

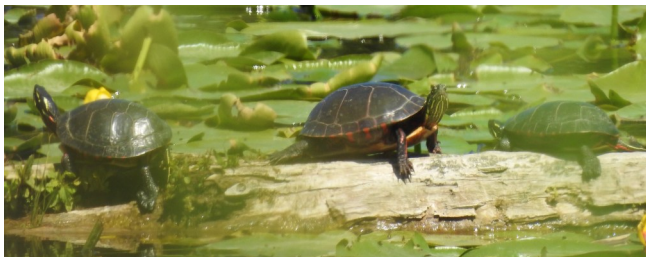


SCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE

FOSTERING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP[®] SINCE 1969



Revised 2025



NATURAL SCIENCE

BIODIVERSITY

ECOSYSTEMS

CANOEING

OUTDOOR RECREATION

LIFE-CYCLES

EXPERIENTIAL

SNOWSHOE

WET 'N' SCALY

WILDLIFE

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

WETLANDS

ALL SEASONS

STEWARDSHIP

CONNECTION

BIRDS OF PREY

ESCAPE, EXPLORE, EXPERIENCE

WILDERNESS

DISCOVERY

HISTORY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME

About Us.....	Page 1
How To Use This Guide.....	Page 2
Programs at a Glance.....	Page 3
Program Descriptions.....	Page 5
Reservation Information.....	Page 15
Contact Us	Page 17

ESCAPE...EXPLORE...EXPERIENCE...

Wye Marsh staff & volunteers are a team of enthusiastic Naturalists who are excited to share their knowledge and appreciation for the natural world, environmental stewardship, and the many benefits associated with participating in physical activities out-of-doors with you and your students.

Wye Marsh and its interpretive centre sits on a 1200 hectare (3000 acre) wildlife area situated in an environmentally endowed location in southern Georgian Bay. The Friends of Wye Marsh, a non-profit organization, has stewardship responsibilities for this property and whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship.

What makes us UNIQUE:

- ❖ Our programming compliments classroom learning with experiential lessons, and provides participants with opportunities to interact with, develop caring and concern for, and take action in the places where students live, study, and play.
- ❖ Our Outdoor Educators (Naturalists) provide connections between curriculum and the world around us, allowing participants to directly observe impacts and issues by exposing them to the many points of view that must be considered in making choices to preserve the health of the natural environment.
- ❖ We believe that learning while having fun encourages immediate and long term involvement in environmental stewardship.
- ❖ Our unique setting - National & Provincial Wildlife Area, provincially significant wetland, designated as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), home to Trumpeter swans (Provincially rare bird), species at risk, productive & biodiverse ecosystem - provides endless opportunities to make unique connections.
- ❖ Facilities and trails are accessible to most physical levels.

ABOUT US

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

PROGRAMS

How to use this GUIDE:

A successful and enjoyable trip comes from planning and preparation. This guide is designed to outline the planning process and to provide you with the necessary tools that will ensure your trip to Wye Marsh is the highlight of your year!

Step 1. Choose program(s):

- Program sessions are two hours in length, making up a half day (typically 10am-12pm or 12:30pm-2:30pm). Two sessions can be combined to make up a full day (typically 10am – 2:30pm). Program times can be flexible in order to accommodate travel arrangements.
- Ensure that you choose one alternative program & two alternative dates in the event that your first choice is unavailable.
- Each teacher may choose their programming based on their educational goals (i.e.. Two grade 4 teachers visiting at the same time are not required to choose the same programs)

























































Step 2. Submit request:

- Visit <https://www.wyemarsh.com/school-programs> and submit a Day Trip Booking Request online form or contact our Education Coordinator, who would be happy to assist you with your planning.
- Please note that a Booking Request does not imply a booking/reservation.

Step 3. What to expect:

- A Booking Confirmation will be sent via email within three business days of receiving your booking request. Please share its details with all participating leaders/supervisors.
- Payment will be due upon or prior to arrival unless alternative arrangements have been made at the time of booking.
- We will be heading outside in most weather! In the event of inclement weather (high winds, lightening, extreme cold etc.) we will provide alternative programming until the conditions improve.
- Cancellations can be made up to one week in advance but are subject to a \$50 administration fee. Groups who cancel after the deadline will be required to re-schedule their visit or pay our minimum booking fee (\$190).

PLANNING

Program Title	JK/	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	S.S.	Season
Advanced Animal Tracking								◆	❖	❖ ◆	  
Amazing Amphibian Adventurer	❖	◆	◆	◆							 
Animal Adaptations				❖	◆	❖					  
Animal Games	◆	◆	❖								  
Animal Habitats				❖	◆	❖	❖				  
Animal Tracking	❖	❖	❖	❖	◆	❖	❖				  
Biodiversity						❖	◆	❖	❖		  
Classifying Diversity						❖	◆	◆	❖		  
Cycles Around Us							❖	◆	❖		  
Dirt, Decay & Discovery			❖	◆	❖						  
Life Cycles		❖	◆	❖							  
Look, See, Paint					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	❖	  
Perfect Pollinators	❖	❖	◆	◆							
Pollination; More than just Bees					◆	❖	◆	◆			
Pond Study		◆	◆	❖	◆	❖	❖	❖			 
Ready, Set, Explore!	◆	❖									  
Rock Solid, Mineral Rich				❖	◆	❖					  
Seeds and Needs			❖	◆	❖						 
Sensitive Skinned Amphibians					◆	❖	◆	◆	❖		  
Wetlands & Wild Needs	❖	◆	❖								  
Your Five Senses	❖	❖									  

◆ Curriculum Connections ❖ Grade Appropriate

* additional charges apply

Season: Fall



Spring



Winter



AT A GLANCE

PLANNING

PROGRAMS

Program Title	JK/SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	S.S.	Season
Compass Orienteering						❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	
Marsh Exploration by Canoe*					♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	
Snowshoeing*		♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	
Ultimate Survival				♦	❖	❖	❖	♦	❖	❖	
Wilderness Survival							❖	❖	❖	❖	

Program Title	JK/SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	S.S.	Season
Bannock Roasting* (one hour)	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		
Birds of Prey Demo* (one hour)			❖	❖	♦	❖	♦	♦	❖	❖	
Dipnetting (one hour)		❖	♦	❖	♦	❖	♦	♦	♦	❖	
Discovery Hike (one hour)	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	
Wet n' Scaly Demo * (one hour)		♦	♦	❖	♦	❖	♦	♦	♦	♦	

For more detailed information regarding the planning of your trip, please refer to the 'Reminders' section on page 19.

Program adaptations can be made to better meet your educational needs.

We deliver many of our programs in either English or French.

♦ Curriculum Connections ❖ Grade Appropriate

Season: Fall

Spring

Winter

* additional charges apply

BIODIVERSITY

Advanced Animal Tracking: The Art of Seeing

Animal tracking is used for more than figuring out which animal left a particular footprint.

It is used to understand the daily and seasonal lives of species, track population changes, understand land use, identify changes in land use, identify loss of resources, identify places of potential conflict, or understand the causes of conflict, with humans. We will move beyond knowing the footprint, to understanding the story.



Amazing Amphibian Adventurer

This exciting curriculum linked program provides participants with the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of Ontario's native amphibian species. Participants will learn plenty of fun facts about our local amphibians and amphibians of the world, as well as discover the important part they play in environmental stewardship and how they can help Ontario's Species at Risk.



Animal Adaptations

All animals exhibit physical and behavioural adaptations that help them to survive in their environment. Participants will take an in-depth look at the amazing adaptations of the beaver, through a metaphorical dress-up activity, a beaver signs habitat hike, and a beaver dam construction competition. Participants will also get up-close and personal with live turtles and snakes as they learn about reptilian adaptations and the effects humans have had on their habitats.



Animal Games

Games, games, and more games! Participants will learn to appreciate the diversity of form and function in the animal world as they investigate animal adaptations, habitat needs, and stewardship initiatives. Educational, kinetic and fun, this program is sure to get its participants actively engaged in the lives of the animals that call Ontario home.



NATURAL SCIENCE



Animal Habitats

A habitat is a home. Participants will explore the essential components of habitat needed by all living things, including themselves, as they partake in kinetic games, an ecosystem web simulation, and a wetland habitat hike. Participants will also use dip nets to investigate the adaptations of the aquatic invertebrates that call the Marsh “home”.



Animal Tracking

Abundant in numbers, but very rarely seen, Wye Marsh’s winter inhabitants have left stories of their travels behind in the snow. Designed to kindle awareness and understanding of Ontario’s winter-active mammals, this program focuses on identifying animal tracks and scats, as well as animal adaptations, behaviours and winter survival techniques.



Biodiversity

Biodiversity includes all organisms great and small - from amoebas to elephants - that currently exist or have ever existed on our planet. Participants will explore their beliefs and values about why biodiversity is important, build a structure to understand the benefits of interdependence and niches, participate in a stewardship action to increase biodiversity, investigate a location to discover and define biodiversity, and hear a Haudenosaunee legend to facilitate a discussion on agricultural practices, all while they explore and experience the biodiversity of the marsh.

DISCOVERY



Classifying Diversity

The biodiversity found on our planet includes an astounding diversity of organisms. In this half day program students will learn how to organize this amazing diversity. Participants will learn how taxonomists have classified the Earth's more than 1.4 million identified species, how to create a key and why we classify them. Participants will also explore the large diversity of aquatic invertebrates living in the Marsh, as they identify unknown species with the help of a dichotomous key.



Cycles Around Us

Cycles exist everywhere in nature. We see this simply in the change of the seasons that happen each year, life cycles of animals, and within our ecosystems. This program will highlight the multitude of interacting cycles around us. Participants will investigate succession actively taking place at Wye Marsh, discuss and reflect on human cause and responsibility towards ecosystem management and play active games about nutrient cycling and ecosystem design and learn about Ojibwa techniques for agriculture and land management.



Dirt, Decay & Discovery

Soil is an essential source of life and nutrients for countless organisms, including humans. In this program, participants will explore the living components of soil and their critical roles in nutrient cycling throughout diverse ecosystems. They'll investigate the hidden homes of decomposers, engage in hands-on activities to understand soil composition and classification, and examine how erosion shapes the environment. Through active games, outdoor discovery, and simple demonstrations, participants will gain an appreciation for the intricate relationships between soil, other living things, and the landscape—and discover why preserving healthy soil conditions is vital for generations to come.

NATURAL SCIENCE

Life Cycles



Participant will assume the role of an animal as they uncover the differences and similarities in physical characteristics, life cycles and behaviours of the following animal groups: insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Participants will also take a closer look at the life cycle of a frog and a butterfly through a fun and interactive dress-up activity, as well as spend some time dip netting (weather dependent) for creatures in various life stages, living deep down in the Marsh.

Look, See, Paint



More than just an introduction to watercolour painting, Look, See, Paint brings a new way to view, appreciate and reconnect with our natural world. Equipped with a portable painting kit, and watercolour paper, participants will explore the natural beauty of the marsh from an artistic perspective.

Perfect Pollination



Participants will be introduced to all aspects of the pollination process. Through interactive activities they will explore the basic parts of a flower and all the ways pollination can happen! They will investigate the important role that pollination plays in our everyday lives. Through hands on exploration for types of pollinators and flowers that will lead them to an understanding of our natural diversity.

ACTIVITY

Pollination: More than just Bees

The world of pollination is an exciting place! Participants will learn how living things are affected by their environment and other living things surrounding them. Participants will explore how various adaptations for animals, insects, and plants assist them in survival. Students will further investigate how/why pollination is important for the environment, animals and humans and the negative effects that human intervention (such as the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides etc.) have on the process of pollination and the surrounding environment.



Pond Study

With dip nets in hand, students will learn about the many amazing adaptations the aquatic invertebrates of the marsh possess, as well as what these insects can tell us about the water quality of the marsh. Students will also learn about the interconnectedness of all of the marsh inhabitants as they simulate an aquatic food web, and explore the surrounding habitat by foot.



Ready, Set, Explore!

Participants will explore the world around them as they embark on a marsh discovery hike and investigate the difference between living and non-living things. Participants will be encouraged to question and share their observations with the group as they visit the Swan Treatment Center, walk the boardwalk, and climb the observation tower. Combined with a variety of fun and active games, this program also emphasizes an understanding of, and care for, the natural world.



NATURAL SCIENCE



Rocks Solid, Mineral Rich

Participants will put their scientific investigation and observation skills to the test as they perform a variety of hands-on experiments used to identify and compare various mineral properties. Participants will also learn about the various ways in which rocks are formed, as well as partake in a rock hunt, at the end of which they will use various physical characteristics to describe and sort their finds. Participants will also discuss the importance of rocks and minerals in their day to day lives, as well as how our use of rocks and minerals affects the natural environment.



Seeds & Needs

Through first hand exploration of the various plants, both Native and Invasive, that call the Wye Marsh home, participants will learn about the roles and interrelationships of plants in the Wye Marsh ecosystem, as well as their day-to-day lives. Participants will also learn about plant anatomy, the basic needs of plants, and plant growth through engaging, hands-on games and activities.



Sensitive Skinned Amphibians

Participants will learn plenty of fun facts and identification tips as they search the marsh-land for the two dominant groups of amphibians—frogs & salamanders. They will participate in environmental stewardship programs working towards amphibian conservation at the Wye Marsh and discover the role that they can play in helping Ontario's Species at Risk from the National level to their backyard!

ACTIVITY

Wetlands & Wild Needs

Participants of this exploratory half day program will have the opportunity to compare living (biotic) parts of the Wye Marsh ecosystem to nonliving (abiotic) elements. Students will explore the habitat requirements (food, water, shelter, space) of deer, and explore physical adaptations and interconnectedness through the food web games. Participants will further develop an understanding for the importance of a healthy habitat and develop their sense of environmental stewardship.



Your Five Senses

Sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste will all come into play as participants investigate and explore the Wye Marsh ecosystem and its plant and animal inhabitants. Participants will also learn about animal senses as they partake in a variety of fun and interactive sensory games.



NATURAL SCIENCE

EXPLORE MORE

EXPAND THE DAY YOUR WAY

Bannock Roasting* (One Hour)

Bannock has been a staple food of wilderness explorers for centuries. Portable, nutritious, tasty and easy to make, bannock's legendary reputation continues as one of the best wilderness survival foods out there, not to mention a fun and engaging mid-day snack. After roasting their bannock to perfection over an open fire, participants will exercise their minds and bodies as they play a variety of outdoor games and activities. —**additional charge applies (see booking information on page 16).**



Birds of Prey Demo* (One Hour– outdoors)

This exciting demonstration will give participants the opportunity to be brought face-to-face with the grace, majesty, power and intelligence of birds of prey. Participants will learn all about the different types of birds of prey, their habitats, adaptations, life histories, and what has brought them to Wye Marsh as Educational Ambassadors.—**additional charge applies (see booking information on page 16).**



Dipnetting (One Hour)

All animals exhibit physical and behavioural adaptations that help them to survive in their environment. Participants will take an in-depth look at the amazing invertebrates that call the Wye Marsh home through dip netting. Participants will also get up-close and personal with a variety of living things, learn how to ID them appropriately and what their presence tells us about water quality and climate change.



Discovery Hike (One hour or more!)

Wye Marsh and its Interpretive Centre sits on a 3,000-acre wildlife area in an environmentally endowed location in southern Georgian Bay. Let one of our naturalists guide you through the season's highlights and hidden places.



Wet n' Scaly Demo* (One Hour– indoors)

This demonstration provides participants with the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of Ontario's native reptile species. Participants will learn plenty of fun facts and identification tips, as well as discover the importance of environmental stewardship and the role that they can play in helping Ontario's Species at Risk.—**additional charge applies (see booking information on page 16).**



EXPLORATION

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Compass Orienteering

Equipped with nothing more than a magnetic compass and the know-how to use it, participants will trek through the wilderness in search of hidden orienteering markers. Teamwork, leadership, problem solving skills, and accuracy will all come into play as participants navigate our challenging orienteering course in an attempt to piece together an inspirational quote.



Marsh Exploration by Canoe

There is no better way to explore the Wye Marsh ecosystem than seated among friends in one of our large voyageur-style canoes. After a brief lesson on paddling technique and canoe safety, participants will paddle past blooming water lilies, basking turtles, and a beaver lodge, as jewel-winged damselflies and Red-winged Blackbirds fly overhead. Participants will also explore the marsh on foot as they visit the Swan Treatment Center, walk the boardwalk, and climb the observation tower. —**additional charge applies (see booking information on page 16).**



PHYSICAL

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Ultimate Survival

This exhilarating simulation game demonstrates the interactions between predator and prey species, as well as the encompassing ecosystem. Taking on the role of carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores, participants will be challenged to obtain their specific survival needs as they navigate through a forested environment, all the while evading predator species bent on stealing their lives.



Snowshoeing

What better way to combine physical activity with the pursuit of nature? With traditional-style snowshoes strapped to their feet, participants will head out into the snow-covered landscape to discover the many wonders that winter has to offer. Participants will also play a variety of games and activities designed to help develop balance and coordination skills. —**equipment rental fees may apply (see booking information on page 16).**



Wilderness Survival

After a quick and active introduction to wilderness preparedness, survival priorities, fire starting and shelter building, we will conveniently “lose” the participants in the bush, where, in order to survive, they must work as a team to prepare a survival site, as well as prepare and present a theatrical rescue story!



REMINDERS

Planning

1. Submit online Booking Request Form; **2.** Await confirmation **3.** Contact (705) 526-7809 x212 or education@wyemarsh.com with any questions/concerns or if you need help with your planning.

Payment

Payment of balance owing is due upon arrival unless alternative arrangements have been made. We accept Canadian Credit cards, e-transfers, debit or cash.

Cancellation

Cancellations can be made up to two weeks in advance but are subject to a \$50 administration fee. Cancellations made after the deadline (and are unable to re-schedule) will be charged our minimum booking fee of \$190.

Weather

Our programs run rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather, alternative programming will be provided until conditions improve. We recommend that participants dress in loose fitting layers and sport close-toed shoes. Plan for the worst, hope for the best!

Lunch

Please bring a "litter-less" lunch as you will be required to take all contents back with you. Please note that we are NOT a peanut-free facility.

Special Needs and Equipment

Please let us know if we can improve your visit through special circumstances in any way. We strive to be as inclusive as nature allows.

Gift Shop

Souvenirs, light snacks and drinks are available for purchase under leader supervision.

The Wye Marsh Also Offers

Schoolyard Visits, Virtual Programs, Meeting Rooms, Birthday Parties, Day Camps, Nature Club activities, Weddings, as well as Badge programs for Girls Guides & Scouts Canada!

Admission Rates	Cost/class	Details
Independent Discovery (Unguided with Full Day trail access)	\$9.00/participant	Min 20 participants
Half Day Programs (2hrs)	\$14.00/participant	Min 20 participants
Full Day Program (2 x 2hrs)	\$17.00/participant	Min 20 participants

Supervisor Discounts	
Grade 1- 3	1 supervisor per 5 participants: Complimentary
Grades 4 - 12	1 supervisor per 10 participants: Complimentary
Dedicated Support Worker	Outside the Ratio and always free

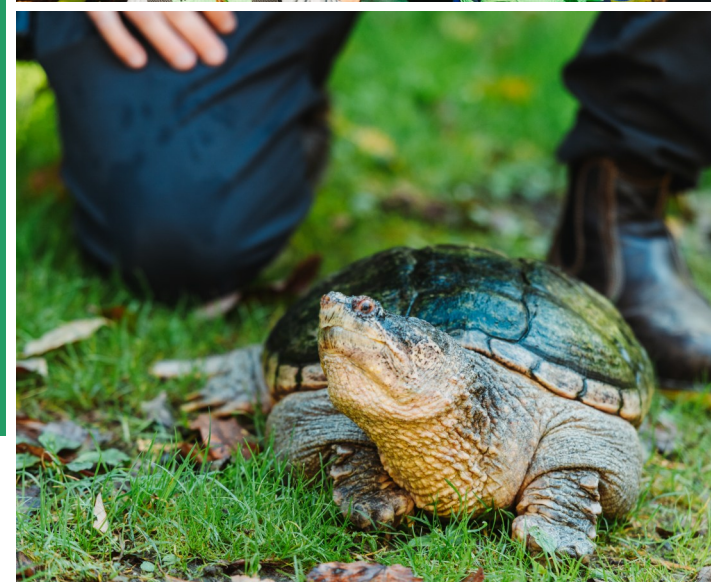
Premium Programs (denoted by* , Add-on fee to the admission rate)	Additional Costs/participant
Guided Canoe	+\$8.00
Birds of Prey Demo	+\$8.00
Wet N' Scaly Demo	+\$5.00
Wooden Snowshoe rental	+\$5.00
Modern Snowshoe Rental	+\$8.00

Wye Marsh Comes to You	Cost**	Additional Information
Birds of Prey Demo	\$500.00/50ppt	Max. Number of Participants: 50 (Static)
Wet n' Scaly Demo	\$400.00/50ppt	Max. Number of Participants: 50 Weather dependent
Curriculum-linked Schoolyard visit	\$350/class	Please visit Wyemarth.com/school-programs for full list of program options
Virtual Learning with Wye Marsh	\$150/class	

**Add an additional \$0.61/km if total travel distance is over 35/km.



ONTARIO CURRICULUM BASED PROGRAMS
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
COMPREHENSIVE & FUN
SAFE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
ACCESSIBLE TO ALL PHYSICAL LEVELS
ENGLISH & FRENCH



WYE MARSH WILDLIFE CENTRE
16160 Hwy #12, P.O. Box 100
Midland, Ontario
L4R 4K6



BOOKING CONTACT
P: (705) 526-7809 x212
education@wyemarsh.com
www.wyemarsh.com