Coastal Center at Milford Point
Science in Nature
60 - 90 Minute Education Programs

Program Information

Location
Programs can be held at your school or the Coastal Center at Milford Point
Coastal Center at Milford Point
1 Milford Point Road
Milford, CT 06460

Each program is aligned with state science, math and literacy content standards. The program integrates the Three Dimensions of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Program fees
At the Center:
60 minutes: $155/classroom
90 minutes: $235/classroom
Maximum 25 students per class

At your site:
One program: $155/classroom plus travel fee
Maximum 25 students per class

Two or more programs: $145/classroom plus travel fee
Maximum 25 students per class
Programs must be on the same day with the same educator.

Program content questions:
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Scheduling:
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LIFE BETWEEN THE TIDES: It’s as hands-on as it gets exploring the diversity of marine life in the intertidal zone. Search for snails, crabs, seaweeds, and more. Learn how the unique adaptations of these organisms help them survive and interact in this challenging and ever-changing habitat! Program offered May through October at the Coastal Center only.

NGSS: 2-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1 | NGSS Practices: PCOI, EOCI

FEATHERS, FUR, & SCALES (Animal Adaptations): Students will compare characteristics of each different animal group and discover how different animals use their body parts to move from place to place, find food, water, and shelter. Students will look at similarities of each animal’s characteristics with an up-close encounter.

Program includes live animals and props.

NGSS: K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1, 4-LS1-1 | NGSS Practices: PCOI, EOCI

THE DIRT ON SOIL: Leave the mess to us as your students enjoy a hands-on approach to learning about the ground beneath their feet! We’ll use science tools to separate soil into its various parts and classify soil samples based on color, size, texture, and ability to retain water.

NGSS: 4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS2-1 | NGSS Practices: CEDS, PCOI

FEATHERED FRIENDS: Get your feathers ruffled as we uncover the unique characteristics of birds. Discover the features that help birds survive in different habitats. Through the examination of birds mounts, feathers, nests, and other props your students will explore a variety of bird adaptations. Programs at the Coastal Center may include observing birds.

NGSS DCA: LS1.A | NGSS Practices PCOI, EOCI

IT’S A WATERY WORLD: Follow the journey of water through the water cycle without getting wet! Students journey through the water cycle activity to understand the importance of water in our ecosystems; develop an understanding of how human actions impact water resources through the use of watershed models; and discuss ways they can be responsible citizens of our watery world.

NGSS: 5-ESS2-1 | NGSS Practices: PCOI, EOCI

EXPLORING THE SEASONAL SEASHORE: Take a walk on the wild side as we explore the plants and animals that live along the shore. Each season offers up different possibilities. Discover the strategies organisms have for surviving the conditions of the current season.

NGSS: K-ESS2-1, K-ESS2-2 | NGSS Practices: PCOI, EOCI

MYSTERY MINERALS: Can you unearth the identity of our 5 mystery samples? Is it rock or a mineral? Using observable properties, such as color and luster, and performing simple tests, such as streak and hardness, students will determine the identity of the rock or mineral sample. Participate in discussion of rock formation and possible uses of the mystery samples.

NGSS: 4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS2-1 | NGSS Practices: CEDS, PCOI

LIFE CYCLES: Explore plants and animals and their fascinating life cycles. Students will search for organisms in the salt marsh, upland, dunes and beach to examine them up close and learn the life cycles of each organism they discover.

NGSS: 1-LS1-1, 1-LS3-1, 3-LS1-1 | NGSS Practices: PCOI, EOCI

PARTS OF PLANTS: Observe, compare, and contrast the life cycle of a plant while learning that all plants depend on water and light to grow. Students will learn about various plant parts and how those parts help them survive. Through dissection and observation students will examine seeds then plants seeds to take back to school so they can carry out an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight.

NGSS: 1-LS1-1 | NGSS Practices: PCOI, EOCI

SEEDS GET AROUND: Students will explore a variety of habitats at the sanctuary. They will investigate how plants and animals aid in the movements of seeds. Students will then develop their own ideas for a seed model which will attract an animal to assist in its own dispersal or pollination.

NGSS: 2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2 | NGSS Practices: PCOI, EOCI, DM

2018-2019
Coastal Center at Milford Point
Science in Nature
Full Day (4 hour) and Half-Day (2 hour) Education Programs

ADAPTATIONS AND FOOD WEBS: Students explore the Coastal Center habitats to observe, identify and analyze plant and animal adaptations to the local geology, weather, and climate in the beach and intertidal ecosystems.

NGSS: 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 4-ESS2-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-LS1-1
NGSS Practices: DM, PCOI, CEDS, EAFE, OEIC

WETLAND ECOLOGY: Students learn about the importance of wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide. They will conduct a comparative investigation of the salt marsh, beach, and intertidal ecosystems of Long Island Sound at the Coastal Center.

NGSS: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-4, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1, 4-ESS2-1
NGSS Practices: DM, PCOI, CEDS, EAFE, OEIC

BIRD ECOLOGY: Students will learn that a habitat provides food, water, shelter and space for birds and other animals; these are necessary needs for survival and reproduction. During Bird Ecology, students will identify the basic features, traits and behaviors of birds that help them survive in various habitats.

NGSS: 3-LS2-1, 4-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1
NGSS Practices: DM, PCOI, CEDS, EAFE, OEIC

WEATHER AND CLIMATE: Students learn about connections between earth’s behavior in the solar system, our climate, and weather patterns. They have the opportunity to delve into the difference between climate and weather and study how animals and plants are adapted to our local climate. Students will also investigate how human behavior impacts climate and how that in turn impacts ecosystems and people.

NGSS: 3-ESS2-1, 5-ESS1-2, 5-ESS2-1
NGSS Practices: AID, DM, OEIC, PCOI, CEDS

SCRATCHING THE SURFACE OF GEOLOGY, SOIL & EROSION: Students investigate the rock cycle, soils, geologic processes and their influence on the organisms that live within them. Students learn how natural processes—such as weathering, decomposition, and erosion have produced our local soils. Students will observe how soils are altered through natural and human processes and the impact on plant and animal ecosystems. Through hands-on experimentation, students will investigate how the processes of weathering and erosion change the shape of the earth over time.

NGSS: 2-ESS2-1, 4-ESS2-1
NGSS Practices: AID, DM, PCOI, CEDS

Science and Engineering Practices
Asking Questions and Defining Problems: AQDP
Developing and using Models: DM
Planning and Carrying Out Investigations: PCOI
Analyzing and Interpreting Data: AID
Using Mathematics and Computational: UMC
Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions: CEDS
Engaging in Argument from Evidence: EAFE

“A wonderful local resource. Students should learn about the ecosystem in which they are fortunate to live because it is relevant and authentic for them.”
Pumpkin Delight School Milford.

“This program was a great experience from beginning planning to final activities.”
Benjamin Jepson School

2018-2019