



Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge's **After-School Guide**



Educate - Fascinate - Engage



Dear Teachers,

We're so excited you want to incorporate Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge into your after-school program! We are looking forward to sharing with you all of our engaging and interactive learning opportunities that have been specially designed to fit with your school's after-school program.

Our programs are designed to complement the New Jersey state learning standards and numerous STEM and NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas, and are easily adapted to cover coursework at private and public schools modeled on teaching children to appreciate wildlife and the habitats around them.

Through the use of artifacts, live wildlife ambassadors, and experiential learning, we will be allowing participants the chance to discover their own curiosity and ask questions that we can then learn the answers to together.

Be sure to let us know if you have any questions — we look forward to working with you and your students in the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,
Jim Hansen, After-School Coordinator



About Cedar Run

We are dedicated to the preservation of New Jersey's wildlife and habitats through environmental education, conservation, and wildlife rehabilitation.

Established as a private, non-profit organization in 1957, we operate the region's busiest Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital, caring for over 6,000 patients annually. Cedar Run also engages in conservation efforts through environmental education and ecologically based management of our 171~acres of protected Pinelands habitats.



"Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain."

Henry David Thoreau



After-School with Cedar Run

Inside and Outside! When at all possible we will be enjoying nature outside. When weather makes that difficult we will bring the outside in and use available classrooms or meeting rooms to continue our discovery. Our programs have been designed to fit into current after-school program schedules, however that is always flexible.

Each session will be led by one of our experienced Educators engaging them throughout their lesson correlating with numerous New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas — all while integrating STEM concepts.

Weekly Lessons

All programs have the potential for meeting a live animal ambassador but that depends on the health and availability of individual animals at the time of the program.

Marvelous Mammals

What makes a mammal? Introduction to mammal physiology and the environment they live in. With approximately 89 mammals recognized to reside in NJ there is plenty to discover right in our backyards! Will include preserved specimens and touchable objects.

Versatile Reptiles

What reptiles can you find in your area? We will discuss what reptiles are and how to identify them. The differences between venomous and poisonous reptiles will be part of the conversation as well as what ones you need to be aware of in your own backyards.

Wings and Feathers Abound

Are birds dinosaurs?! This question will be answered along with many more in this exciting lesson on the wide world of birds. The avian family ranges from little hummingbirds to great eagles and everything in between. With so much variety to discuss this lesson will leave participants with a newfound wonder for our feathered friends.





Ingenious Insects

While many people squirm at the thought of such creepy crawlies, we will be searching to find our new favorite insect! Found on every continent these creatures are extremely hardy and deserving of respect! We will discuss what insects the children have seen and which insects you should stay away from.

Migration and Hibernation Celebration

Where do animals go when the weather changes? Some pack up their bags and move while others tough it out and sleep away the bad weather. We will review what local animals do in preparation for and in response to the change of the seasons.

Aquatic Exploration

Water is everywhere around us and every living thing depends on it, but where does it come from? Where does it go? This week we will discuss how people and animals depend on water and what we can do to make sure it stays clean by doing some water testing and demonstrating a watershed.

Productive Plants

With vegetation all around us it is of vital importance that children learn to identify some of the most common plants that they can find. Ranging from dangerous to delicious we will observe them all! This will include a walk around the grounds to help identify the common plants around the school.

Threatened and Endangered

For this week we will focus on learning about how animals can become threatened and endangered as well as what can be done to stop/reverse this process. We will discuss past success stories as well as current species that are in danger and what we can do to help.

Don't See Your Topic?

Cedar Run's Education Department can tailor a program specifically for your needs or adapt a current program to fit better! We offer many different types of wildlife ambassadors and artifacts that help teach just about any topic you might be interested in!

Call our Education Department at (856) 983-3329 ext. 103 or e-mail us at Education@CedarRun.org for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Availability

Cedar Run's After-School Program is available anytime during the school year, generally between September and June. All programs can be adapted and changed to fit existing after-school set ups or can be set up on an individual basis.

Times

Up to 2 hour long programs after the end of the school day during the districts period for after-school operation. This is adjustable depending on the schools normal after-school program schedule.

Registration

Students must sign up for this program ahead of time. Check with the After-School Coordinator to see if registration will be processed through their school or through Woodford Cedar Run.

What to Wear/Bring

Normal school attire (weather depending) is appropriate. If an activity requires safety equipment be worn, Cedar Run shall provide it to the students at the time of the activity.

Weather Conditions

When the weather is appropriate we will have at least a portion of the program outside, if relevant to the topic for the week. Programs occur rain or shine. For heavy rain and inclement weather, all programs will be completed indoors.



Frequently Asked Questions

About Our Wildlife Ambassadors

The animals presented during our programs are native to this region. Unfortunately, we can not guarantee a specific animal will be presented at your program. The animals in our care are education animals and permanent residents at Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge. They cannot be released into the wild due to various injuries or conditions, which deem them unreleasable.

New Jersey is a "No Touch" State

This means that due to strict limitations on our federal and state education permits no one is permitted to touch our animals for any reason. However, we often use elements, such as feathers, wings, pelts and talons to aid in our discussions, which students ARE permitted to touch. Additionally, we DO NOT fly our birds and they will always be restrained for the duration of our presentation.



Did You Know?

Cedar Run also welcomes visitors 7 days a week. Our Nature Center is open daily, 10 am - 4 pm. There are 3 miles of hiking trails to explore, a Nature Center with numerous exhibits highlighting the plants and animals native to the Pinelands and a reptile room, as well as our outdoor Wildlife Housing Area with nearly 60 permanent residents including deer, raccoon, hawks, eagles, crows and more!

Website - www.CedarRun.org

Email - Education@CedarRun.org

Phone - 856-983-3329 ext. 103