



MARSH SCHOOL GROUP PROGRAM GUIDE

FOSTERING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SINCE 1969

Revised 2020



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 Seeds & Needs Team building
 Sweetwater harvest Experiential Compass
 orienteering Habitats Water Ecosystems



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This resource is available online at <https://www.wyemarsh.com/groups-and-tours>

If you would like a copy sent to you please email info@wyemarsh.com

Active Interest



Experiential Learning

Escape... Explore... Experience...

About Us

The staff & volunteers of Wye Marsh 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.

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 it is *to foster environmental stewardship*.

What makes us UNIQUE:

- ❖ Our programming 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 us and our surroundings, 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, Class I wetland, 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.

Nature

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)

- Each program is one or two hours in length. Programs can be combined to make up a half or full day. Program times can be flexible in order to accommodate travel arrangements.
- Please ensure that you choose one alternative program as well as two alternative dates in the event that your first choice is unavailable.

Step 2. Submit request

- Visit <https://www.wyemarsh.com/groups-and-tours> to fill out a Day Trip Booking Request Form
- 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.
- 50% deposit is due upon booking, with the balance owing due upon arrival by Visa, MC, PayPal, money order, cheque, debit or cash and is based upon confirmed number of participants.
- Our programs run rain or shine. Cancellations can be made up to two weeks in advance of your visit but are subject to a \$50 administration fee. Groups who cancel after the deadline will be charged our minimum booking fee (based upon 20 participants)

Step 4. Contact us

- Contact our Education and Reservations Coordinator at 705-526-7809 or education@wyemarsh.com with any questions/concerns.

Planning

Outdoors

Planning

Program Option Selection Guide:

Option 1. One Hour Programs

Choose Four (4) one hour programs to make up a Full Day

Choose Two (2) one hour programs to make up a Half Day

Option 2. Two Hour Programs

Choose Two (2) two hour programs to make up a Full Day

Choose One (1) two hour program to make up a Half Day

Option 3. Combination Programs

Choose Two (2) one hour programs and One (1) two hour program to make up a Full Day

Wetlands...Woodlands...Wildlife



Conservation

Programs

Program Guide:

❖ Age Recommendation

Season: Spring 

Summer 

Fall 

Winter 

One Hour Programs	Program Title	Toddlers	Young Children	Youths	Teens	Adults	Seniors	Season Availability
	Marsh Mingle (Group Games)	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		   
	Discovery Hike	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	   
	Birds of Prey Show*	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	   
	Wet 'N' Scaly Show*	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	   
	Look, See Paint*		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	  
	Dip Netting		❖	❖	❖			  
	The Great Tree Challenge			❖	❖	❖	❖	  
	Bannock Roasting*		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	   
	Marsh Exploration by Canoe*		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	  
Marsh Exploration by Kayak*				❖	❖		  	

* Additional fees apply

www.wyemarsh.com

escape...explore...experience....

Program

At a Glance

❖ Age Recommendation

Season: Spring 

Summer 

Fall 

Winter 

Two Hour Programs	Program Title	Toddlers	Young Children	Youths	Teens	Adults	Seniors	Season Availability
	Team Building			❖	❖	❖	❖	
	Ultimate Survival			❖	❖	❖		
	Compass Orienteering			❖	❖	❖	❖	
	GPS Navigation			❖	❖	❖	❖	
	Animal Tracking	❖	❖	❖	❖			
	Cross Country Skiing			❖	❖	❖	❖	
	Snowshoeing		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	
	Science of Snow		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	
	Pond Study		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	
	Sweetwater Harvest		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	
	Wilderness Survival		❖	❖	❖	❖		

* Additional fees apply

Availability

Biodiversity

Natural Sciences

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.



Birds of Prey Show*

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. **Specialty program—additional charge applies (see booking information on page 16).



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.



Marsh Mingle

Games, games, and more games! Educational, kinetic and fun, this program is sure to get its participants actively engaged in with each other as well as with the wildlife around them as many of the games have an environmental focus.



Pond Study

With dip nets in hand, students will learn about the many amazing adaptations the aquatic insects 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.



Investigation

The Science of Snow

Participants will take an in-depth look at the mysterious white stuff that defines 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.



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.



Wet 'N' Scaly Show*

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.



*Specialty programs—additional charge applies (see booking information on page 16).

Physical

Outdoor Recreation

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. **Specialty program—additional charge applies (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. **Specialty program—additional charge applies (see booking information on page 13).



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.



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. **Specialty program—additional charge applies (see booking information on page 16).



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. **Specialty program—additional charge applies (see booking information on page 16).



Activity

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

Cultural History

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. *Specialty program—additional charges apply



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.



Connections

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)

Winter Carnival!



Discover Wye Winter Wonderland! This program will be sure to warm every participant up to the winter season. A Winter Carnival at the Wye Marsh could include the following of these most favourite activities:

- *Birds of Prey Show (1hr)
- Bannock Roasting (1hr)
- Animal Games (1hr)
- Chickadee Feeding (1hr)
- Animal Tracking (2hr)
- *Wet n Scaly Show (1hr)
- Snowshoeing (2hr)
- Cross Country Skiing (2hr)
- Guided Hike (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 it's inhabitants. The Wetland Wonderers package could include the following of these most favourite activities:

- *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)

* Premium program charge—see price list on page 13 for details

Booking

Reservation

Day Packages	Cost/Participant	Minimum
Independent Discovery	\$8.00	20 participants
Half Day Programs	\$9.50	20 participants
Full Day Program	\$14.50	20 participants

EEKs	Cost+	Notes
Eco Edu Kits	\$50.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-booking is required • Some kits only available onsite • Security Deposit Required

Supervisor Discounts	
JK - Grade 3	1 supervisor per 5 participants: Complimentary
Grades 4 +	1 supervisor per 10 participants: Complimentary
1-1 Support Workers	Additional 1-1 support workers are free

Specialty Program Add-ons	Additional Cost / Participant Cost+
Canoe/kayak	+\$5.00
Animal Show (WetN'Scally or Birds of Prey)	+\$5.00
Snowshoe rental	+\$3.00
XC Ski rental	+\$8.00

Notes

'Day Package' rates apply in addition to these specialty ad-ons.
 *Max. 60 Participants: per animal show

Additional Accommodations

Please feel free to inform us if you require any accommodations

Details

Information

Overnight Packages	Cost/ Participant	Minimum Requirement
Tent: One Night	\$15.00	10 participants
Tent: Two Nights	\$17.50	10 participants
Bunkhouse: One Night	\$20.00	15 participants
Bunkhouse: Two Nights	\$22.50	15 participants
Notes		
<p>'Day Packages' rates (previous pg) apply for guided programming throughout your stay. 20 participant minimum is waived. *Please refer to our 'Overnight Visitor Guide' for additional information regarding our facilities.</p>		

Wye Marsh Comes to You	Cost+	Additional Information
Birds of Prey/Wet n Scaly Shows (1hr)	\$350.00/show	Max. Number of
All other available offsite programs	\$275.00*	*contact us for additional details
Snowshoeing	\$13.00/Participant	Min. 2 Sessions/Visit with Max. of 2
Notes		
+Add an additional \$0.55/km if total travel distance is over 35/km.		

Reminders

Reservation Information

Planning

1. Submit Booking Request Form; 2. Await confirmation 3. Submit 50% deposit to confirm your booking 4. Contact 705-526-7809 or education@wyemarsh.com with any questions/concerns.

Payment

Payment of balance owing is due upon arrival Visa, MC, cheque, debit or cash and is based upon confirmed number of participants.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations can be made up two weeks in advance of your visit but are subject to a \$50 administration fee. Groups who cancel after the deadline will be charge a minimum booking fee (based upon 20 participants). If you need to reschedule, please call 705-526-7809 or email education@wyemarsh.com

Weather

Our programs run rain or shine. We recommend that participants dress for the weather, including closed-toed shoes. In the event of inclement weather (heat advisory, high winds, lightening etc.) we will provide alternative indoor programming until the weather subsides.

Lunch

We are a 'litter-less' facility. All garbage, recycling and compost is to be disposed of offsite. Also 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, Reunions and Weddings, as well as Badge programs for Girl Guides and Scouts!

The Wye Marsh would like to thank you in advance for helping us to foster the next generation of environmental stewards.



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



WYE MARSH

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BOOKING CONTACT

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