

Education Programs 2011-2012



The Schuylkill
Center | for ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION





welcome

Welcome to the Schuylkill Center!

The Schuylkill Center's 340 acres of fields, forests and ponds are a living laboratory for students of all ages, preschool and beyond. Since 1965, hundreds of thousands of students have benefited from our field-tested educational offerings, everything from guided walks to live animal assemblies in your school.

And new this year: check out our unique farm programs where students dig into urban agriculture—literally!—and workshops where art and science blend as students explore nature through art.

In addition to a guided program, your students can explore our indoor Discovery Center, lunch in our picnic grove, and visit our gift shop.

If you can't arrange a trip to our center? We'll come to you! Check out page 11 and 12's extended offerings of workshops and experiences we present in area schools.

Programs are held rain or shine. During inclement weather, an engaging, hands-on program utilizing the Center's extensive natural history collection and environmental education activities will be conducted indoors.

Table of Contents

Preschool & Kindergarten

3

Grades 1 - 3

5

Grades 4 - 6

7

Grades 7 - 12

9

SCEE @ My School

11

Other Programs & Directions

13

Preschool & Kindergarten

Field trips to the Schuylkill Center

Programs for preschool and kindergarten children are 90 minute lessons plus time to explore in our indoor Discovery Center and lunch in our picnic area.

Storybook Stroll

Together we read a story and hike through the forest to look for signs of animals in nature.

Sensory Nature Ramble

Students learn how animals, including humans, use their senses to explore the natural world.

First Look at a Pond

The diversity of animals and plants in and around our ponds make this hands-on exploration a popular, memorable program. (Apr-Nov)

Seasonal Nature Exploration

A trail hike and program highlighting the features of the season in which you visit.

First Look at a Farm

Children touch, taste and smell the foods that are growing on our farm and enjoy a hayride on the wagon! (extra fee)

Art & Nature

Investigate the natural world through both art and science. After exploring the outdoors, students will make art that incorporates materials they have collected.

Field Trip Fees:

\$6/child, 1 adult free with every 10 students
Additional adults are \$3 each

**“The exploring activities were the best part . . .
finding bugs, digging through leaves . . . “**

-The St. Eugene School

Bring our educators to your students with 'SCEE @ My School'

SCEE @ My School for preschool and kindergarten classes are one hour in length and designed for groups of 15 or fewer.

Senses & Nature

Hands-on activities and natural history artifacts engage all of your students' senses while they learn about nature and the senses of other animals!

Around the Pond

Learn about the pond by exploring the lives of residents such as the frogs and dragonflies.

Discovering Birds

Learn about the birds in your schoolyard by sight and sound. Students will also investigate examples of birds' nests.

Programs at Your School Fees:

\$100/program, plus a travel fee.

Live animal visitors are available for additional fee.



Grades 1 - 3

Field trips to the Schuylkill Center

Programs are a two-hour lesson exploring the Schuylkill Center's natural areas with our environmental educators.

Pond Community

The diversity of animals and plants in and around our ponds make this hands-on exploration a popular, memorable program. (Apr-Nov)

Habitat Hike

Explore the field, forest, and pond habitats to discover who calls the Schuylkill Center home and how they find their food, water, shelter and space.

Incredible Insects

Students explore the forests, ponds and fields to learn about the physical features and behaviors of the insects here. (Apr-Nov)

Insects on the Farm: Pests and Pollinators

Insects are everywhere, especially on a farm. Students learn to identify insects and about their important role in the farm ecosystem.

From Forest to Farm to Table

What does a forest have to do with a farm? Students will hike the Center's woodland trails in addition to touring the farm and enjoying a hayride (extra fee).

Art & Nature

Investigate the natural world through both art and science. After exploring the outdoors, students will make art that incorporates materials they have collected.

“Being able to take small groups through hands-on activities was great. Children loved being outside.”

-Penn Valley Elementary

Field Trip Fees:

\$6/child, 1 adult free with every 10 students
Additional adults are \$3 each



Grades 4 - 6

Half-Day Programs at the Schuylkill Center

Half-Day Programs are a two-hour lesson exploring the Schuylkill Center's natural areas with our environmental educators. All programs are tied to PA Academic standards.

Ecosystem Explorers

Explore the field, forest, and pond ecosystems to discover the interactions between the living and nonliving parts of these diverse habitats.

Incredible Insects

Students explore the forests, ponds and fields to learn about the physical features and behaviors of the insects here.

Amazing Adaptations

Students come to understand that everything has unique features to help them survive, and everything has a niche!

Water Survey

Students hike to a pond or stream and

learn to test the waters through a variety of chemical and biological tests.

Seeds to Trees to Soil

Trees are vital to our environment - absorbing carbon dioxide, cooling the earth, and providing important habitat. Students focus on the forest ecosystem and the cycle of trees.

Insects on the Farm

Pests and Pollinators: Insects are everywhere, especially on a farm. Students learn to identify insects and about their important role in the farm ecosystem.

From Forest to Farm to Table

What does a forest have to do with a farm?

Students will hike the Center's woodland trails in addition to touring the farm and enjoying a hayride. (extra fee)

Soil: Digging Deeper at the Farm

Students will discover the importance of soil and the nutrients that cycle through it and into the plants we eat. Play the role of the farmer to learn how to manage soil to grow healthy crops.

Half Day Program Fees:

\$6 per student; \$60 minimum
1 adult free per group of ten students,
\$3 for each additional adult.

Full-Day Programs at the Schuylkill Center

Full-Day Programs are three-hour lessons that allow students time to delve more deeply into subject areas with our educators (generally 10am—1:30pm with a break for lunch).

Aquatic Ecology & Water Quality

Students learn about watersheds and the impact of human activity on our waterways; examine stream critters under a microscope; and conduct pollution experiments. Students also do a water quality assessment at a pond or stream.

Ecosystems & Adaptations

This program reinforces the concept that every species has a unique set of characteristics which help them to survive. Students learn how the environment influences a species' adaptation through the process of natural selection.

Art & Science

Students will enhance their understanding of the natural world through art, learning about natural science and incorporating that knowledge into an art project.

Full Day Program Fees:

\$10 per student; \$100 minimum
1 adult free with each group of ten students,
\$5 for each additional adult.



Grades 7 - 12

Half-Day Programs at the Schuylkill Center

Biodiversity

Learn methods scientists use to measure biodiversity and why it is vital to the health of the environment and the quality of human life.

Ecosystems

Explore the field, forest, and pond ecosystems to document the interactions between the living and nonliving parts of these diverse habitats.

Wetlands Ecology

Students will discover the importance of wetlands as they experience first-hand the features and functions of wetlands at the Schuylkill Center.

Incredible insects

Students explore the forests, ponds and

fields to learn about the physical features and behaviors of insects.

Amazing Adaptations

Students come to understand that every species has unique features to help it survive, and everything has a niche!

Water Survey

Students hike to a pond or stream and learn to test the waters through a variety of chemical and biological tests.

Seeds to Trees to Soil

Trees are vital to our environment - absorbing carbon dioxide, cooling the earth, and providing important habitat. Students focus on the forest ecosystem and the cycle of trees.

Half-Day Programs are a two-hour lesson exploring the Schuylkill Center's natural areas with our environmental educators. All programs are tied to PA Academic standards.

Insects on the Farm

Pests and Pollinators: Insects are everywhere, especially on a farm. Students learn to identify insects and about their important role in the farm ecosystem.

Soil: Digging Deeper at the Farm

Students will discover the importance of soil and the nutrients that cycle through it and into the plants we eat. Play the role of the farmer to learn how to manage soil to grow healthy crops.

Half-Day Program Fees:

\$6 per student; \$60 minimum
1 adult free per group of ten students,
\$3 for each additional adult.

Full-Day Programs at the Schuylkill Center

Full-Day Programs are three-hour lessons and allow students time to delve more deeply into subject areas with our educators (generally 10am—1:30 pm with a break for lunch).

Aquatic Ecology & Water Quality

Students learn about watersheds and the impact of human activity on our waterways; examine stream critters under a microscope; and conduct pollution experiments. Students also do a water quality assessment at a pond or stream.

Ecosystems & Adaptations

This program reinforces the concept that every species has a unique set of characteristics which help them to survive. Students learn how the environment influences a species' adaptation through the process of natural selection.

Art & Science

Students will enhance their understanding of the natural world through art, learning about natural science and incorporating that knowledge into an art project.

Full-Day Program Fees:

\$10 per student; \$100 minimum

1 adult free with each group of ten students,

\$5 for each additional adult.



SCEE @ My School

Invite a Schuylkill Center naturalist to your school for in-class programs or guided explorations of your schoolyard. Programs are 1 hour in length and suited for classes up to 30 students. “Raptors” and “Wildlife of Pennsylvania” can be presented as assemblies for large groups.

Butterflies & Other Insects

From the creepy-crawly to the magnificent, insects are amazing and well-adapted to their surroundings. Learn facts about insects that will make your students bugout!

Wildlife Protectors

From city squirrels to migrating birds, urban wildlife needs protection. Students will learn how some animals have adapted to living close to humans, and how to make our neighborhoods safer for them. (optional animal)

Mammals and their Adaptations

Using animal pelts, skulls, tracks and scat, students will learn about the characteristics

of mammals and the adaptations that help them to survive.

Trash Bash

We have a trash problem! Learn what it is we’re throwing away and problem-solve to figure out ways to reduce, reuse, recycle.

Compost Community

Investigate the process of decomposition while examining the contents of a worm bin. Students will learn the role that worms play in recycling the energy produced by plants.

Schoolyard Exploration

Explore your schoolyard through the eyes of animals. Your students will be amazed at

all that calls your schoolyard home as they search for signs of plants and animals.

Watersheds & Water Pollution

Students demonstrate the concepts of a watershed and nonpoint source pollution through hands-on activities and following the journey of Fred the Fish as he swims downstream.

Wetlands & Water Quality

Students discover, through hands-on activities, how wetlands act as sponges, purifiers, and nurseries. We compare how nature purifies water to how humans clean water by constructing a drinking water filter.

Owls

Did you know Pennsylvania is home to eight species of owls? Meet two of The Schuylkill Center's non-releasable owls. Learn about the lore of these interesting animals and perform an owl pellet dissection to investigate their diet.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Herpetology is the study of the scaly and the slimy: reptiles and amphibians. Learn about their adaptations for survival with an up-close look at live turtles and snakes along with hands-on activities.

For Classrooms or Assembly Events:

Raptors

Get up close and personal with the magnificent birds we call raptors. Learn about the natural history and adaptations of hawks, owls and vultures. In addition to the live birds, students will experience samples of bones, talons, feathers, and skulls.

Wildlife of Pennsylvania

Meet birds of prey, mammals, and reptiles that are native to our region. In addition to live animals, students will experience samples of bones, feathers, skulls and furs.



SCEE @ My School Fees:

Classroom programs: \$100 up to 30 students

Classroom program + optional animal: \$150

Schoolyard exploration: \$100 up to 15 students,
\$75 for additional 15 students

Raptors & Wildlife of Pennsylvania: \$250

Travel fees are based on mileage and travel time from the
Center (generally \$15-\$30).

Benefit from other Schuylkill Center offerings:



Philadelphia Envirothon

The Schuylkill Center hosts the Philadelphia County Envirothon for Philadelphia high schools. Find information on www.schuylkillcenter.org or envirothonpa.org.

Low & High Ropes Challenge Course

Adventure programming amidst the Schuylkill Center's tree canopy is offered through the Adventure Network. Visit www.adventure-network.net or Tel. 215.997.9270.

Native Plant Nursery & Sales

Planning a native plant or sensory garden at your school? The Schuylkill Center grows and sells native plants on-site. Visit our website for more information.

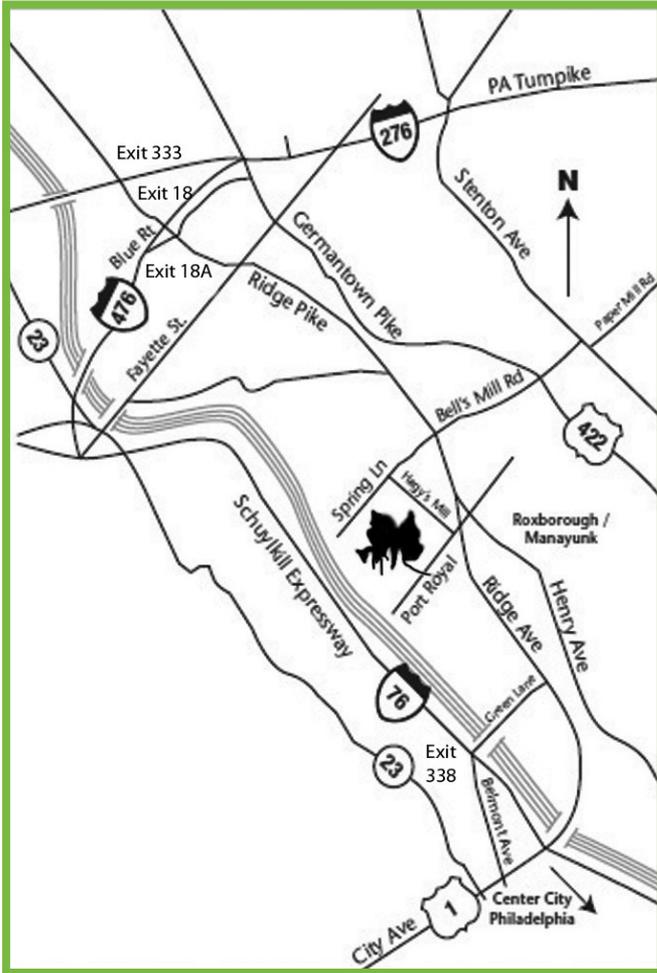
Act 48 Professional Development

The Schuylkill Center is approved by the PA Department of Education to offer Act

48 Professional Development workshops. Typically offered during the summer months these workshops focus on current environmental issues and the PA Environment & Ecology and Science and Technology Academic Standards. Visit our website in spring for current workshop offerings.

Sign up for our Teacher E-newsletter

It features resources for incorporating the environment into your teaching, professional development opportunities, grant & funding opportunities and more!



Driving Directions to the Schuylkill Center

From I-476 (Blue Route):

When traveling northbound,

- Exit at the Conshohocken Exit (#18A).
- Turn right at the end of the ramp on to Ridge Pike.

If traveling southbound,

- Exit at the Norristown Exit (# 18).
- Make a slight right onto Ridge Pike traveling westbound.
- Turn right onto Alan Wood Road for turnaround to Ridge Pike eastbound. Follow Ridge Pike/Ridge Ave. eastbound for 3.7 miles to Bell's Mill Road/ Spring Lane.
- Turn right onto Spring Lane. Drive .6 miles to Hagy's Mill Road and
- Turn left. Drive .3 miles to SCEE's driveway on right.

From I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway):

When traveling northbound,

- Exit at Green Lane/ Belmont Avenue Exit (#338).
- Turn right at the end of the ramp onto

Green Lane to cross bridge.

If traveling southbound,

- Turn left at the end of the ramp onto Green Lane to cross bridge. Follow Green Lane almost one mile to Ridge Avenue.
- Turn left onto Ridge Avenue and follow for 2.2 miles to Port Royal Avenue.
- Turn left and travel .2 miles to Hagy's Mill Road.
- Turn right and travel .3 miles to SCEE's driveway on left.

From I-276 (Pennsylvania Turnpike):

- Exit at the Norristown Exit (#333). Follow Germantown Pike eastbound to Bell's Mill Road. Travel just over one mile, proceeding through intersection at Ridge Avenue, at which point Bell's Mill Road becomes Spring Lane. Travel .6 miles to Hagy's Mill Road and
- Turn left. Drive .3 miles to SCEE's driveway on right



The Schuylkill
Center

for ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION

8480 Hagy's Mill Rd
Philadelphia, PA 19128

www.schuylkillcenter.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 1571