

Rogers Environmental Education Center



Environmental Education Programs for Schools and Youth Groups



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About Friends of Rogers

Friends of Rogers is the not-for-profit that runs and operates Rogers Environmental Education Center. The mission of Friends of Rogers 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.

Program Information

- One chaperone is required for every 15 students. Extra chaperones are welcome, there is no cost for chaperones.
- It is best to make reservations at least 6-weeks in advance especially for spring dates since they fill quickly.
- Programs are held even in inclement weather such as cold or rain. If the school chooses to cancel the program anyway, it may not be able to be rescheduled and a refund is not guaranteed. For events such as a snow storm, lightening, or school closure, we will do our best to reschedule a program. If rescheduling does not work with the school calendar, then a refund will be granted.
- Programs will be geared towards the age of the students with respect to length and content; CCLS content included.
- Programs are available throughout the year.
- Fish food will be provided to groups with a paid program.

Programs Costs

- Programs are \$3.00 per student until September 1, 2019 then prices will increase to \$4 per student per program. Programs scheduled before July 1, 2019 for the 2019-2020 school year will stay at the reduced rate of \$3. There are also multi-program discounts available.
- Our environmental educators are also available for classroom visits. For classroom visits, mileage is added to the total program cost. Multiple programs and/or classes may occur per visit.
- For onsite programs, to offset costs from the school there is a reimbursement grant offered by NYS called Connect Kids. Individual teachers must apply for the grant 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>

Scheduling a Program

To schedule a program contact Rogers Center. Either email one of our educators, Sarah Freedman at env.educator@FriendsofRogers.org or Marissa Nolan sr.educator@FriendsofRogers.org or call (607) 674-4733 and ask for either Sarah or Marissa. Please know how many programs you would like, which dates are preferred, and for how many students the program would be.

Available Programs*

Tracks and Traces:

Wildlife is all around us without ever being seen. Luckily, they leave many clues to their activities, if you know for what to look. Scat, chew signs, and holes will all be explored with students during a walk around Rogers trails.

Mammals:

From a two-inch masked shrew to a six-foot black bear, New York provides habitat for nearly 60 species of land mammals. Using furs and skulls we will examine what makes a mammal a mammal, investigate their adaptations, and discuss their habitat requirements.

Pond Ecology:

Wetlands are full of life. We are familiar with the ducks, frogs, and fish but what about the smaller creatures? We will an up close look at these fascinating organisms, their adaptations, and how they help us understand water quality.

Wildlife Ecology:

Basic concepts of wildlife survival will be examined such as, population limiting factors, predator-prey relationships, and balance of nature. Students will get first-hand experience of these issues through a game. The activity is physically active.

Watersheds: (3rd grade and up)

Experience and learn about the water cycle in a whole new way. Students become water molecules and travel through various water cycle stages. They will also create their own models to learn and experience first-hand how the landscape affects the flow of water.

Birds:

Birds come in all shapes and sizes, these differences in anatomy make them ideal for studying habitat adaptation. Using our collection of feathers, wings, beaks, and feet will illustrate how each species has its own niche.

Insects:

Many people think of insects as unwanted creepy-crawly creatures, but we know better. Insects play many important roles in our ecosystem. Celebrate and explore insect diversity through hands on activities.

Plants:

Life on earth depends upon plants. They are the base of our food chain and give us oxygen. We will explore photosynthesis, plant adaptations, and diversity with fun activities. Discover why this kingdom is so special.

The Earth and Us: (3rd grade and up)

Finding earth-friendly alternatives to our everyday activities is a necessity. This lesson explores how even small actions can make a big difference for our environment. Empower students to help alleviate some of our global environmental problems.

In Cold Blood:

Cold –blooded vertebrates (reptiles, amphibians, and fish) have some amazing characteristics. Experiments, investigations, and activities will enable students to understand their physiology and place in the ecosystem.

Animals in Winter: (pre-K-3rd grade)

Animals have several strategies they use to survive the winter. Students place animal pictures on a large winter scene to investigate how each one spends the winter. Do they hibernate, migrate, or chose a different path?

Maple Sugaring:

Visit our maple stand and check out the trees that give us delicious syrup. See how the taps work and learn about the process of turning sap into syrup. If the sap is running, see the process in action, or let us visit you with our traveling evaporator! Sap is generally running from later winter to early spring.

*List of programs is not exhaustive, let us know if there is a topic not listed that you would like to be covered and we can create a program around the lesson. Programs also can be modified to fit school curriculum requirements or to better tie-in with classroom lessons.

Exploring Rogers Center

While you are on property, make sure to investigate Rogers Center. We can easily set aside “free time” for this in the program schedule. Walk on the trails so students can visit a variety of habitats. Trail maps can be provided, additional ones are available on site in the Visitor Center and at trail heads. We can provide indoor or outdoor scavenger hunts for your students upon request.

The Visitor Center contains numerous exhibits, fun activities and our Bookstore. Our bookstore has a variety of nature guides, fish food, and much more for sale.

A pavilion and picnic tables are available. In bad weather you may eat inside, though seating may not be available for everyone.

Things to Remember on Your Visit

- There is no food or drink for sale at Rogers.
- You must dispose of your own garbage, we are a carry-in carry-out facility. Please bring your own bag or box to carry it home.
- You may not feed the ducks, geese, or other wildlife. Fish food is for the Trout Ponds only not for other water bodies or for birds.
- Make sure everyone is prepared for the weather, most programs are outdoors even in rain or cold.
- These fees enable us to continue offering programs.

Contact Information

Visitor Center: (607)674-4733

Environmental Educator, Sarah Freedman: env.educator@FriendsofRogers.org

Senior Environmental Educator, Marissa Nolan: sr.educator@FriendsofRogers.org

**Thank you for your interest in Friends of Rogers
Environmental Education Center!**

