

# Nicandri Nature Center

## 2026 Spring/Summer Program Guide

Field trips generally include a program, a guided trail walk, and time to explore the exhibits. Classes are welcome to have lunch on-site.

### Sample Schedule

9:15-9:30 - Arrival & Bathrooms

9:30 - 10:15 - Group 1: Program

Group 2: Walk

Group 3: Exhibits

10:15 - 11:00 - Group 1: Walk

Group 2: Exhibits

Group 3: Program

11:00 - 11:45 - Lunch & free time with games

11:45 - 12:15 - Group 1: Exhibits

Group 2: Program

Group 3: Walk

12:15-12:30 - Bathrooms & Departure

*The Nicandri Nature Center is open Wednesday-Sunday from 9am-5pm Labor Day until Memorial Day and seven days a week Memorial Day to Labor Day.*

*All programs at the Nicandri Nature Center can be adjusted to fit any grade.  
Programs are sorted into suggested ages.*



# Grades PK-3

## Spring Peepers

Students will explore how plants and animals get ready for spring growth. Includes activities and discussion of adaptations such as why skunk cabbage and wood frogs are the earliest to wake up.

## Jurassic World

Travel back in time to the age of dinosaurs and learn about different species and reasons they may have become extinct. Program will include a slime volcano activity.

## Nature's Network

Explore food webs and chains in this program that goes over who eats what (and who) in forest. Includes games to help teach key points about relationships in nature.

# Grades 4-8

## CSI: Critter Scene Investigation

Students will use information about tracks, scat, and more to figure out what happened in a nature scene presented to them. "Who ate who?" and "what happened here?" are the questions of the day.

## Radio Telemetry

Using the same equipment that field biologists use, students will track a radio collared stuffed animal hidden in the woods. Along the way, they will discuss radio tracking, how it works, and what scientists have learned from it.

## What's Wrong In Our Pond?

Students will be provided with a water sample and tools to test it. Could fish live in their water? They'll tell us in this guided lesson and experiment. Tests may include pH, temperature, turbidity, nitrogen, and more.

## Navigation Know How

Two options:

*Map and Compass Course Or  
Geocaching*

Students will explore navigation basics and then go on a treasure hunt - applying their new skills in a fun way.

# Themed Walks

Teachers may select a theme for the nature walk portion of their field trip.

\*plants and trees

\*tracks and scat

\*succession

\*adaptations (plant and animal)

Interested in a theme to fit your school lessons? Check with us about how we can tailor a program for you.

## Trail Quest

Explore predator-prey relationships in our 'choose your own path' style walk. Students will answer questions, roll a die, and see where the adventure takes them.

# Suitable for Any Grade

## Who's Hoot?

Owls are amazing creatures!

Students investigate owl adaptations and how each has a special role to play in survival.

Program includes owl pellet dissection.

## Nature's Engineers

Beavers were the original dam builders. Students will create and test their own dam in a tabletop activity as they learn about how beavers - and humans - create dams that alter the landscape.

## Cold Blooded Is Cool

What does it mean to be an ectotherm?

Students will explore warm vs. cold blooded creatures with a hands on activity and a meet and greet with some of the nature center's ambassador reptiles and amphibians.

## Turtles of NY

Did you know several species of turtles call NY home? Learn about how each of the region's turtles are adapted to specific local environments with our turtle ambassadors.

## Incredible Insects

Discover the amazing world of invertebrates and their importance in the environment. Students will hunt for bugs in the field and then learn how to ID them using distinguishing characteristics, keys, and field guides.

## Seed Sprout Grow

Explore the life cycle of a plant, from seed to fruit. Play games and plant a seed to take home.

## Pond Scooping

Using nets, magnifiers, and other equipment, students experience the abundance of life inside a single pond. The lesson will focus on wetlands are important parts of our ecosystem.

# Important Information

Not seeing a program that will fit your lesson plan?

Please contact us to discuss options for a program that will meet your group's educational goals.

\*\*\*\*\*

High school/college programs available by request.

\*\*\*\*\*

A second program may be substituted in place of the nature walk.

\*\*\*\*\*

Schools may wish to combine a trip to the nature center with a trip to the Hawkins Point Visitor Center or the Eisenhower Lock Visitor Center. Contact us for more info on how to arrange a combined trip.