



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Menu of Classes

Join the Boothbay Region Land Trust in the exploring the great classroom that is right outside the door! Environmental Educator Tracey Hall offers the following programs for free to students of the Boothbay Region. Classes take place on local preserves or on school grounds and are adaptable to age and interest.

Grade Level Key:

Primary (K-2)

Intermediate (3-6)

Junior (7-8)

Senior (9-12)

ANIMALS:

Concepts examined in the following categories include adaptation, diversity, predator/prey relationships, population dynamics, and food chains/webs.

AMAZING AMPHIBIANS (P, I, J) From their ability to freeze solid over the winter to the process of metamorphosis, amphibians are fascinating creatures. In this springtime class, we will grab some nets and head to the pond in search of frogs, toads, and salamanders.

BIRD BRAINS (P, I, J) Lets head out on a bird hike complete with binoculars and field guides. Learn about bird identification and behavior. Examine the amazing adaptations that help birds survive in a variety of habitats.

CREEPY CRAWLERS (P, I, J) Bugs and slugs and worms...oh my! We will use nets, shake sheets, and magnifying boxes to carefully collect and examine these creatures. After learning about the traits of insects, spiders, and crustaceans we will return them to their homes.

MAGNIFICANT MAMMALS (P, I, J) Why do skunks stink? How does a squirrel keep its balance? Through games and activities students will discover what makes a mammal a mammal. We'll go on a forest safari in search of scat, tracks, and animal homes.

PLANTS:

Concepts reviewed in the following programs include life cycle, structure, growth, development, diversity, photosynthesis, adaptations, and ecological/cultural importance.

MEET A TREE (P, I) Learn about the stages and parts of a tree through fun activities and games. Pick out your very own tree to adopt and fill out the paperwork to make it official.

SEED DISPERSAL (P, I) Whether by wind, water, or hitchhiking; seeds can really travel. We will hike with socks over our shoes through fields and forests, to see who we pick up while looking for other examples of seed dispersal.

PLANT INVENTORY RING TOSS (J, S) Students learn plant identification while investigating the role plants play within the ecosystem. Students toss hula hoops into the woods and fields, comparing and contrasting the plant populations found in each.

ECOLOGY:

In each of the following programs we will examine the relationships and interactions between the living and non-living components of each habitat.

WINTER ECOLOGY (P, I, J, S) Some stay, some leave, and some go to sleep. In this class, we will look at the different ways Maine animals survive the snow while going for a winter hike.

TIDEPOOLING (P, I, J, S) A classic summertime activity that can be enjoyed year-round. Learn about the different tidal zones and the creatures that inhabit them.

SALTMARSH HIKE (I, J, S) Investigate the mudflats; home to fascinating creatures that have evolved to survive the harsh conditions that come with the tides.

PLOT STUDIES (I, J, S) Compare a field to a forest or a stream to a pond in this in-depth investigation of a square foot of land or water. Using collection kits, we will look at the biotic and abiotic components of each ecosystem.

ROTTING LOG (P, I, J) Fungus, Bacteria, and Invertebrates are working night and day, turning dead material back into soil. In this adventure, we will pull apart some rotting logs to see decomposition in action.

SENSORY:

USING OUR SENSES (P, I) Students are encouraged to use their senses to develop a greater understanding and appreciation for their natural surroundings. In this popular program, we will look at how animals use their senses for survival and compare them to our own.

FOREST BATHING (P, I, J, S) Experience the magic of moving slowly and mindfully through the forest. A certified forest therapy guide offers invitations that promote awareness and connection to nature while allowing time for reflection.

HISTORY:

ISLAND LIFE (I, J) BRLT protects several islands with rich histories from Native American settlements to the home of fisherman who fed the pilgrims. Join us for a history hike- we would be happy to help organize boat transportation to one of these special places.

For More Information and to Register Contact:

Tracey Hall, Environmental Educator
thall@bbrlt.org
(207)633-4818