



# Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center



**EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS**



# SCHOOL PROGRAMS WITH THE NATURE CENTER

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center offers year-round opportunities for students of all ages to connect to nature. Our facility introduces the habitats and wildlife of southern New England through natural history exhibits and interactive displays with live birds of prey, reptiles and amphibians. Woodlands, wetlands and meadows surrounding us serve as living outdoor classrooms for hands-on exploration and discovery. Our Coogan Farm location introduces students to transitional habitats and sustainable food production as well as to the cultural history of the land.

Whether you come to one of our locations in Mystic or we travel to your school, our engaging educators will help expand your understanding and appreciation of the natural world. We foster scientific capability using innovative teaching tools and techniques. In our classrooms, on your campus, in the field or online, students will learn through the use of live animals, mounted specimens, monitoring equipment and many natural objects. All programs include specific academic activities that meet the Next Generation Science Standards.



DPNC EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT





## PROGRAMMING CHOICES

The following programs can be conducted in person, online or on a field trip. All programs are custom designed to meet your classroom needs and grade level.

## BIOLOGY & ANIMALS

### ANIMALS! ANIMALS!

Meet a variety of live animals and discover the similarities and differences between them. Are they covered in feathers or fur? How do they move? Where do they live? What do they eat? Answer these questions as you explore the wild animal kingdom.

### ADAPTATIONS

Plants and animals have varied structural and behavioral adaptations that help them to survive. Through natural objects, activities and live animals, learn how these unique adaptations help wildlife survive in their habitats.

### ALIVE OR NOT?

Categorize different objects as living or non-living. Learn about the characteristics that distinguish living things from non-living things by interacting with animal ambassadors, plants and other objects.





## ANIMAL SENSES

Investigate the keen senses of a wide array of different animals. Meet live snakes, turtles, frogs and owls and investigate how they use their senses to survive in the wild.

## BEAVERS

As master engineers, beavers have incredible physical and behavioral adaptations. Learn how these adaptations allow beavers to alter and engineer habitats for their survival. Also, create your own beaver dam to test.

## BEAKS, FEET & FEATHERS

Meet a live bird and learn more about their amazing avian adaptations. On field trips students will use binoculars to observe birds in the wild and practice field identifications along Nature Center trails.

## CREEPERS & LEAPERS

Live frogs, toads, turtles and snakes provide a hands-on introduction to the varied and interesting adaptations and life cycles of our native amphibians and reptiles.

## INSPECT AN INSECT

Learn about different families of insects, their amazing adaptations and rapid life cycles. In the field, students use nets to collect live specimens for identification and study.





## LIVING LIFE CYCLES

Explore and compare the life cycles of a variety of animals, including frogs, turtles, butterflies and dragonflies.

## OWL PROWL

Get up close and personal with a live owl! Learn about the unique adaptations raptors need for their nocturnal activities. In addition, we'll dissect an owl pellet, revealing details about their diet and the habitat in which they live.

## THROUGH THE SEASONS

Animals and plants adapt to seasonal changes. Depending on the season of your program, learn how animals prepare for hibernation, how plants sprout or how animals migrate.

# BIOLOGY & PLANTS

## TREES

Trees are the backbone of Connecticut's forested landscape. Learn about tree adaptations, incredible

diversity and the essential roles the trees play in the ecosystem and natural world.

## SENSATIONAL SEEDS

Seeds come in all shapes and sizes. We'll examine the parts of seeds through dissection, the important role they play in the food web and even engineer your own seed dispersal mechanism.

## FLOWER POWER AND POLLINATION

Flowers come in an incredible array of shapes, sizes and colors. Students will dissect a flower and learn the role pollination plays in plant reproduction.

## PLANTS

Flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees are essential to a healthy ecosystem. Learn plant parts, discover what they provide to animals and learn how their life cycles work. The program includes flower and seed dissection.



# EARTH SCIENCE, ECOSYSTEMS & ENGINEERING

## HABITATS

Learn the five essential things that all habitats must have. Discover the plants, animals and geology that make up the diverse habitats of Connecticut.

## ECOSYSTEMS

Ecosystems include live plants and animals as well as non-living components such as soil, air and water. Take a closer look at some of the ecosystems of Connecticut, their food webs and how those ecosystems change over time.

## LONG ISLAND SOUND STUDY

**In-class:** Learn about the creatures that inhabit Long Island Sound and why estuaries are some of the most ecologically productive places on planet Earth.

**Field-study:** Spend time with us on the shoreline of Connecticut at Bluff Point, Barn Island or another Long Island Sound or Fishers Island Sound location using seine and dip nets to capture and study a wide array of fish and invertebrates.

## POND LIFE

Meet live pond animals and observe the different specimens from our on-site pond in Mystic or your campus pond. Use nets to go “pond dipping” and discover who lives there.





## WATERSHEDS

Learn to identify local watersheds, and use our Enviroscape model to observe how pollutants can travel through the watershed. Students will also learn simple tips to take home and help protect watersheds.

## SOILS

Investigate the properties of different soil types by looking at their particles and how much water they can absorb or hold. Learn about the important role soil has for plants, animals and us.

## NATURE ENGINEERING

Learn how nature has influenced design and, using simple materials, students will build and test designs that are inspired by the environment.

## CREATE YOUR OWN PROGRAM

Are you looking for something not listed above? The Nature Center is flexible with our school programming and can design a program to suit your specific needs. Programs can include gardening, tracking, orienteering, endangered species, bats, wildflowers, mammals, and many other natural science topics.





## FREQUENT QUESTIONS

### CAN WE EAT LUNCH AT DPNC?

You are welcome to eat lunch outside at the picnic tables. All trash must be brought back to school with you. We have no food for sale.

### WHAT SHOULD WE WEAR?

Students, teachers and chaperones need to be dressed to be outside, including the appropriate outerwear for the season and weather. Students and teachers should be prepared to get dirt or mud on their clothes. Closed toed shoes are required, no flip flops or crocs.

### WHAT IF IT RAINS?

We run programs rain or shine. We do not reserve rain dates for programs, you are welcome to call and if possible we will reschedule you to a future date.

### WHAT IS THE CHARGE FOR CHAPERONES?

DPNC permits one free chaperone for every five children. Chaperones include teachers, assistants and parents. One on one aides for students with special needs are not included in that total. Any additional siblings who attend with parents are charged at the student rate.

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FIELD TRIP AT DPNC VERSUS COOGAN FARM?

Most field trip topics can be held at either of our locations and both offer unique opportunities for the students. Main highlights for each include time in our museum and a visit to our birds of prey at DPNC and a visit to our Giving Garden and to the Stillman Foundation at Coogan Farm.

## PROGRAM PRICING

For more information on school programming or to book a program, please contact Kim Hargrave Education Director.

**BY PHONE:** 860-572-6800

**BY EMAIL:** [khargrave@dpnc.org](mailto:khargrave@dpnc.org)

### ONLINE PROGRAMS

Online program via Zoom, Google Meets or a platform of your choice. 45-minute program is \$125.

### IN-SCHOOL & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

\$150 per program

Programs are one hour in length and are designed for groups of 30 or less. Please contact our Education Department directly for information on larger group formats. Discounts are available for multiple programs delivered on the same day. Travel fees may apply depending on program location.

### FIELD TRIPS

DPNC, Coogan Farm or a natural area of your choice. All on site field trips to DPNC include museum admission.

Two-hour program	\$10 per child
Four-hour program	\$15 per child
Minimum program fee	\$150 per program

Please contact the DPNC Education Department if your school needs assistance with program fees.



*Our mission is to inspire an  
understanding of the natural world  
and ourselves as part of it—  
past, present and future.*

## **TWO GREAT LOCATIONS, ONE GREAT PLACE**

**Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center  
Main Campus**

109 Pequotsepos Road, Mystic, CT

*Natural history exhibits, live animals, trails,  
indoor/outdoor classrooms and Nature Preschool*

**Coogan Farm Nature & Heritage Center**

162 Greenmanville Avenue, Mystic, CT

*Classrooms, afterschool care,  
trails and Giving Garden*



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Nature Center**

**[www.dpnc.org](http://www.dpnc.org) 860-536-1216**