

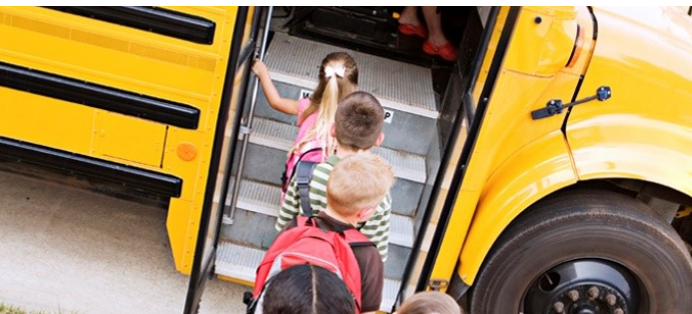
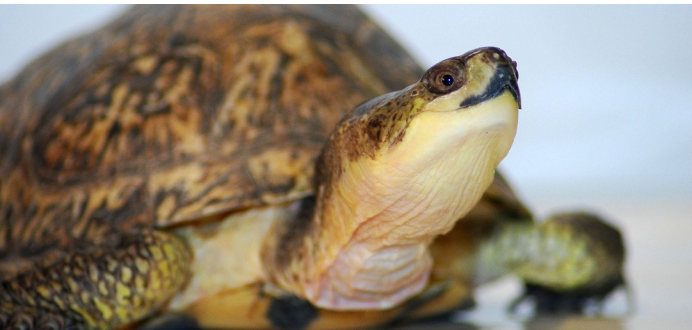


# SCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE

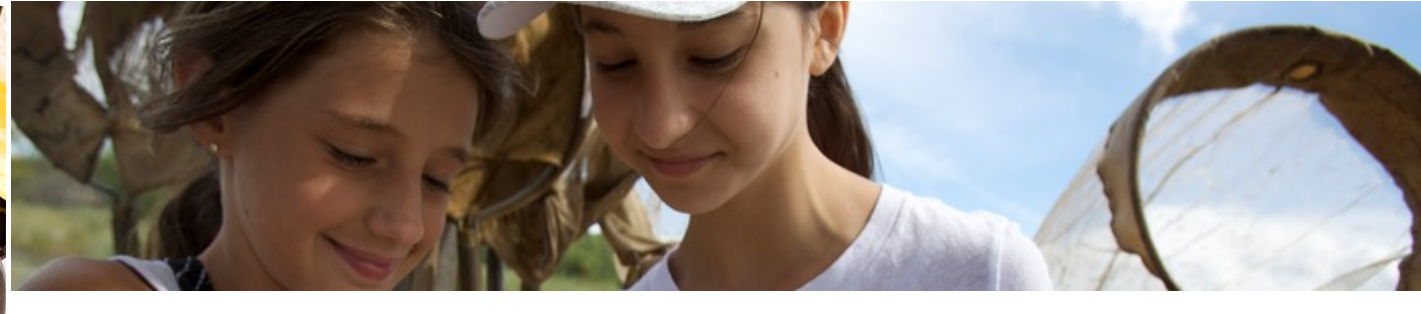
FOSTERING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP<sup>™</sup> SINCE 1969



Revised 2018



Natural science    Biodiversity    Cultural  
history    Outdoor recreation    Life cycles  
Connection    Energy & You    Canoeing  
History    Snowshoe Stewardship    Health  
Birds of prey    Escape, Explore, Experience  
Discovery    Pond study    GPS navigation  
Wetlands    Physical activity    Wet 'N' Scaly  
All seasons    Inquiry-based    Team building  
Sweetwater harvest    Experiential    Compass  
orienteering    Habitats    Water    Ecosystems



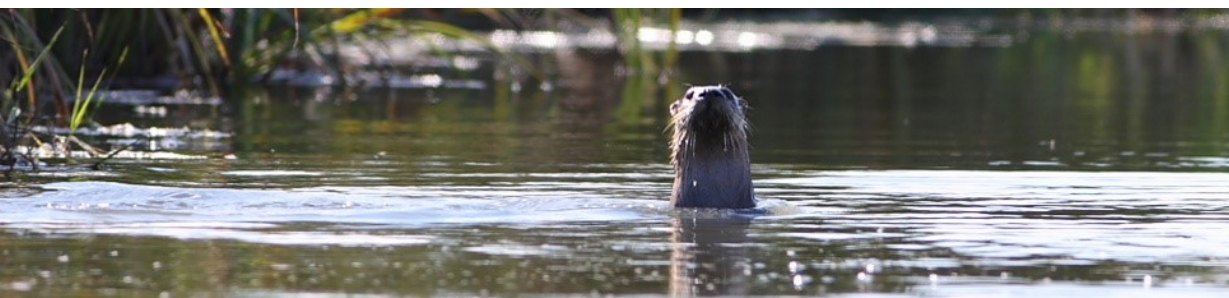
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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 13
Contact Us .....	Page 15



# ACTIVE INTEREST



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



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

## ABOUT US

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, 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 all physical levels.



# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

## 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.

### Step 2. Submit request:

- Visit <https://www.wyemarsh.com/school-programs> and submit a Day Trip Booking Request online form or contact our Reservations and 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 two business days of receiving your booking request. Please share its details with all participating leaders/supervisors.
- Payment will be due upon arrival unless alternative arrangements have been made at the time of booking (e.g. credit card payment over the phone, cheque in the mail or issuing an invoice following the date of visit)
- We will be heading outside in most weather! In the event of inclement weather (high winds, lightening etc.) we will provide alternative programming until the conditions improve.
- Cancellations can be made up to two weeks 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 (\$150).

PLANNING

# PLANNING


























All of our programs are two hours in length, making up a half-day. Any two programs can be combined to make up a full-day. For more detailed information regarding the planning of your trip, please refer to the 'Reminders' section on page 14.

◆ Curriculum Connections ❖ Grade Appropriate

Season: Fall  Spring  Winter 

# PROGRAM

## Natural Science

Program Title	JK/SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	S.S.	Offsite	Season
Animal Adaptations				❖	◆	❖						
Animal Games	◆	◆	❖	❖	❖						⊙	
Amazing Amphibian Adventurer	◆	◆	◆	◆								
Animal Habitats				❖	◆	❖						
Animal Tracking	❖	❖	❖	❖	◆	❖	❖					
Birds of Prey*	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	◆	❖	❖	❖	⊙	
Classifying Complexity						❖	◆	◆	❖			
Ecosystem Explorers						❖	❖	◆				
Energy Changes Everything						◆						
Seeds & Needs				◆	❖							
Life Cycles			◆	❖	❖							
Look, See Paint					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	❖		
Our Diverse World						❖	◆	◆	❖			
Perfect Pollinators	❖	❖	◆	◆	◆	❖	❖	◆	❖			
Pond Study		❖	◆	❖	◆	❖	❖					
Rock Solid, Mineral Rich					◆	❖						
Sensitive Skinned Amphibians					◆	❖	◆	◆	❖			
The Dirt on Soil				◆	❖							
The Science of Snow					❖	❖	❖					
Ready...Set...Explore	◆	❖										
Ultimate Survival					◆	❖	❖	◆	❖	❖		
Water Systems								❖	◆	❖		
Where Birding Begins	❖	◆	◆	❖	◆	❖	◆	❖	❖	◆	⊙	
Wet 'N' Scaly*	❖	◆	◆	❖	◆	❖	◆	❖	❖	◆	⊙	
Your Five Senses	❖	◆	❖									



# AT A GLANCE

Program adaptations can be made to better meet your educational needs. We deliver our programs in either English or French.

Outdoor Recreation	Program Title	JK/SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	S.S.	Offsite	Season	
	Compass Orienteering							❖	❖	❖	❖			
	Cross-Country Skiing*		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
	GPS Navigation							❖	❖	❖	❖			
	Marsh Exploration by Canoe*					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			
	Marsh Exploration by Kayak*											◆		
	Snowshoeing*		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	⊙		
	Team Building							◆	◆	◆	◆	⊙		
Wilderness Survival								❖	❖	❖	❖			

Cultural History	Program Title	JK/SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	S.S.	Offsite	Season	
	Bannock Roasting		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖				
	Sweetwater Harvest	❖	❖	❖	◆	❖	❖	◆						
	Two People One Path (Joint program with Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons)							◆	◆	❖				

Our Favourites!	Program Title	JK/SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	S.S.	Offsite	Season	
	Wetland Wonderers	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖			
	Winter Carnival	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖			

\* additional charges apply

AVAILABILITY

# BIODIVERSITY

## NATURAL SCIENCE

### Amazing Amphibian Adventurer

This will likely be participants' first exploration into the unique world and morphology of amphibians. This 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 in helping 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.



### 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 energetic games, an ecosystem 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.





# INVESTIGATION

## Birds of Prey

This exciting program 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, and life histories, all the while being delighted by these magnificent animals in flight. In addition to the live bird show, participants will explore the characteristics of birds of prey through a dress-up activity, as well as the concept of interconnectedness through an interactive investigation of the food chain. \*additional charge applies (see booking information on page 13).



## Classifying Complexity

The biodiversity found on our planet includes an astounding variety of organisms. Participants will learn how to organize this amazing diversity, how and why taxonomists have classified the Earth's more than 1.4 million identified species, and how to create a functioning dichotomous key of their own. Participants will explore the aquatic ecosystem and its invertebrates and botanical species as they identify unknown species with the help of a dichotomous key.



## Ecosystem Explorers

Participants will investigate first-hand the concepts that are the foundation of ecology and explore the interactions between and among abiotic and biotic components of two ecosystems. They will hike their way through a terrestrial ecosystem, dip net their way through an aquatic ecosystem and play games that will set a solid foundation in the exploration of ecology. Participants will also assess the impacts, both positive and negative, of human activities and technologies on the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of the Wye Marsh.



## Energy Changes Everything

An interactive program designed to promote energy conservation initiatives that encourage participants to consider how their everyday choices can have a positive impact on the environment. The flow of energy is an essential feature of every ecosystem, not to mention our daily lives. Participants will explore the various forms and sources of energy found within the Wye Marsh ecosystem, as well as ways in which energy is transformed and conserved. Participants will also visit the Wye Marsh wind and solar station to learn about renewable vs. non-renewable resources and the choices they have when it comes to energy use and conservation.



## 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.



# NATURAL SCIENCE

# DISCOVERY

## NATURAL SCIENCE

### Life Cycles

Participants 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 for creatures at 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, watercolour paper and a view finder, participants will explore the natural beauty of the marsh from an artistic perspective.



### Our Diverse World

Participants will explore the values of biodiversity and its impact on ecosystem stability. Through role-playing activities they will experience how ecosystems can fail and recover and uncover the importance of biodiversity and niches. Participants will conduct field work that assists with the conservation of the Wye Marsh and observe and categorize its diversity and abundance.



### 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.



### 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.





# SUSTAINABILITY

## 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.



## 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.



## 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!



## The Dirt on Soil

Soil is an essential source of life and nutrients for many organisms, including humans. Through hands-on activities and investigations, participants will learn about soil composition and soil classification, as well as the interdependence of soil with all other living things. Participants will also dig down into the world of vermicomposting as they learn about the importance of conserving healthy soil conditions for generations to come.



## The Science of Snow

Participants will take an in-depth look at the mysteries of our Canadian winters. Through hands-on games, activities, and experiments, students will learn everything from snowflake formation and identification, to its influence on the plants and animals that call the Wye Marsh home during the winter season.



# NATURAL SCIENCE

# ACTIVITY

## NATURAL SCIENCE

### Water Systems



Water conservation is a key link between balancing current and future water needs. Participants will investigate the importance of fresh water to the sustainability of life on earth through hands-on activities and first-hand exploration of the Wye Marsh ecosystem. Participants will also explore the valuable role wetlands play in helping to filter and purify water, as well as apply their problem solving skills to design, build and test a water filtration system of their own creation.

### Wet 'N' Scaly



This exciting program 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. This program includes a one hour live reptile show in conjunction with an hour of interactive games and activities.

### 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.



# EXPLORATION

## 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 13).**

## Marsh Exploration by Kayak



Whether paddling solo or with a partner, kayaking provides a very intimate and tranquil approach to exploring the marsh ecosystem. After a brief lesson on paddling technique and kayak 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 13).**

## Cross-Country Skiing



Not only is it fun, beautiful, and good for your health, cross-country skiing is an exhilarating outdoor activity for all ages and fitness levels. After an introductory lesson to cross-country skiing technique, with an emphasis on group and personal safety, participants are sure to increase their appreciation for winter as they glide their way along our snow-covered ski trails. —**equipment rental fees may apply (see booking information on page 13).**

## 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 13).**

OUTDOOR RECREATION

# 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.



### GPS Navigation

After an introductory lesson on using Global Positioning System (GPS) units, participants will be asked to correctly answer animal trivia questions that will lead them to geocaches containing animal tokens. Teamwork, problem solving, and keen observation skills will all come into play as participants attempt to collect as many animal tokens as possible within the allotted time.



### 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.



### Team Building

Allow us to put the participants' teamwork skills to the test as we facilitate a series of nature-based team challenges, each one more demanding than the last. Leadership, trust, cooperation, communication and problem solving will all come into play as the participants strive for cooperative success.



### 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!





# TANGIBLE

## **Bannock Roasting**

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.

## **Sweetwater Harvest**

A truly Canadian experience, this seasonally limited program gives participants a firsthand look at maple syrup collection and production throughout the ages. Participants will have an opportunity to visit an active modern day sugar shack, bake bannock over an open fire, and listen to a First Nations legend of how maple syrup came to be, as well as engage their taste buds with a sweet and sugary drop of pure Canadian maple syrup.

## **Two Peoples: One Path**

A joint program with Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, participants will experience what it took for both the Wendat and French to survive in the Wye Valley over three-and-a-half centuries ago. At Sainte-Marie, participants will see how the French used a combination of old and new world technologies to carve a European-style home in the wilderness, and here at the Wye Marsh participants will learn how knowledge of the natural environment can contribute to the survival of all species, including humankind.

**Note: This program involves a half day at the Wye Marsh and a half day at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons.**

# CULTURAL HISTORY

# CONNECTIONS

## OUR FAVOURITES

Come and enjoy the best of what Wye Marsh has to offer! Designed to showcase our favourite activities, critters and special spots, these programs are perfectly suited for larger groups and are adapted to please participants of all ages! Please note that these programs are available in the Full Day format only (10am-2:30pm). \*Specialty options—additional fee applies. See page 13 for pricing details.

### Winter Carnival!



Discover Wye Winter Wonderland! This program will be sure to warm every participant up to the winter season. Choose from the list below to make up your full day of programming (4 hrs):

- \*Birds of Prey Show (1hr)
- Bannock Roasting (1hr)
- Animal Games (1hr)
- Chickadee Feeding (1hr)
- Animal Tracking (2hr)
- Snowshoeing (2hr)
- Guided Hike (1hr)
- \*Wet n Scaly Show (1hr)

### Wetland Wonderers!



Participants will 'wonder' the Wye Marsh with the help of a knowledgeable Naturalist who will get them excited about the Marsh and its inhabitants. activities: Choose from the list below to make up your full day of programming (4 hrs):

- \*Birds of Prey Show (1hr)
- Bannock Roasting (1hr)
- Animal Games (1hr)
- Dip Netting (1hr)
- Guided Hike (1hr)
- \*Wet n Scaly Show (1hr)
- \*Guided Canoe/Kayak (1hr)
- Look, See, Paint (2hr)

# BOOKING

## RESERVATION INFORMATION

Day Packages	Cost/Participant	Minimum Requirement
Independent Discovery (Unguided—Full Day)	\$7.50	20 participants
Half Day Programs (2hrs)	\$9.50	20 participants
Full Day Program (2 x 2hrs)	\$14.50	20 participants

Specialty Program Add-ons	Additional Costs/Participant	Notes
Canoe/kayak	+\$5.00	'Day Package' rates (above) applies in addition to these specialty ad-ons.
Animal Show (WetN'Scally or Birds of Prey)	+\$5.00	
Snowshoe rental	+\$3.00	
XC Ski rental	+\$8.00	

Supervisor Discounts	
JK - Grade 3	1 supervisor per 5 participants: Complimentary
Grades 4 - 12	1 supervisor per 10 participants: Complimentary

Overnight Packages	Cost/Participant	Minimum Requirement
Tent:: One Night	\$15.00	10 participants
Tent:: Two Nights	\$17.50	10 participants
Bunkhouse: One	\$20.00	15 participants
Bunkhouse: Two	\$22.50	15 participants
Notes		
'Day Packages' rates (left) apply for guided programming throughout your stay. 20 participant minimum is waved.		

\*Please refer to our 'Residential Visitor Guide' for additional information regarding our facilities.

Wye Marsh Comes to You	Cost*	Additional Information
Birds of Prey/Wet n Scaly Shows (1hr)	\$350.00	Max. Number of Participants: 50
Snowshoeing	\$13.00/Participant	Min. 2 Sessions Max. Number of Classes/Session: 2
All other available offsite programs	\$10/Participant	

\*Add an additional \$0.50/km if total travel distance is over 55/km.



# REMINDERS

## RESERVATION INFORMATION

### **Planning**

**1.** Submit online Booking Request Form; **2.** Await confirmation **3.** Contact 705-526-7809 x220 or [education@wyemarsh.com](mailto: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 Visa, MC, money order, cheque (payable to Wye Marsh), 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 (\$190—based upon 20 participants for a half-day program).

### **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 Equipment**

Please let us know if you require the use of our all-terrain wheelchairs.

### **Gift Shop**

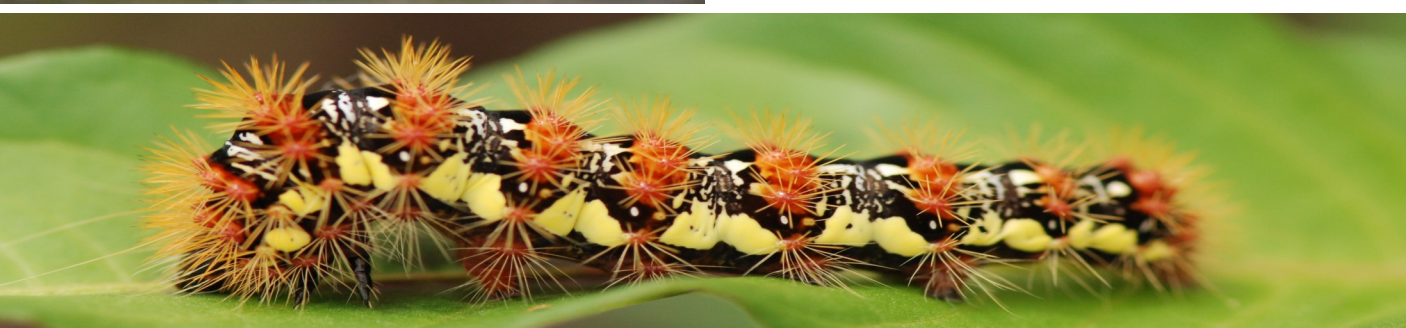
Souvenirs, light snacks and drinks are available for purchase under leader supervision.

### **The Wye Marsh Also Offers**

Meeting Rooms, Birthday Parties, Day Camps, Weddings, as well as Badge programs for Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts!



Curriculum Based Programs  
 Experiential Learning  
 Comprehensive & Fun  
 Safe & Supportive Environment  
 Environmental Stewardship  
 Accessible to All Physical Levels  
 English & French



**WYE MARSH**  
 16160 HWY #12, P.O. BOX 100  
 MIDLAND, ONTARIO  
 L4R 4K6



**BOOKING CONTACT**  
 P 705.526.7809 X220 \* F 705.526.3294  
 EDUCATOIN@WYEMARSH.COM  
 WWW.WYEMARSH.COM