

Creature Features: Learn about the special adaptations of local wildlife that allow them to be so successful in their respective habitats. This program can be customized to one or several animal groups (School or Meigs) Grades K - 6

Wing It: The focus is on special adaptations of birds – beaks, feet, feathers, wings, etc. Many CT birds are in trouble. Learn why. You may also include nests and nest building. This program can be customized to your grade level. (School or Meigs) Grades 1 - 4

For Goodness Snakes: Meet the snakes of CT. Learn what is special about each of CT's 14 species of snakes, including habitats and natural history. Live snakes of course! (School or Meigs) Grades 4 – 8

Ranger Russ's Special Friends: An introduction to snakes and turtles in a very comfortable way. Dispels myths and helps children to understand and not fear these unique animals. (School or Meigs) Grades Pre-K - K

Owl Pellet Forensics: Owl pellets will be used to teach food webs, ecosystems, anatomy, and writing (every pellet tells a story). Students, in groups of 3 or 4, act as detectives and fine surgeons, using forceps and probes in their exploration of pelletized "victims". (School or Meigs) Grades 3 – 6

The Meigs Point Nature Center (MPNC) at Hammonasset Beach State Park is operated under the direction and cooperation of the CT DEP and *Friends of Hammonasset* (FOH). The MPNC is open year round for class visits and is completely handicapped accessible for all student inclusion. Staff from the center are available to visit schools throughout the school year.

The classes and programs offered link with the CT state curriculum, enhancing and enriching science education through "hands on" experiences. Our programs and classes in outdoor and environmental education are easily adaptable and can be customized for your grade level and needs. The MPNC programs can also be adapted to support scout badge work and for lectures/programs for senior citizens and other civic groups.

New programs are continually developed, including water quality (fresh & marine), Native American experiences (story telling, games, and ethnobotany), and oceanography.

Most classes run from 45 to 90 minutes. We ask a nominal \$3.00 per student at Meigs and \$4.00 at your location.

Please call (203) 245-8743 or (860) 462-9643 to register, or for more information.

Educational Programs



Meigs Point Nature Center at Hammonasset Beach State Park

(203) 245-8743

(860) 462-9643

www.hammonasset.org



Tracks & Scats - Signs of Wildlife: Learn to “read” the signs they leave for us. Who’s been there and what were they doing. Make your own track field guide.
(School or Meigs) Grades 3 - 6

What Happened Here? A Wildlife program that helps younger children learn basic animal signs and solve the mystery of “What Happened Here”. Create your own story.
(School or Meigs) Grades K - 3

Under Invasion: Introduced plants and animals from around the world have invaded CT and Long Island Sound. Next to habitat destruction and loss, introduced species may be our biggest ecological problem. Meet them and learn why some are so successful and problematic in their new land and possible solutions. An outdoor hike is included to see firsthand what happens when they are allowed to grow with no natural controls.
(School or Meigs) Grades 1 - 8

Native American Story Telling & Games: Experience traditional story telling and engage in games played long ago. Your class can be divided into 3 sections and rotate through 3 different activities.
(School or Meigs) Grades 3 - 5

Nature Name It: Nature ID and quiz game show. Play a game where you identify wildlife and answer nature trivia. This game is fun, informative, and it’s a great team - building exercise.
(School or Meigs) Grades 4 - 6

Explore the 3 Shoreline Ecosystems: Students rotate through the 3 ecosystems – Rocky Shore, Sandy Beach, and Salt Marsh for approximately 30 minutes each.
(Meigs only) Grades 3 - 8

Spider Food Web: What are food webs and why are they so important? Learn what animals eat and who eats them. Find out why “pests” like mosquitoes are as important as “cute” animals like chipmunks.
(School or Meigs) Grades 6 -8

Wide Wide World of Animals: Animal Olympics. Compete against animals in long jump, run, throw and other events. This program can be adjusted for any animal group - reptiles, fish, insects, birds, etc.
(School or Meigs) Grades K – 6

Ethnobotany: Learn the ways Native people use plants for food, medicine and technology. Ranger Russ can bring common plants and/or take you on a walk on your own school grounds. Students will see what common plants were used for toothbrushes, stomachaches, tool making, healing wounds, and food.
(School or Meigs) Grades 3 - 5

Shell Stories & Touch Tank: Hear the amazing life histories of the whelk, sea star, oyster, periwinkle, and more! Then visit the Meigs Point Nature Center Touch Tank and get up close and personal with live specimens of Long Island Sound’s most common invertebrates.
(School or Touch tank at Meigs only)
Grades K - 6

Seaweed Secrets: Learn the 3 main color groups and why seaweeds, marine algae, are important in the ocean and our daily lives. They are found in food, medicine, and technology. Try “Blanc Mange” pudding. Learn how to use a simple key and make a pressed specimen to bring home.
(School or Meigs) Grades 3 – 8

A Crab’s Life: Ranger Russ will bring a variety of inter-tidal invertebrates to your classroom for an up close and personal introduction to crabs, sea stars, snails and more. Learn their fascinating stories. This is a perfect introduction for a class before visiting the Nature Center or it can stand alone for classes studying marine life in the classroom.
(School or Meigs) Grades 3 - 6

Hide and Seek: Using live animals, students learn the reasons for camouflage and how predators overcome it.
(School or Meigs) Grades K - 4

