

 Mass Audubon  
**SOUTH SHORE SANCTUARIES**  
School Program Guide  
Spring, Summer, Fall 2009



Explore the Natural World with Mass Audubon

School Programs for Grades PreK-5

Hold class outside

or

Let us bring the outside into your classroom

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### ***Education Through Exploration***

The South Shore Sanctuaries offer a variety of environmental education programs for school children in PreK through fifth grade. Our education staff understands the importance of developing a child's sense of curiosity and wonder about the natural world. To help enhance these kinds of experiences, our programs are designed to guide inquiry through hands-on activities, while using exploratory teaching techniques. We strive to cultivate a greater connection to the local environment, as well as foster an appreciation for the outdoors that continues far into the future.

### ***Diverse Habitats, Diverse Learning Opportunities***



The variety of habitats that encompass the three South Shore Sanctuary sites, in addition to local beaches and conservation land, provide for a unique learning experience outside the classroom. A field trip to one of these locations allows the opportunity for first-hand observation of plants and wildlife, a closer study of how adaptations are necessary for survival, and initiates thinking on the elaborate way all things are connected.

Program offerings that can be adapted to be brought into the classroom are marked as *ADAPTABLE*. A classroom visit will provide a similar, investigative, hands-on learning experience.

### ***An Outdoor Classroom that Meets Standards***

Our programs provide support to teachers by helping align program content with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and are designed to meet the standards of varying age groups. For more details on how programs address specific frameworks, please contact us.

## Programs

**PreK and K programs are one hour in length. All other programs have the option of 1.5 or 2 hours.**

### The Beach

**Grade PreK:** Without ever getting their feet wet, children will soak up the knowledge of the beach environment. Adventure will lead their senses to discover the salty secrets of the shoreline, and perhaps a game of wave tag will leave all awash with fun memories of the beach. *ADAPTABLE*

**Grades K-2:** The routine crashing of the rolling waves will easily lure students to the edge, where this meeting of land and sea is sure to encounter some unique survivors. Students will learn to identify some of these inhabitants and describe how various plants and animals have adapted to the sandy, salty environment. *ADAPTABLE*

**Grades 3-5:** Through direct observation and identification of shoreline plants and animals, students will begin to piece together the puzzling way life has adapted to survive the erosive nature of the seashore, and the role humans play in helping to maintain the productivity and biodiversity of our coastline.

*Location options: Duxbury Beach, Third or Fourth Cliff, or the beaches of Humarock/Rexhame*

### The Pond

**Grade PreK:** While poking around the edge of a local pond, children will be guided to uncover the exciting life below the water surface. Exploration will provide children the opportunity to imagine what living in a wet place would be like and begin to identify typical pond features. *ADAPTABLE*

**Grades K-2:** A visit to the pond will surely capture the curious minds of students and fulfill the desire to discover new knowledge. Through up-close investigations of collected pond life, students will begin to understand how certain plants and animals are able to survive life in the water. *ADAPTABLE*

**Grades 3-5:** The pond community involves much more than what can be caught in a single dip net. Students will make observations about the surrounding pond environment and describe how changing environmental conditions might alter the existing life that relies on the pond for survival.

*Location options: North Hill Marsh in Duxbury or your local pond.*

### The Grassland

**Grade PreK:** While riding in the comfort of a tractor-drawn hay wagon, children will learn how the Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary was once a working dairy farm. Along the way, a scavenger hunt will help guide children to observe the plants and animals around them.

**Grades K-2:** During a wagon ride through the grasslands of the Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, students will compare the surrounding habitats and look for signs of animal activity. This classroom on wheels will lead students on a bumpy ride of fun and offer a new way of observing ones' surroundings.

**Grades 3-5:** Powered by their own two feet, students will take to the trails of the Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary to learn about the essential components of grassland habitats, the historical use of this site, and how it is managed for use by people and wildlife. From the overview atop Fox Hill, students will be guided to focus on the natural changes taking place and predict what this area may look like in the future. If desired, this walk can be modified to meet a more wildlife-specific focus, i.e. insects, raptors, mammals.



*Location: Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary*

### The Woodland

**Grade PreK:** Immersed in nature, children will stroll with their senses to get better acquainted with the woodland trail. Energy will be focused on acting out the plants and animals encountered along the way!

**Grades K-2:** Along a rock and root-filled trail, students will search out life inside the woodland. Past tall trees and tiny plants, small rocks and stone walls, past fungus and lichens, students will get to know the many layers that make up this popular animal habitat, and begin to understand the connections between them.

**Grades 3-5:** After hiking the woodland trail and surveying the different types of plants, animals, and/or evidence of animals, students will compare the ways communities interact within the woodland habitat. An understanding of these relationships will then provide a path for making connections on an ecological level, and lead students to recognize the importance of woodlands in maintaining a well-balanced landscape, necessary for the survival of both wildlife and people.

*Location: North River Wildlife Sanctuary or your local woodland.*

## The Birds

**Grade PreK-2:** Each year gives rise to the birth of countless baby birds and just like children, they chirp and twitter away for attention. Students can get acquainted with some of these native songbirds by learning how to identify them by appearance and song. Construction of a nest box will then help students put their natural energy to good use while also providing a necessary component to maintaining healthy bird populations. All supplies are included. *ADAPTABLE*



**Grades 3-5:** The ability to observe birds is always close at hand. Sometimes, just a quiet presence behind a window is all that is needed. Other times, a short trail hike may lead directly to signs of activity. Whether observation is from near or far, birds have plenty to offer and engage the mind. Students will learn to identify the similarities and differences in bird appearance, song, and behavior, ultimately leading to a better understanding of why particular birds are found in certain habitats. Students will also be able to name specific threats bird populations are facing and make predictions regarding the future of these flying wonders.

*Location: North River or Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary*

## About Mass Audubon

**M**ass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 33,000 acres of conservation land, provide educational programs for 200,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Mass Audubon's mission and actions have expanded since our beginning in 1896 when our founders set out to stop the slaughter of birds for use on women's fashions. Today we are the largest conservation organization in New England. Our statewide network for 45 wildlife sanctuaries welcomes visitors of all ages and serves as the base for our conservation, education, and advocacy work. To support these important efforts, call 800-AUDUBON (283-8266) or visit [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org).

## Get to Know Our Learning Environments

### North River Wildlife Sanctuary



*Open-air classrooms*

The North River Wildlife Sanctuary consists of nearly 184 acres of woodland and grassland overlooking the North River. Two miles of trails provide opportunities to observe wetland wildlife, native songbirds, hawks, and mammals. There are three woodland shelters for program use. There is wheelchair access to the woodland shelters and the North River trail.

### North Hill Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary

The North Hill Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary consists of 117 acres with a 90-acre pond. It is surrounded by 1,100 acres of Duxbury conservation land with walking trails and observation platforms from which to observe waterfowl, native songbirds, and other woodland wildlife. Most trails are wheelchair accessible.



*Wrapped up in a forest*

### Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary



*Once an island, now an overlook*

The Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary consists of 506 acres of open grassland habitat that provide an important breeding and wintering spot for many bird species, some of which are on the state endangered species list. There are more than two miles of nature trails, two observation blinds, and an observation deck that provide opportunities to observe a wide diversity of wildlife in all seasons. All trails are wheelchair accessible.

## **Program Options and Fees**

### **At our site:**

1-hour program	\$6.00/child	\$72 minimum	PreK and K only
1.5-hour program	\$7.00/child	\$84 minimum	
2-hour program	\$8.00/child	\$96 minimum	

### **At your site or other non-Mass Audubon location:**

1-hour program	\$6.50/child	\$78 minimum	PreK and K only
1.5-hour program	\$7.50/child	\$90 minimum	
2-hour program	\$8.50/child	\$102 minimum	

### **Programs with special pricing:**

#### **The Birds (PreK-2)**

1.5-hour program includes the cost of nest box supplies.  
\$14/child                      \$140 minimum

#### **The Grassland (PreK-2)**

Two tractor-drawn wagons, each accommodating a maximum of 30 children are available for this 1-hour program.

\$125/wagon

\$50 for each additional 1/2 hour of exploratory activities

***Financial assistance may be available through our education fund on an as-needed basis.***

## **To Schedule a Program**

Please call 781-837-9400 and have the following information ready.

- Program choice and grade level.
- Possible dates and times
- Number of students
- Desired program length
- School contact information

We recommend scheduling programs at least two weeks in advance and having several date choices in case your first choice is not available.