



**COUNTY OF BERGEN
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS**

James A. McFaul Environmental Center
150 Crescent Avenue, Wyckoff, NJ (201) 891-5571
www.co.bergen.nj.us/bcparks

NATURE PROGRAMS

Below is a description of programs offered to groups visiting Bergen County's **James A. McFaul Environmental Center**. Group programs are offered on weekdays only, excluding legal holidays. Programs may be scheduled **only** Monday-Friday. **Please download reservation forms from our website above.**



1. **CRITTER CORNER**– Join us for a visit with some of New Jersey's native wildlife. This is an indoor hands-on experience with live animals. Allow 3/4 to 1 hour. (Age 4-Adult)

2. **SENSING NATURE**- Discover the natural world through creative activities that sharpen your senses. Emphasis will be on the textures, colors, sounds and smells of the natural world in this 3/4– 1 hour outdoor walk. (Age 4-Adult)

3. **ECOLOGY FOR ALL**- What are the basic requirements of all living things? Where does our food come from? Learn about the important relationships between plants, animals and the environment. Program includes indoor and outdoor activities. Allow 1 hour. (Grades 1-3)

4. **NATURES NEIGHBORHOOD**- Take a guided walk and look for signs of animals. Discover where animals live and explore their habitats– ponds, forest or field. Approx. 1 hour (Grade 1-Adult)

5. **DINOMITE DINOS**- Explore the world of dinosaurs and the mystery of their extinction. Handle fossils as naturalists share tales and information during this activity– filled program. Approx. 1 hour (Grade 1– Adult)



6. **BUSY BEES**– Discover the fascinating world of honeybees and their kin. See the unique life inside the Environmental Center's observation beehive! This is an indoor program. Approx. 1 hour (Grade 1– Adult)

7. **GROUPING NATURE**– How do we know an owl is a bird and a mouse is a mammal? This program emphasizes the grouping of animals based on scientific characteristics. Students will take part in a game of sorting animal cards into various categories. Approx. 1 hour (Grade 2-Adult)

8. **WATER WORLD**- After a short introductory presentation on plants and animals of wetlands, your group will explore the pond habitat using dip nets and field guides. See how turtles, fish, waterfowl, aquatic insects and other invertebrates have adapted to this watery home. Approx.1 hour (Grade 2– Adult) *Mid-April through mid-October.*



9. **FEATHERED FRIENDS**– Learn the characteristics, which all birds have in common. Learn about the life history of birds, handle artifacts, and meet some New Jersey birds in this informative program about our feathered friends. Approx. 1 hour (Grade 2-Adult)

10. **PLANT POWER**– Geared to your group's interests and abilities, this program is about the amazing world of plants. Discussion and an outdoor plant walk will provide an introduction to the fascinating role of plants and their importance to people. Approx. 1 hour (Grade 2-Adult)

11. **MAMMAL MANIA**– This program involves live animals (if available), slides and preserved specimens to describe the characteristics and adaptations of mammals. Approx. 1 hour (Grade 2-Adult)

12. **LIVES OF THE LENAPE**– The ways of the Lenape Indians come to life as you handle artifacts and natural materials, which they used to survive. Program includes history, legends, slides, and artifacts. Approx.1 hour. (Grade 3-Adult)

13. **BUGGY BUSINESS**- Discover the fascinating world of insects in the classroom and outdoors. A slide presentation and collection of live specimens from our field make this a unique experience. Approx.1 hour (Grade 4-Adult) *Mid-April through mid-October.*

14. **WILDLY RARE**– This popular program informs students about current issues pertaining to endangered wildlife, including New Jersey’s own troubled species. Artifacts will be presented in this informative program. Allow 1 hour. (Grade 4-Adult)



15. **TREKKING THE TRAILS**– This indoor/outdoor program stresses the skills and equipment needed to safely hike in the wilderness. Use of a compass will be explained. Be prepared for a hike in a woodland area. Approx. 1 hour (Grade 3-Adult)

16. **MAPLE SUGARING**– *Now held at the Center in Wyckoff-Seasonal Activity*– Get involved in the art of Maple Sugaring. Activities include tree tapping, sap collecting, boiling and wood chopping techniques. Taste real maple syrup!! Approx 3/4 hour (Grade Pre-K-6) *Mid-February to mid-March.*

17. **APPLE CIDERING**– *Seasonal Activity*– Watch the historical process of cider making in action. Staff Naturalists will demonstrate apple picking, grinding and pressing in this exciting program. Taste some apple cider!! Approx. 1/2-3/4 hour (Grade 1-Adult) *October*

*******NATURE WALK**– This is *not* a guided tour. There are graphics located along the trail. Please feel free to go on this 2/3 of a mile self-guided tour!!



Kathleen A. Donovan
County Executive



Board of Chosen Freeholders

John Driscoll, Jr., Chairman • Maura DeNicola, Vice Chairwoman • John D. Mitchell, Chair Pro Tempore •
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Ron Kistner
Acting Director of Parks

—**ATTENTION**—

Programs are designed for active participation under varied weather conditions.
Please dress appropriately! Proper footwear and long pants are recommended.
In case of inclement weather please call the center.
Programs need not be canceled. We reserve the right to make program substitutions.
Program lengths may be shortened upon request or as a result of small groups.
Please specify any special considerations on the reservation form.