Environmental Education Program Fees 2007-2008

	1 Hour	1 ½ Hours	2 Hours
Windsor Schools @ NWP	$75	$85	$100
Non-Windsor Schools @ NWP	$85	$95	$100
Windsor Schools On site at School	$90	$100	$115
Non-Windsor Schools On site at School	$100	$110	$125
STARLAB	30 min. $45 1 hr $75	N/A	N/A
Fleece to Fiber	$100 2 classes $160	N/A	$120 2 Classes $200
Home School Groups @ NWP	$50	$60	$75
Scout Groups @ NWP	$50	$60	$75

To register for programs call Northwest Park and Nature Center @ 285-1886.

Northwest Park requests that fees be paid in advance by check.

With each listed program we have included the Connecticut State Department of Education Standards that will directly connect to the child's learning experience while they are taking part in the particular program. The standards in bold will be emphasized in the program. All other listed standards **may** be included. Please contact us if there is a CT state standard that you are interested in accomplishing at Northwest Park; we may be able to work with you on accomplishing your goals for your class or group!

Looking at Space
Grades 5-10: 1 hour
Program can travel to schools

Students will explore the world of astronomy through a variety of activities. A narrated slide show will highlight the technology that is the basis of astronomy. STARLAB will be utilized to show the motion of the Earth and the apparent motions of the planets and stars. In addition, the students will construct and use a spectroscope and a simple telescope to see how our sense of sight is enhanced with these tools. All Seasons

Content Standards from the Connecticut State Department of Education:

- 5.3 B22 and B23
- **5.4 B24 and B25**

Objectives:

- Students will learn to identify the tools and ideas that are the basis of astronomy.
- Students will learn how to identify major seasonal and circumpolar constellations.
- Students will understand the apparent motions of the planets and stars.
- Students will experience the benefits of using simple optical technologies to enhance ones vision.

Geology of Connecticut
Grades 5-12: 1.5 hours

Activities will highlight the materials and forces that have formed Connecticut, with an emphasis on the Hartford Basin. Topics covered include: the formation of the Connecticut landscape; the forces responsible for the landscape; the geologic timeline; and identification of the major rocks of Connecticut. A special field trip, off site, to a cross-section of a lava flow is available upon request. This part of the lesson is recommended for older groups. September-October, March-June

Content Standards from the Connecticut State Department of Education:

- **7.3 C18, C19, and C20**

Objectives:

- Students will learn to identify, classify, and map the major surface rocks of Connecticut, and will identify the tectonic forces responsible for Connecticut's terrain.
- Students will identify the different types of Connecticut rocks and how they were formed.
- Students will learn to recognize effects of the recent glaciations on the landscape.
- Students will explore a site exhibiting the Mesozoic Hartford formation. (optional)

STARLAB Planetarium
Grades K-4: Program times vary between 30-60 minutes, please specify your preference.

STARLAB is a portable planetarium consisting of an inflatable dome and projection system. The STARLAB unit can be set up in a gymnasium or any other room with a minimum 10' ceiling clearance and 23' X 23' square area. STARLAB can accommodate up to 30 elementary aged students or 20 adults. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. All Seasons

Content Standards from the Connecticut State Department of Education:

- We are able to work many CT State Department of Education Standards and/or goals into this program. Please call for more information.

Objectives:

- Students will learn how to identify major seasonal and circumpolar constellations.
- Students will learn how different cultures interpret the night sky through stories and legends.
- Students will learn about star distances, qualities, and positions.
- Students will explore our solar system and its motions.

Plants and Soils
Grades 2-3: 1.5 hours

Where does soil come from? Using special tools and techniques, students will answer this question. Students will compare different types of soils and will perform important tests to determine whether or not the soil is able to adequately support a variety of plants and animals. Students will also explore an example of a food pyramid. Also, they will take a Habitat Hunt, where they will discover which plants and animals prefer certain types of soil natural to an ecosystem. October, March-June.

Content Standards from the Connecticut State Department of Education:

- **2.3 A21 and A22**

Objectives:

- Students will learn the different properties of soils and how to identify them.
- Students will sort different soils by properties, such as particle size, color, and composition.
- Students will relate the properties of different soils to their capacity to retain water and support the growth of certain plants.
- Students will discover the diversity of plant life in two different habitats, where two different soils exist.

Vernal Pool Study
Grades 2-7: 2 hours

Students will discover why a vernal pool is so unique and who the organisms are that call it home. Students will hike out to a vernal pool to collect specimens. Using microscopes and macroscopes, identification keys, and teamwork, students will be able to identify their specimens. Dress appropriately for wet areas. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. Spring

Content Standards from the Connecticut State Department of Education:

- Due to the broad age range for this program, we are able to work many CT State Department of Education content standards and/or goals into this program. Please call for more information!

Objectives:

- Students will explore a unique wetland habitat: the vernal pool.
- Students will discover the species that depend on this habitat, and how they are adapted to its temporary nature.
- Students will investigate the physical and biological aspects of vernal pools.
- Students will handle, identify the species and sex amphibians that breed in the pools.
- Students will conduct and record measurements, relative abundance and direction of migration.

Water In Action
Grades 4-6: 1.5 hours

Students will focus on how water as a force changes the landscape and how the chemical health of a freshwater ecosystem determines what can survive within that environment. During this lesson, the students will explore how both physical and chemical changes influence life in a freshwater ecosystem in both positive and negative ways. October, March-June.

Content Standards from the Connecticut State Department of Education:

- **4.3 B12 and B13**
- **6.4 C10 and C11**

Objectives:

- Students will observe and record how water as a force changes the physical environment.
- Students will record how changing water temperatures can affect aquatic organisms.
- Students will accurately complete and record the results of water temperature, pH, and a dissolved oxygen test.
- Students will choose and discuss the aquatic organisms that could survive in the freshwater ecosystem based upon the results of the chemical tests.

Pond Study
Grades 2-4: 2 hours

Students will engage in an exciting, hands-on exploration of Northwest Park's ponds to discover the organisms that live there. Students will learn how living things in a pond interact with each other and with their environment. They will compare and contrast the pond with a bog. Dress appropriately for wet areas. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. March-June

Content Standards from the Connecticut State Department of Education:

- 3.2 B4

Objectives:

- Students will learn by exploration about the diverse community of plants and animals that live in ponds and bogs.
- Students will understand the interrelationships of organisms living in a pond.
- Students will compare and contrast pond, marsh, or stream environments.

Habitats N Homes
Grades 3-8: 1.5 hours

Through fun, hands-on activities, students will be able to recognize that people and wildlife have the same basic needs: food, water, shelter and a suitable living space. They will learn about native wildlife by the signs they leave behind, and the methods scientists use to gather this information. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. All Seasons

Content Standards from the Connecticut State Department of Education:

- **4.2 B10 and B11**
- 6.2 C5 and C6

Objectives:

- Students will learn how to identify local wildlife using, pelts, skulls, bones, scat, and other artifacts.
- Students will better understand the human role in maintaining/preserving habitats.
- Through explorations of different habitats, students will consider the connection and interrelationships between species and other habitats.

Solar Energy
Grades 3-5: 1 hour

Capture the sun's rays and turn it into usable energy. Students will work in small groups to design and construct a solar oven using ordinary materials. Students will compare air temperature inside their solar oven, to the temperature of the environment. All equipment will be provided including the ingredients for "Solar S'Mores." This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. All Seasons

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:

- 5.1 B19

Objectives:

- Students will work in teams to design and construct a solar oven and will make predictions about how their solar oven will work.
- Students will convert natural energy into useful energy.

All programs can be presented for home schools, scout groups, club meetings, civic groups or corporate events.

Cycle of Life
Grades 2-4: 1.5 hours

Students will understand the importance of the sun, soil, air, and water and explain why these elements are the raw materials of which life depends. Students will explore forest habitats to find signs of producers, consumers, and decomposers. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. All seasons.

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:

- 2.2 A19
- 3.2 B3 and B4
- 4.2 B10 and B11

Objectives:

- Students will learn about the raw materials on which all life depends and will understand the role of each component in the cycle of life.
- Students will explore habitats and find examples that represent each component.

Winter Ecology
Grades 6-12: 2hrs

While visiting Northwest Park students will look at the amazing beauty of winter and focus on comparing and contrasting the adaptations of flora and fauna in various habitats. Students will learn different tracking techniques and how to read messages in the snow. Cross-country skis and snowshoes are available when suitable conditions exist. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. December-March.

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:

- Due to the broad age range for this program, we are able to work many CT State Department of Education content standards and/or goals into this program. Please call for more information!

Amphibians in Action
K – Grade 4: 1 hour

Amphibians live a "double life." Discover some of the unique characteristics that help them to survive. Students will meet some native amphibians and take a walk outside to listen and look for signs of these animals. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. Late March-June.

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:
- **1.3 A15 and A16**

Objectives:
- Students will describe characteristics of amphibians, recognize the stages of an amphibian's life, meet and investigate frogs, toads, and salamanders, and will understand how amphibians survive during the winter months.
- Due to the broad age range for this program, we are able to work many CT State Department of Education content standards and/or goals into this program. Please call for more information!

Maple Sugaring
Pre-K-Grade 8: 1 hour

Learn about the history of maple sugaring through hands-on-activities. Discover the process it takes to turn tree sap into delicious maple syrup. This program includes, tree identification, a tree tapping demonstration, sap collection, and sap tasting. Experience the sights, smells, and sounds of Northwest Park's Sugarhouse during seasonal operation. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. Dress for the weather. February-March

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:

- Due to the broad age range for this program, we are able to work many CT State Department of Education content standards into this program. Please call for more information!

Hoot N Holler
Grades 3-5: 1.5 hours

Owls are a powerful predator. In this program students will discover the unique characteristics an owl has through hands-on exploration. Students will dissect an owl pellet to determine an owl's diet, take a look at taxidermy owls, and view a slide show presentation about a barn owl family. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. *(Add $2 per student for a pellet*). All Seasons

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:
- **3.2 B3**
- 4.2 B10 and B11

Objectives:
- Students will learn the characteristics of owls and will learn the role of owls in the food chain.
- Students will dissect owl pellets to determine what kind of food an owl eats.

*Fleece to Fiber
K-Grade 2: 2 hours

Learn the process it takes to turn raw fleece into cloth through hands-on activities. Students will wash, dry, card wool, spin the wool into yarn, dye the yarn, and weave. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. (**See program pricing**) November-December

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:
- K.2 A4 and A5
- 2.4 A24

Objectives:
- Students will meet and touch our NWP sheep and they will learn about the tools needed to harvest the wool.
- Students will engage in hands-on activities to turn fleece to fiber.

Survival
Grades 6-8: 2 hours

An adventure in the woods at Northwest Park! Students will work in teams to plan and build their own shelters. Students will discover edible plants, learn fire building, and orienteering. Groups are challenged throughout the experience about survival situations. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. October-April

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:

- Due to the broad age range for this program, we are able to work many CT State Department of Education content standards and/or goals into this program. Please call for more information!

Objectives:

- Students will learn the basic skills of survival, they will work in teams to problem solve; they will create shelters, identify and sample wild edibles and learn fire-building techniques.

Northwest Park Environmental Education Programming

Northwest Park Environmental Education Programs are designed to meet Connecticut State Science Standards.

Sensory Saunter
Pre-K – Grade 3: 1 hour

Using a variety of hands-on activities, students will explore how animals use their senses to survive. In addition, students will compare and contrast the senses of animals, including people! During the outside time, the students will then employ their senses to experience the natural world. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. Sept-Nov, April-June.

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:

- **K.2 A4**
- K.3 A7 and A8
- 1.2 A12
- 3.2 B3 and B4

Meet the Barn Animals
Pre-K – Grade 2: 1 hour

This is an informative and fun-filled program focusing on the live barn animal residents of Northwest Park. Students will learn about how these animals behave, what they eat, and what they are used for. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. All seasons.

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:

- **K.2 A4 and A5**
- **1.2 A12 and A14**
- **2.4**

Radical Reptiles
Pre-K – Grade 4: 1 hour

This program will focus on the unique qualities that make reptiles special. Students will get an up close look at some native reptiles. We will talk about the specific characteristics of reptiles, diet, compare habitats and watch how they move. Weather permitting; there will be a short hike to look for reptiles and their habitats. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. All seasons.

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:

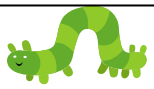
- **K.2 A4**
- 1.2 A12
- Due to the broad age range for this program, we are able to work many CT State Department of Education content standards and/or goals into this program. Please call for more information!

Seasonal Nature Hikes
Pre-K – Grade 4: 1 hour

The hike will focus on the prevailing season and ask the students to predict what changes have and will occur in the habitats the students will explore. Each hike will use exploration and hands-on experiences to understand seasonal changes in habitats. A world of fascinating information may be discovered from the tracks and other clues left behind by animals. Each hike can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. All seasons.

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:

- Due to the broad age range for this program, we are able to work many CT State Department of Education content standards and/or goals into this program. Please call for more information!



Incredible Insects
Pre-K – Grade 5: 1 hour

Learn the characteristics and diversity of insects through hands-on exploration. Discover their different habitats, the adaptations they have developed to help them survive, and get an up close look at these amazing creatures. This program can be tailored to fit your curriculum goals and learning levels. March-June

Content Standards from CT State Department of Education:

- Due to the broad age range for this program, we are able to work many CT State Department of Education content standards and/or goals into this program. Please call for more information!