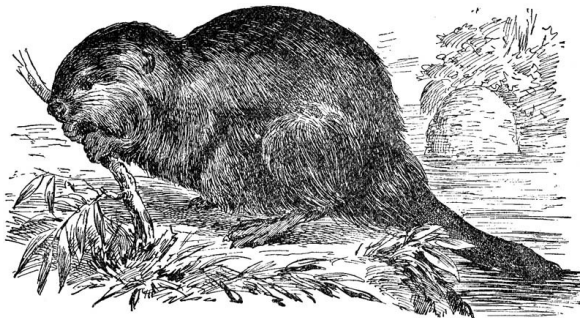


## Inquiry-Based Learning

Guided School Program lessons provide hands-on scientific experiences for students to actively engage in. This discovery process begins with a given question based on the lesson's objectives. Students discuss this question and then hypothesize an outcome before heading off to observe various habitats and collect data in the form of plant and animal signs or actual specimens. Concepts including adaptation, life cycle and seasonal changes are discussed before students analyze their data and compare it to their hypothesis. Finally, students create and share conclusions and are prompted to stretch their thinking to human impact and their role in protecting the environment.

## Unique Student Needs

We welcome all students. Unique student needs, including mobility impairments, food allergies, ELL, etc., can usually be accommodated. Please let us know in advance how we may serve your group.



## NYS Learning Standards

Guided School Program lessons help students understand the Disciplinary Core Ideas of the New York State Science Learning Standards, particularly across the following strands:

- Life Science
- Earth Space Science
- Engineering, Technology and the Application of Science

These hands-on, inquiry-based lessons are designed to explore Crosscutting Concepts while introducing students to Science and Engineering Practices.

## And That's Not All...

Five Rivers' Center facilities include a changing exhibit area, interpreted nature trails, restrooms, and picnic area.

Friends of Five Rivers' Guided School Program lessons are sponsored by the Friends of Five Rivers, a not-for-profit



## Friends of Five Rivers

Five Rivers Environmental  
Education Center  
56 Game Farm Road  
Delmar, NY 12054

Visit us at:

[www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org](http://www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org)  
to learn more and to request a  
lesson and access  
"Connect Kids"  
Reimbursement Grant Program

**Nancy Conway**

Director of Educational Programming

Email: [gsp5rivers@outlook.com](mailto:gsp5rivers@outlook.com)

Phone: 518-475-0297

**Welcome  
to the  
Outdoor  
Classroom  
at  
Five Rivers**



# Guided School Program Lessons

## SPRING & FALL

### Exploring the Outdoors

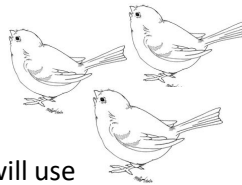
Pre-K- Grade 1 (90 min)

An introduction to science that encourages students to use their five senses to make their own discoveries as they explore wild habitats. Hands-on activities help the students enjoy exploring the outdoors.

### Birds, Birds, Birds

Pre-K - 1<sup>st</sup> (90 min)  
Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> (2 hours)

This introduction to local birds explores how birds are adapted for their habitats. Students will use their observation skills to investigate habitats for bird activity, calls/songs, and survival essentials, such as food and shelter. Hands-on investigation of feathers, beaks, feet and nests create a better understanding of how birds are adapted for survival in their habitat.



### Insects

Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> (2 hours)

Tools including hand lenses and nets are used to study these small but fascinating creatures. Students learn basic classification skills, discuss insect life cycles, and investigate the importance of insects in the food web.

### Animal Signs

Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> (2 hours)

An introduction to New York wildlife and its habitats. Students search for clues such as tracks, holes, and nests to learn about animals; needs and interrelationships. Seasonal changes in wildlife behavior are also explored.

### Stream Life

Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> (2 hours)

Discover the stream habitat from its currents to its wildlife. Students wade in the stream to collect aquatic organisms, which they observe and identify, and then draw conclusions about the health of the stream and its impact on the wildlife.

### World of the Pond

Grades 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> (2 hours)

Investigate interrelationships within pond/wetland ecosystems. Students collect, observe and identify aquatic organisms, noting adaptations to the pond habitat. Discussion also includes human interactions with the pond community.



## WINTER & MARCH

### Here Comes Winter

Pre-K - 2<sup>nd</sup> (90 min)

Students share ideas on animal preparations for winter using fur and feathers and themselves. Next, they'll follow animal tracks on a make-believe snowfield before heading outside to find the real thing!

### Winter Challenges & Snowshoeing

Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> (2 hours)

The lesson begins with an indoor discussion of animal habitats and winter survival adaptations. Outdoors, the students search for animal signs and tracks. When weather permits, students wear snowshoes and learn basic snowshoeing techniques.

### Marvelous Maples - March Only\*

Pre-K - 2<sup>nd</sup> (50 min)

Students use all five senses to investigate sap dripping from trees, smell sap boiling in an evaporator, and taste the sweet result!

### Advanced Maples

Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> (2 hours)

Students investigate roots, leaves and sap before playing Grow A Tree to construct a better understanding of photosynthesis. Outside in the woodlot, students taste sap flowing from a maple tree before heading to the Sugar Shack to link sap to syrup via the process of evaporation and, yes, a final taste.

## Lesson Information

Recommended group size: 12 students per Five Rivers' instructor (maximum 15).

A **maximum of 60 students** (4 groups) can be scheduled at a time. **No exceptions.**

Two adult chaperones/group are required.

All visitors must wear name tags.

Arrive for check-in 15 minutes prior to lesson start time.

## Fee Schedule

Program fees are as follows.\*

1 instructor (up to 15 students)	\$ 95
2 instructors (up to 16-30 students)	\$ 190
3 instructors (up to 31-45 students)	\$ 285
4 instructors (up to 46-60 students)	\$ 380

\* Marvelous Maples fees is \$2/student

## Reservations

For further information on lessons, reservations, fees and/or grant reimbursements, visit the Friends website at [www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org](http://www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org)  
Go to: School Program's, Reservations tab, then complete and submit requests online.