



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

284 State St., 41 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

www.mefishwildlife.com



January 2019

Dear Teacher:

Thousands of children, teachers, and chaperones have participated in exciting and enriching educational wildlife and conservation programs and guided tours at the **Maine Wildlife Park in Gray** and on **Swan Island in the Kennebec River in Richmond**. We need your business to keep these unique facilities available to you, so we truly hope to see you this coming Spring and Fall!

Remember, register your classes early!

FREE RESOURCES!! There are close to 2 dozen color activity sheets you can download from our website to use with your students before, during and after your trip to either the Wildlife Park or Swan Island. Find them at:

www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/teacher-students/index

FEES for school programs at **Maine Wildlife Park** and **Swan Island** are **\$5.00/pp**. Fees apply to students, teachers, chaperones, and others accompanying the class, and includes general admission to each facility. There are picnic areas and plenty to see and do before and after your scheduled program or tour -- **especially using the FREE downloadable activities available!!**

Maine Wildlife Park programs are held outdoors, under our open-sided pole barn classroom suitable for seating up to 100 children at picnic tables. These programs are held rain or shine, so dress for the weather! *Any child who is part of a group admission, who spends \$1 or more in the Nature Store, will receive 1 FREE PASS for a future park visit* The Snack Shack is full of affordable (many less than \$1) items. Revenues from both the Nature Store and the Snack Shack help support the park and its wildlife.

Sorry, all FREE admissions for MWP have been distributed

2019 Maine Wildlife Park Special Offer

In 2019 we are offering FREE ADMISSION to the first 300 children (LIMIT 50 per school) signed up for a wildlife education program at the wildlife park for Spring 2019 only. First come, first served!

Teachers, Parents, and Chaperones must pay the regular program group rate admission fee of \$5.00/pp.

Swan Island programs start with an open ferry ride across the Kennebec River, either continuing around the north end of the Island to the campground; or transferring to land for a 10 minute truck ride 1/4 of the way down the Island to the campground, depending on conditions that day. Programs are held inside the campground boathouse or outdoors, depending on the weather and/or the program. Dressing for the weather is essential. Island programs may be cancelled in the event of pouring rain, thunderstorms, or river flooding. We will make every effort to reschedule.

2019 Swan Island Special Offer

Thanks to another special grant from the Merrymeeting Bay Trust in Bath, ME, we are able to offer FREE ADMISSION to the first 600 children signed up for a wildlife education program at Swan Island for Spring or Fall 2019.

Teachers, Parents, and Chaperones must pay the regular program group rate admission fee of \$5.00/pp.

Ferry Transportation is included in this offer. First come, first served!

Swan Island TRUCK TOURS or CAMPING RESERVATIONS

If you'd like to explore Swan Island independently with your students, truck tours the length of the Island for up to a maximum of 40 total participants are available on Thursdays & Fridays for \$8.00/pp. Overnight Camping is also available.

For reservations call the Swan Island Reservation Line directly at 207-287-5322; Email: Swan.Island@Maine.gov;

or book online at: book.rvspots.com/SwanIslandWildlifeManagementArea

Please make every effort to be on time for all programs!! We understand that bus schedules vary, but please build in time for slower buses, morning traffic, and finding your way to a new location. Better to make an early arrival with enough time to use the rest rooms, than get to the program late! It is your responsibility to determine travel time from your location to ours.

HOW TO REGISTER for a School Program

You may register for all wildlife education programs at both facilities by calling 207-287-5244.

Reservations by Email are not accepted.

We cannot hold any regular or free reservation! You should be ready to commit to a date when you call.

If you need to be invoiced, please request one at the time you make a reservation!

All reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

We are looking forward to seeing you and your students at the Maine Wildlife Park and/or Swan Island for exciting and informative wildlife and conservation education programming.



Sincerely,
Lisa J. Kane
MDIFW Education Coordinator



mainewildlifepark.com

maine.gov/swanisland

Wildlife Program Descriptions

Only the programs listed here will be offered during the 2019 School Program season.

Animals' Amazing Adaptations

Maine wildlife exhibit an amazing variety of physical characteristics that enable them to survive and do their jobs within their environment. Learn about Maine habitats, why moose and deer grow antlers, why birds have different shaped bills, why turtles have varied body shapes and appendages, how camouflage benefits those animals that exhibit it, and more! Compare and contrast entirely different 'jobs' some wildlife do while sharing the same habitats.

Birds and Their Special Adaptations

Using mounted specimens of songbirds, raptors and waterfowl, we'll identify the many different adaptations birds exhibit to blend into 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 to enhance certain habitats for 'birdlife', and wildlife in general. Then go test your newfound knowledge as you tour the park.

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!

Maine's Big Cats

Maine is home to Canada lynx and bobcats. Rarely seen in the wild, learn about the lifestyles of these 2 elusive species of cat. Although a verifiable photograph or video of a mountain lion has yet to be taken, hundreds of reports of cougars are recorded annually with the Department, and several tracks have been found that could be in the range of a small mountain lion or large bobcat. Wildlife biologists are continually on the lookout for these secretive felines, follow up solid reports in the field, and conduct track surveys each winter.

Maine's Black Bears

Using skulls, skins, mounts and samples of radio telemetry equipment, we'll help your students take a closer look at the natural history, current research and management of Maine's black bears. Does this state really have the most bears of any east of the Mississippi? Do bears really hibernate? Can they run 35-40 miles per hour? Do they have cubs only every other year? Are their favorite foods really nuts and berries? Are Maine's black bears the biggest in the country? Your students can then observe and photograph black bears climbing, swimming and interacting in their large exhibit here.

Maine's Busy Beavers

Beavers are the only animal that can create its own habitat, or place to live. They are abundant in Maine, and have an interesting life cycle. Using mounted specimens, skins, skulls and beaver 'chaw', we will explore the world of the beaver; identify its many physical adaptations, take a look at the animals' place in US and Maine history, and investigate the status of Maine beaver populations today.

Maine's Native Turtles

Using live and preserved turtle specimens, we'll talk about many of the 10 species of land, aquatic and marine turtles found in Maine. Learn about their natural history, the Maine habitats in which they are found, and some of the threats facing turtles (many are endangered or threatened). Students will be able to meet live wood and box turtles; and learn how they might be able to help turtles survive in Maine.

Maine's State Symbols

Did you know that Maine has a state animal, state flower, state insect, state fish, state cat and even a state soil? If you are working on a Maine Studies unit with your students, this program provides a variety of current and background information about the natural resource symbols used to represent Maine geographically to the rest of the country, and the world.

Meet a Live Bald Eagle

Two bald eaglets from 2 separate nests in the Sebago region fell or blew out of their nests during the wild and wet weather of spring 2005. Both suffered permanent injuries to their wings, making it impossible for them to be released back into the wild. These birds are now learning to be 'program birds' as a part of live presentations to groups. Come and learn about eagles in Maine, and at the end of the program, meet a now 14-year old eagle, mature with a white head and tail, as he continues his career greeting and meeting the public.

Owls and Owl Pellets

Learn about barred, great horned and saw whet owls, where to find them in Maine, some of their unique adaptations, the habitats in which they live, and their interesting production of owl pellets! Pellets are regurgitated fur/feathers and bone comprised of the birds' last meals. Each tableful of students will have the chance to dissect a dried pellet and look for the bones of the mouse the owl last ate! A great subject for studying anatomy and physiology.

Predators!

Why are we so fascinated by predators? Lynx, mink, wolf, mountain lion, loon, eagle, and more are all at the top of their food chains and integral parts of the ecology. What happens when predators are eliminated from a food chain? Can wildlife that has been 'extirpated' from an area be reintroduced? How do humans' attitudes towards predators influence their ability to survive within a region? Using a variety of mounted specimens, furs and skulls, learn about a variety of predators and their population status in Maine and the northeast.

Skins and Skulls

The coyote, red and gray fox, bobcat, lynx, fisher, marten, raccoon, skunk, short and long-tailed weasel, mink, otter, beaver, muskrat and opossum are all considered furbearers in the state of Maine. Learn about these animals' natural history, how to determine whether teeth indicate a carnivore, herbivore, or omnivore, to identify and study skulls and skins, about their population status and habitat requirements in the state. Become a wildlife detective at the end of the program when each table of students is given a mystery skull and skin to identify.

Wetland Metaphors

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.

Wolves and Mountain Lions

Both of these large predators have been extirpated, or eliminated from Maine. In fact, the last of each species was killed by the late 1800s in Maine. For the last several years, however, dozens of sightings have been reported here; but no verifiable photographs, videos or other evidence has confirmed it. Are they really here? Is there appropriate habitat for them? Could they survive as viable populations? Natural history, current attitudes and wildlife management options will be discussed.



2019 Maine Wildlife Park & Swan Island

Wildlife & Conservation Education Programs

Call 207-287-5244 to reserve dates and times

\$5.00/pp fee for all group programs



May 2019

	Swan Island	Maine Wildlife Park	Swan Island	Maine Wildlife Park		Summer Events @ Wildlife Park
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	3	4 Backyard Birds 11am - 2pm
5	6	7 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	8	9 Maine's Big Cats 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	10	11 Archery & Laser Shooting with Bryant Pond 4-H Shooting Sports 10am-2pm
12	13 Life & Death of a Small Maine Town 10-10:45 - 60 Students	14 Owls & Owl Pellets 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	15 Maine's State Symbols 10-10:45 - 60 Students	16 Maine's State Symbols 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	17	18 Maine Forest Service ----- Maine Nordman Day
19	20 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 60 Students	21 Bird's Special Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	22 Maine's Busy Beavers 10-10:45 - 60 Students	23 Predators! 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	24	25 Friends of the Wildlife Park Annual Plant Sale. Great deals on Annuals and Perennials, & Support the Park!
26 Annual Plant Sale continued all weekend!	27 HOLIDAY No Program	28 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	29 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 60 Students	30 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	31	

June 2019

	Swan Island	Maine Wildlife Park	Swan Island	Maine Wildlife Park		Summer Events @ Wildlife Park
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Natural Master Naturalists 11am - 2pm
2	3 Wetland Metaphors 10-10:45 - 25 Students 11-11:45 - 25 Students	4 Wolves & Mountain Lions 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	5 Wolves & Mountain Lions 10-10:45 - 60 Students	6 Maine's Native Turtles 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	7	8 Ancient Ones
9	10 Maine's Busy Beavers 10-10:45 - 60 Students	11 Meet A Live Bald Eagle 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	12 Maine's Black Bears 10-10:45 - 60 Students	13 Maine's Black Bears 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	14	15 TBA
16	17 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 60 Students	18 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	19 Life & Death of a Small Maine Town 10-10:45 - 60 Students	20 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	21	22 TBA
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Maine Wildlife Park School Programs

Route 26, Gray

Programs at the park are on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, rain or shine, in the open-sided pole barn classroom shelter. Please dress for the Weather!

Maine Wildlife Park Guided Tours

Guided tours are available Monday through Friday for groups of a minimum of 15 and up to 40 people. Please note that tour guide availability is limited and reservations are required at least 1 week in advance.

Please call 207-657-4977 ext. 0, to learn about reserving a tour. Leave a message if no one is in the office with the best time to reach you and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

mainewildlifepark.com

Swan Island School Programs

Richmond Landing, Kennebec River, Routes 197/24

Programs on the Island are on Mondays and Wednesdays. Buses must arrive with students ready to board the ferry to the Island by 9:30 a.m. Wildlife programs will begin promptly at 10:15 a.m. at the Boathouse.

From 11:15am to your departure time, classes can picnic and explore the Island on their own. Departure times must be prearranged. Bring lunches, snacks, & beverages to hold you over until you are back on the mainland.

Swan Island Truck Tours

PLEASE NOTE: The Island is open to you and your students for an Independent Field Trip or a guided Truck Tour on Thursdays and Fridays! To make a reservation for a truck tour contact the Island directly at 207-547-5322 or email: Swan.Island@maine.gov.

maine.gov/swanisland



2019 Maine Wildlife Park & Swan Island

Wildlife & Conservation Education Programs

Call 207-287-5244 to reserve dates and times

\$5.00/pp fee for all group programs



September 2019

	Swan Island	Maine Wildlife Park	Swan Island	Maine Wildlife Park		Fall Events @ Wildlife Park
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 HOLIDAY No Program	3	4	5	6	7 Rick Charette Concert 11am - Noon
8	9 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 60 Students	10 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	11 Life & Death of a Small Maine Town 10-10:45 - 60 Students	12 Owls & Owl Pellets 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	13	14
15	16 Life & Death of a Small Maine Town 10-10:45 - 60 Students	17 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	18 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 60 Students	19 Maine's Native Turtles 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	20	21
22	23 Maine's Busy Beavers 10-10:45 - 60 Students	24 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	25 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 60 Students	26 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	27	28 National Hunting & Fishing Day Taxidermy Demo
29 Annual Plant Sale continued all weekend!	30 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 60 Students					

October 2019

	Swan Island	Maine Wildlife Park	Swan Island	Maine Wildlife Park		Fall Events @ Wildlife Park
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	2 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 60 Students	3 Maine's Native Turtles 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	4	5
6	7 Life & Death of a Small Maine Town 10-10:45 - 60 Students	8 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	9 Maine's Busy Beavers 10-10:45 - 60 Students	10 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	11	12
13	14 HOLIDAY No Program	15 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	16 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 60 Students	17 Owls & Owl Pellets 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	18	19
20	21 Life & Death of a Small Maine Town 10-10:45 - 60 Students	22 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	23 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 60 Students	24 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	25	26 Fall Fest
27 Fall Fest	28	29 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students	30	31 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 Students 11-11:45 - 75 Students		

A NATURE STORE SPECIAL OFFER!!

The wildlife park nature store has a variety of items for less than \$1. Any child who is part of a group admission, who spends \$1 or more in the Nature Store, will receive 1 FREE PASS for a future park visit

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have any extra time? The Maine Wildlife Park is always looking for interested volunteers to lead weekday morning tours for school children. If you are interested, please call the park directly at 207-657-4977 x 0 to learn about the next training sessions we will be offering. Retired Teachers are especially welcomed!!

BE ON TIME!!!

Please make every effort to be on time for all programs and tours! We understand that bus schedules vary, but please build in enough time for slower buses, morning traffic, and finding your way to a new location. Better an early arrival, with enough time to use the restrooms, than a late one!!!

PLEASE COUNT YOUR MONEY AND YOUR KIDS!!

Please know the total number of people in your group (teachers, parents, kids, etc.) and have the fees counted out prior to your arrival. Counting bags of change on the Island dock or at the Park admissions gate only DELAYS YOUR PROGRAM, and holds up others who are waiting to enter.