



Swan Island Natural Science Fieldtrips

Wildlife Programs for youth groups (schools, homeschool, other classes) **Offered**
Monday and Wednesday mornings, May 16- June 22, 2022; Sept 5- Oct 19, 2022

This trip includes a ride on the ferry to Swan Island in the middle of Kennebec River from the Richmond landing and then a short wagon ride to the classroom. Typically, groups arrive at the ferry dock by 9/9:15am, and the ferry departs by about 9:30am, program begins at approximately 10:15am and last about 1-1.5 hours. After the program you can explore the island on your own till your prearranged departure time (departure must be prearranged at the time of booking). Timing can be arranged to fit your group's needs.

Programs only occur on Monday and Wednesday mornings and must be scheduled in advance. Drop in visits are not allowed for these programs. Each program will have an age-appropriate classroom component and then a chance to venture outside on the trails before heading back to the ferry. Each educational program is about 60 minutes and will often include a short nature hike, weather permitting. All programs are dependent on weather and we will do our best to reschedule.

After your program you can stay and explore the island with your class and even bring a picnic lunch to enjoy. No food or water is available on the island. Be sure to bring what you will need till you are back on the mainland including water, snacks, and lunch.

Cost: \$50 per program up to 50 people each program (*price includes adults, students, any additional people even siblings as it is due to available space on the ferry and classroom*) Additional people may be accommodated as needed. Price includes the ferry and island transportation to and from the class. Larger groups may need to be split into two programs.

Add-On: Driving Island Tour \$50- At the end of your program take a driving tour to see all the wonderful historic sites of Swan Island as well as natural habitats. This drive takes about 1.5 hours and costs \$50 for the group.

Program Descriptions*

Amazing Animal Adaptations

Maine wildlife exhibit an amazing variety of physical and behavioral characteristics that enable them to survive and do their 'jobs' within their environment. From frogs to bears we will learn how animals are adapted to survive in certain habitats. We will take a look at how animals eat, hide, hunt, move, and more! (We will start inside and spend a little time outside looking for animals or signs of animals.)

Bird Adaptations

Using mounted specimens of songbirds, raptors and waterfowl, we'll identify the many different adaptations birds exhibit to survive in their particular habitats. Looking at color, beaks, feet, feathers, diet and migration habits, we will learn how and where to find a variety of species of birds, and how each group of birds has a unique set of skills. (This one will be about 30 minutes inside, then 30 minutes outside looking for birds.)

Wonderful World of Wetlands

Take a look at the adaptations of animals that live in wetlands. Using this popular Project WILD Aquatic activity, students will first learn about the benefits and functions of wetland habitats for wildlife and for people, hike around a wetland area, then demonstrate their new knowledge by participating in the hands-on 'WILD' activity.

(This program takes 1-1.5 hours to allow time to go out and explore a local wetland. No additional cost. It can be done in 1 hour as needed.)

Mammals of Maine

Take a look at the wide variety of mammals that live in Maine. Many have a long history with humans, but all are an important part of Maine's ecosystems. Learn about the amazing adaptations of some of Maine's mammals as we look at skulls, furs, and mounted specimens. We will determine if the animal was an herbivore, carnivore or omnivore and learn to identify some mammals of Maine. (We will spend most of our time looking at mammals inside, but then go out to explore and look for wildlife signs.)

Life and Death of a Small Maine Town (Swan Island ONLY)

Swan Island was originally a town in and of itself, known as Perkins Township. With 5 standing homes dating back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries, a cemetery with headstones dated 1802-1968, the entire island listed in the National Register of Historic Places; and a legacy of ship building, farming, ice harvesting and more; this is a fascinating exploration and look back in time. This is a wonderful Social Studies field trip!

Birds of Prey

Join us and take a look at a unique group of birds called raptors. We aren't talking dinosaurs, but a group of birds that eat and hunt for meat. Join as we learn about the amazing adaptations of eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, and vultures. What makes this group of birds so special and what roles do they play in nature. (We will start inside and then venture out to see if we can find any raptors.)

Owls and Owl Pellets

Learn the unique adaptations of owls, the habitats in which they live, and their interesting production of owl pellets! Pellets are regurgitated fur/feathers and bone comprised of the owls' last meals. We will then in small groups dissect owl pellets and see what an owl ate. (This program will spend most of the time inside as it is associated with an indoor activity.)

Add an Island Tour for \$50 for after the educational program. Lasts about an hour.

**To book a program call Outreach Education Supervisor,
Laura Craver-Rogers 207-592-0750**

*If you do not see a program that fits your curriculum please call and talk about options for your group. We will do our best to fit any standards or curriculum needs. The beauty of nature is that it is a part of everything.

**Also please inform staff at the time of booking if your group requires any special accommodations.