesson you'd like, but you don't see it in our offerings, please let us know - we may be able to custom design a program that meets your needs.

Traveling Naturalist Program Fees

Our programs are \$100 for the first class of up to 30 students, and \$40/class after that, with a maximum of four classes in a day. An additional \$.65/mile will be charged for schools outside a 15 mile radius from Rogers.

Logistics

We can present our in-school programs per classroom, or in a multi-classroom set-up. We can do a maximum of four presentations in one day.

Traveling Naturalist programs run about one hour.

For more information or to set up your visit, contact us at (607) 674-4733 and ask for Ellen, or email Ellen@friendsofrogers.org.



Even with our in-the-classroom programs, we can explore your school grounds for signs of nature. Trust us - they are there if you know how to look!

The Lessons

Mammals of New York State (Furs & Skulls)

Preschool - 12th Grade

From the two-inch long masked shrew to a six-foot long black bear, New York is home to nearly 60 species of mammals. Using furs and skulls, we examine what makes a mammal a mammal, investigate their adaptations, and discuss their habitat requirements. *S1; S2; S4; S6; S7; S8; M2; M6; M7; E3; E4; E5; E7*

In Cold Blood

Preschool-12th Grade

Cold-blooded vertebrates (reptiles, amphibians, fish) have some amazing characteristics. Experiments, investigations and activities enable learners to understand the physiology of these animals and their places in our ecosystems. *S1; S2; S4; S6; S7; S8; M2; M6; M7; E3; E4; E5; E7*

Plants 101 - REVISED

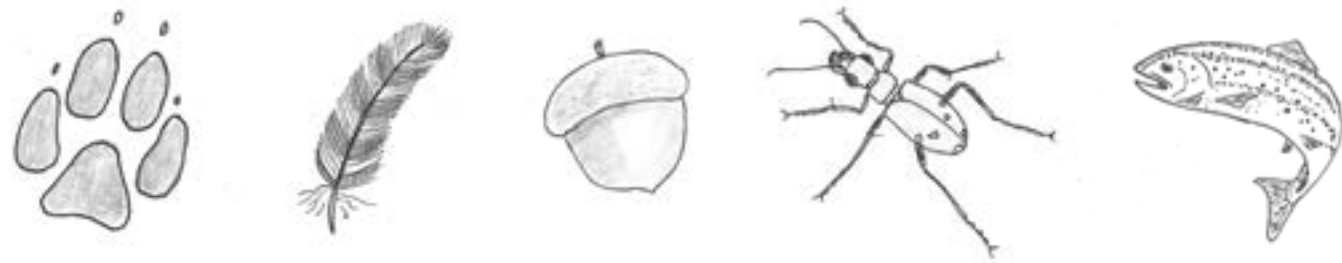
1st through 12th Grade

Life on Earth depends on plants. They are the base of our food chain and make the oxygen we need to breathe. In this program learners explore photosynthesis, plant adaptations, and plant diversity through a variety of fun activities. *S1; S2; S4; S6; S7; S8; M2; M6; M7; E3; E4; E5; E7*

Watershed Wonders

3rd through 12th Grade

Experience and learn about the water cycle in a whole new way. Learners become water molecules and travel through various stages of the water cycle. They also create their own models to learn and experience first hand how the landscape affects the flow of water. *S1; S2; S4; S6; S7; S8; M2; M6; M7; E3; E4; E5; E7*



What Do We Do if the Weather is Bad?

Rainy days and Mondays never get us down! If the weather does not cooperate on the day of your visit, you have a couple options.

- 1. We go out rain or shine.** We believe there is no such things as bad weather, just poor clothing choices, so unless the weather is life-threatening, plan to head outdoors. We encourage you and your students to come with rain gear (coat, hat, pants, boots) or winter gear (coat, hat, mittens, boots, snowpants), as the weather dictates. Umbrellas are not ideal - the wind can blow them around, and the close quarters on a trail can make them a bit dangerous.
- 2. Choose a Rainy Day Option Program.** It's always good to plan in advance. While most of our programs have at least some portion outdoors, we do have some options that can be done entirely indoors. You can schedule these at the same time that you schedule your trip, so we are prepared if the weather does not cooperate.
- 3. You can cancel and try to reschedule.** Due to a finite number of days available for school trips, we do not book a separate rain date for you when you sign up. If you choose not to come on the day of your program due to the weather, you can cancel (if you cancel in less than two days before your program, we keep charge a \$50 fee) and try to reschedule.

Rainy Day Option Programs

Storytime, Scavenger Hunt & a Meet-n-Greet with our Animal Ambassadors (gr. preK-1)

Your visit is divided into three distinct parts: a nature story, a scavenger hunt throughout the building, and a chance to meet our animal ambassadors (Darcy the turtle and Siracha the snake) up close and in person.

Nature Journaling (gr. 1+)

As a nature center, we have a lot of great objects students can use for nature journaling. This program encourages observation and helps students develop their skills are recording what they observe.

Outdoor Skills Indoors (gr. 2+)

Our popular outdoor skills lessons can easily be adapted for indoor instruction. Obviously, we won't be building forts or starting fires, but we can still learn quite a number of great skills.

Predator Prey Pandemonium (gr. 2-5)

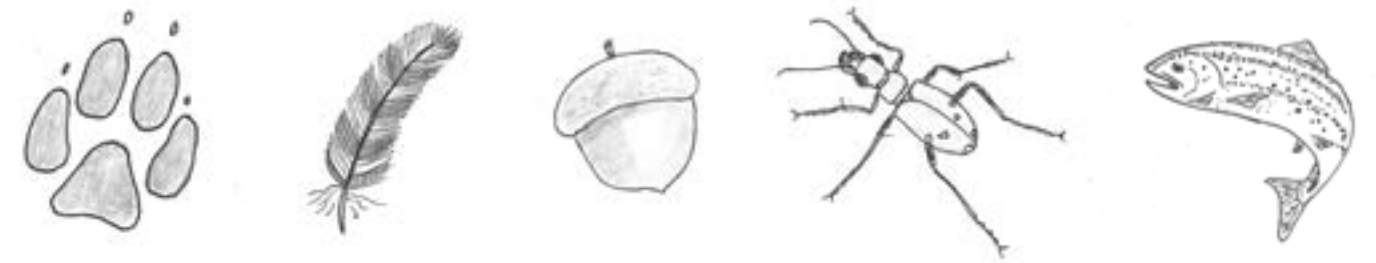
This program typically has both indoor and outdoor segments, but we can adapt it for 100% indoors when the need arises.

Owl, Duck, Sparrow (gr 3+)

Students can learn about birds from the comfort of our classroom and still get to learn how to use binoculars and spotting scopes at our windows, overlooking the Channels Marsh.

Tracking 101 (gr. 5+)

This modified version of Snow Patrol does not require snow! Students learn the basics of animal tracking and play some fun games as well.



Benefits of Field-based Learning

“In field-based learning, teaching is extended to a site outside of the classroom or laboratory, exposing students to a real-world setting. Students learn through direct interaction with an environment that reflects taught concepts rather than learning through indirect presentations of the setting such as textbooks or lectures.” (Queen’s University)

What does field-based learning do for you and your learners?

- Provides an opportunity to present materials, objects or phenomena that are not accessible otherwise to students in a way that enables direct contact and interaction;
- Provides students with an opportunity to practice skills or techniques that cannot be carried out elsewhere;

- Stimulates higher understanding and reinforcements of previously learned classroom materials and
- Stimulates an appreciation for, and concern or valuing of, the visited environment.

(Lonergan, N. & Anderson, L.W. (1998) Field-based education: some theoretical considerations. Higher Education Research & development, 7 (1) 63-77.)

At Rogers Center, we have a history of understanding the benefits of field-based learning. We've seen students thrive in an outdoor learning environment, and science backs up the importance of getting students outdoors to study and play.

We encourage you to integrate outdoor experiences into your school days whenever you can, and Rogers Center is happy to help.

Signing up for a Program

When you are ready to register, submit a request via email to ellen@friendsofrogers.org or call us at (607) 674-4733, and ask for Ellen.

Please have the following information ready:

- Preferred program date and time, plus alternatives in case we cannot accommodate your first choice;
- Names and contact information for all participating teachers (phone, email);
- Grade and the number of students who will be attending;
- The number of chaperons that will be attending;
- School name, address, phone number;
- Name of the program(s) you are interested in.

Payment: Our program fee is \$5/student/program, with a \$50 minimum. One chaperon is admitted free for every eight learners, and one for every five learners in preschool and kindergarten. This includes the

teacher. Chaperons are invited (and encouraged) to participate in the programs, but please make sure they understand that they are there to help manage students, and that the students are our primary audience.

The Traveling Naturalist (In-school) programs are \$100 for the first class, and \$40 for each additional class, with a maximum of four classes per day. Schools that are more than 20 miles from Rogers Center will have an additional charge of \$ 0.65/mile.

Payment can be made the day of your program. Please make checks payable to: **Friends of Rogers.**

Programs that are canceled with less than 48 hours notice (unless due to inclement weather) will be charged a \$50 fee.



Resources for Teachers

Financial Assistance

- Connect Kids to Parks Field Trip Grant Program** Connect Kids connects New York school children with nature, outdoor recreation and history by funding transportation costs and program fees. Application process is easy. <https://parks.ny.gov/environment/connect-kids/grant-program.aspx>
- Target Store Field Trip Grants** Target stores award field trip grants to K-12 schools nationwide. Target funds programs that allow students and teachers to learn in all kinds of settings. We fund field trips that connect students' classroom curricula to out-of-school experiences. Eligibility: Education professionals who are at least 18 years old and employed by an accredited K-12 public, private or charter school in the United States that maintains a 501(c)(3) or 509(a)(1) tax-exempt status are eligible to apply. Grant Amount: \$700. <https://fieldtripdirectory.com/grants-for-field-trips/transportation/target-field-trip-grants/>
- ALDI- Smart Kids Program** ALDI is a part of the community. Through ALDI Cares Community Grants, we partner with nonprofit organizations that make a positive impact on Children's Health & Wellness and Food Insecurity while supporting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs. Whether your mission is to support children through education, arts, athletics or addressing food insecurity in your local community, we encourage you to apply for support from ALDI Cares Community Grants. <https://corporate.aldi.us/en/corporate-responsibility/community/aldi-cares-community-grants/eligibility-and-guidelines/>
- Association of American Educator Classroom Grants** Classroom grants can be used for a variety of projects and materials including, but not limited to, books, software, calculators, math manipulatives, art supplies, audio-visual equipment, and lab materials. Funds must be used within one year of the application deadline. Classroom grants are available to all full-time educators who have not received a scholarship or grant from AAE in the past two years. Awards are competitive. AAE members receive additional weight in the scoring rubric. <https://www.aeteachers.org/index.php/classroom-grant-application>
- Captain Planet Foundation's** mission is to promote and support high-quality educational programs that enable children and youth to understand and appreciate the world through active, hands-on projects designed to improve the environment in their schools and communities. The foundation intends its grants to serve as catalysts for getting environment-based education into schools and inspire youth and communities to participate in community service through environmental stewardship. Requests for funding less than \$500 will be given preference and occasionally grants of up to \$2500 will be considered. Schools and organizations with operating budgets of less than \$3 million are eligible to apply. Captain Planet Foundation™ invests in high-quality, solution-based programs that embrace STEM learning and empower youth to become local & global environmental change-makers. <http://captainplanetfoundation.org/apply-for-grants/>

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- National Environmental Education Foundation** offers a variety of grants and awards to help organizations engage their local community to improve the environment, increase diversity, and expand their work locally. We routinely highlight individual and group commitment to nature through education and service. Last year, NEEF provided over \$700,000 in grants and awards to educational (both formal and informal) and public land partners across the country. To stay on top of our grant programs, make sure to sign up for our email list: <https://www.neefusa.org/sign-up>
- The Honda USA Foundation Environment Award** is given to programs that educate youth and communities on how to build a sustainable future through environmental education and conservation initiatives, with an emphasis on water, air and land. Applications may include, but are not limited to, education and conservation programs that restore marine ecosystems, reduce air pollution and safeguard land in its natural form. <https://csr.honda.com/longform-content/honda-usa-foundation-funding/>
- The ING Unsung Heroes Program** is a scholarship/grant program for K-12 educators that are utilizing new teaching methods and techniques to improve learning. Educators are welcome to submit an application describing projects they have initiated or would like to pursue. Each project is judged on its innovative method, creativity, and ability to positively influence students. Each year, one hundred educators are selected to receive \$2,000 each to help fund their innovative class projects. Three recipients are then selected to receive additional top awards of \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$25,000. <http://unsungheroes.scholarshipamerica.org>
- Leave No Trace** is an educational, nonprofit organization dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors. Leave No Trace offers a variety of grant and scholarship opportunities for individuals and organizations seeking Leave No Trace educational materials and/or training. There are multiple grants offered, including Connect Grants for Culturally-Diverse Communities, Packing with PEAK grant, Tools for Teaching Fund, and Master Educator Scholarships. These opportunities have varying deadlines throughout the year. Email all grant and scholarship inquiries to grants@LNT.org.
- NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants** are provided to help improve the academic achievement of students in the US public schools and public higher education institutions in any subject area. Any practicing US Teacher, counselor, or education support professional employed by a public school, including public higher education institutions, is eligible to apply for a grant from the Foundation. The NEA Foundation wants to support educators engaging students in project-based and deeper learning to support the development of skills and dispositions contributing to success and fulfillment in a changing world. <https://www.neafoundation.org/educator-grants-and-fellowships/student-success-grants/>





Resources for Teachers

Continuing Education, Certifications, Workshops, et al

- Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an award-winning environmental education program that uses the forest as a “window” into natural and built environments, helping people gain an awareness and knowledge of the world around them. www.plt.org
- The Leopold Education Project (LEP) is an innovative, interdisciplinary conservation ethics curriculum targeted for grades 6-12. LEP is part of Pheasants Forever’s education program to create an ecologically literate citizenry. www.lep.org
- Project F.I.S.H. is an educational program for youth and families sponsored locally by school, fishing conservation organizations, others interested in fishing and our fisheries. www.projectfish.org
- Audubon Adventures, an environmental education curriculum project created by the National Audubon Society for grades 3-8, presents standards-based science content about birds, wildlife and their habitats. www.audubonadventures.org
- Project WILD, a wildlife-focused conservation education program for K-12 educators and their students, is based on the premise that young people and education have a vital interest in learning about our natural world and addresses the need for human beings to develop as responsible citizens of our planet. www.projectwild.org
- Project WET’s mission is to reach children, parents, teachers and community members of the world with water education that promotes awareness of water and empowers community action to solve complex water issues. www.projectwet.org



“The best education does not happen at a desk, but rather engaged in everyday living – hands on, exploring, in active relationship with life.”

~ Vince Gowman ~