



Field Study Programs

DNS offers a wide variety of hands-on, interactive outdoor environmental education. Choose a Field Study program conducted at Ashland Nature Center, Coverdale Farm or Abbott's Mill Nature Center or an Outreach program conducted at your location. See page 15 for cost and reservation details.

PROGRAM CHOICES

F – Field Study (conducted at a DNS location)

O – Outreach (conducted at your location)



Bats of America

Learn about these often misunderstood mammals while examining mounted specimens, viewing slides, and participating in activities. Use a bat detector to listen for echolocation calls and visit a bat house. (F, O)

Birds of a Feather

Using taxidermy, feathers, nests and other resources, learn about the unique characteristics of birds. Then hike through meadows, marshes and forests to observe birds in their habitats. (F, O)

Butterfly Foray (June - September only)

Visit Ashland Nature Center's summer butterfly habitat house* and discover butterflies during all stages of their life cycle. Then, venture into nearby meadows and marshes with nets to learn techniques for capture, identification and release. (F)

(NOTE: For more information on the butterfly house, see page

Deep in the Forest

Life in a forest exists from just below the ground all the way to the crowns of trees. Discover the ecology of two forest types and learn how to identify common native trees. (F)

Eco-Hike

Explore three different ecosystems to determine what makes each unique and how the varied plant and animal life interacts. (F)

Geology

Everything on earth has a cycle—even the rocks! Discover how this slow change affects what's beneath your feet and above your head. Learn how to identify some basic rocks while using hammers and safety goggles to collect samples. (F)

Lenape Lifeways

Learn how Lenni Lenape depended on the natural world for their sources of food, clothing, shelter and tools. Hike to a replica wigwam and examine artifacts used by these true Delaware natives. (F, O)

Marsh Magic

While visiting Ashland's marshes, use your eyes and ears to find frogs, turtles, birds and insects. Learn why wetlands are so full of life and are important to humans and wildlife. (F)

Native Wild Animals

Enjoy a close encounter with some of Delaware's wild inhabitants. Learn about camouflage and other adaptations that protect them. Discover why many animals, once common to Delaware, are now threatened. NOTE: If the program is conducted at Ashland Nature Center, a habitat hike is included. (F, O)



New to Nature

This highly flexible program will introduce participants to the natural world. Float sticks down a stream, hear frogs in the marsh, splash through a mud puddle, come face-to-face with a butterfly...you never know what you might find during this hour of exploration and discovery! (F, O)

Pond Life

Find out exactly what defines a pond and discover its unique ecology and diversity of life. Collect and identify plants and animals found at Ashland's pond and experience its diversity of life. (F)

Scales & Skins

Meet live reptiles and amphibians while learning about their unique traits and discover what they have in common. NOTE: If the program is conducted at Ashland Nature Center, a habitat hike is included. (F, O)

Stream Life

Learn how to gauge the health of a stream by the kinds of creatures that live in it. As we collect samples from two different streams, identify the organisms and compare findings. (F)

Unhuggables

Spiders, bats, snakes and lizards—all animals that make many people shudder. Learn about the remarkable role these less popular animals play in the balance of nature and explore their wondrous adaptations. (F, O)

Weavers & Wings

Hike through Ashland's meadows, woods and marsh to capture and study up close a variety of fascinating native spiders and insects that share our world. Learn about their life cycles and importance in the food chain. (F)



NOTE: All programs conducted at Coverdale Farm

Summer Farm Life*

Take a summer-time journey through Coverdale Farm to discover the animals and plants that live and grow there. Have fun connecting with the farm life cycles through hands-on activities and discover the seasonal highlights of our idyllic farm. *Selected summer weeks only; call (302) 239-2334, ext. 110 for details.

Down On the Farm

Enjoy a sensory tour of the barns, pastures, gardens and cropland at Coverdale Farm. Get up close and personal with cows, pigs, chickens and sheep, and many varieties of vegetables and crop plants.

Young Farmers

Take a hands-on tour of Coverdale Farm to discover the basics of animal husbandry. Learn the specific breed names of our cows, pigs, chickens and sheep, and their daily care needs. Compare and contrast physical characteristics, digestive systems and breeding programs. Select one species as a "focus animal" for an in-depth study in livestock management. This program fulfills partial requirements for the Boy Scout Animal Science Merit Badge.

Green Acre Girls

Jump into the farm circle of life to discover how all living things are interconnected. From soil to vegetables; from livestock to compost; from beneficial insects to humans, map the circle through a hands-on adventure at Coverdale. Craft a farm-themed topiary to take home as a memory of your visit. This program fulfills all requirements for the Junior Girl Scout Plants and Animals Badge.

Gardening Girls

Go on a garden safari in Coverdale Farm's vegetable garden. Unearth the growing seasonal food plants, dig into composting basics, and learn all the hands-on steps essential to growing good food. Create a work of garden art and a seed sprouting experiment to take home as a memory of your visit. This program fulfills all requirements for the Brownie Girl Scout Plants Badge.

Farm Girls

Enjoy a hands-on tour of Coverdale Farm's barns and pastures while learning how to care for our cows, pigs, chickens, and sheep. Compare and contrast the physical features of each farm animal through a fun and interactive game. Chart your discoveries to remember a great time down on the farm. This program fulfills all requirements for the Brownie Girl Scout Animals Badge.



ABBOTT'S MILL

NATURE CENTER

Cultural and Natural History

Abbott's Mill Historic Grist Mill Tour

Step back in time with a guided visit through Abbott's Mill. The mill encompasses more than 200 years of Southern Delaware history. See the giant mill stones and roller mills. Visit the mill pond and stream and discover the ingenious mechanical systems that powered the mill through its unique history. Hear stories about life at the mill and try your hand at grinding corn to feed the birds. (F)

Animals in Winter

Who hibernates? Who stays awake? Who goes south where it is warm? Find out the answers to these questions with live specimens, taxidermy and a story. (F, O)

Animal Tracking and Behavior

Learn how to read the tracks and signs of Delaware's mammals. Track finding, identification, and interpretation are covered to provide a thorough overview of fundamental tracking skills. Behaviors and habitats of common mammals are explored to examine their relationship to the ecosystem. (F)

Around the Pond

Discover what makes the Abbott's Pond interesting and important. Learn to identify plants and animals that belong to the pond habitat. Seine and dip in the mud bottom of the pond to catch incredible aquatic creatures. (F)

Canoeing on Abbott's Pond

Learn to use the canoe and then take your new skills out on Abbott's Pond. While paddling along, learn about the ecology of the pond. (F)

Insect Safari

Use your senses to seek out and identify insect characteristics and compare their life cycles. Using nets, collect and observe insects found in meadows, forests and streams, and examine the insects you find to see how they are adapted to their environment. This program focuses on insect parts, function, and types of metamorphosis. (F, O)

Native Americans

Explore the culture of the early inhabitants of Delmarva. Follow a day in the life of the coastal plain Native Americans and discover how they lived in harmony with the world around them. (F, O)

Native Wild Animals

Inspect mounted and live wild animals that make their home in the Delmarva region, including the rarely seen gray fox and otter. Closely examine the habitats and characteristics of these mammals, noting similarities and differences. (F, O)

Owls of Delaware

Learn about four species of owls common to Delaware. Examine their adaptations and calls using mounted specimens and tape recordings. Optional: dissect owl pellets, \$1/person extra. (F, O)

Reptiles & Amphibians

With live specimens, examine the differences between reptiles and amphibians. Learn the significance of their unique adaptations and their differing life cycles. (F, O)



Skull Study

Handle and classify a variety of real skulls from native mammals, birds and reptiles. Examine teeth and other structures for clues to how animals survive. Use keys as a method of identification. (F, O)

Primitive Technology

Bark Baskets

Program Time: 3 hours (June-Sept)

Cost: \$15 per person

Make your own Native American-styled bark basket from a tulip tree. Tree identification, harvesting techniques, and construction methods are covered. Each participant takes home their own hand-made basket. (F)

Cordage and Crafts

Program Time: 3 hours (Mar-Nov only)

Cost: \$15 per person

Make a variety of Native American-styled items from natural materials including (varies with each season): rope, a sunhat, paint brushes, a fan, and children's toys from natural materials. Learn how to identify and harvest suitable plants with a conservation-minded approach. Each participant takes home a minimum of three different hand-made crafts from native materials. (F)

Porcupine Quill Necklaces

Program Time: 2 hours

Cost: \$10 per person

Make a Micmac-styled porcupine quill necklace. This beautiful necklace is constructed from artificial sinew, beads, buckskin, and black and white porcupine quills. Learn about the ecology of the Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*) and how to safely work with the barbed quills. (F, O)

Primitive Firemaking

Program Time: 3 hours

Cost: \$15 per person

Delve into the world of fire-by-friction and learn how to make a fire without matches. This program focuses on the hand drill and bow drill. Learn how to identify, harvest, and construct fire kits using a knife or primitive tools. Develop the proper technique to light your fire. Each participant takes home a bow and hand drill set. (F)



Survival Shelters and Dwellings

Program time: 3 hours

Cost: \$15 per person

Explore the essential survival skill of shelter-building. Participants will learn how to construct all-season shelters with tools and from all natural materials. Semi-permanent dwellings and plans will also be discussed. This program also includes a visit to Abbott's Mill Nature Center's Lenni Lenape-styled Longhouse replica. Participants will take home the knowledge to survive the elements in any season. (F)

