The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education’s mission is to inspire meaningful connections between people and nature. We use our forests and fields as a living laboratory to foster appreciation, deepen understanding, and encourage stewardship of the environment.

Founded in 1965, the Schuylkill Center is the country’s first nature center in a major metropolitan city, and the region's pioneer in environmental education. Located on 340 acres, the Center is the largest privately owned open space in Philadelphia, and features diverse habitats including woodlands, meadows, ponds, and streams, with six miles of hiking trails for walking and program use. Our outdoor spaces are complemented by the Visitor Center, which includes indoor classroom space, a Discovery Museum, and an environmental art gallery.

The Center’s four interrelated program areas are Environmental Education, Environmental Art, Land Restoration, and Wildlife Rehabilitation. Environmental Education is offered through a broad scope of programming that includes our Nature Preschool and Kindergarten for 3-5 year olds, hands-on environmental education field studies for Philadelphia school students, teacher professional development, public programs, family festivals and other events that serve more than 10,000 people of all ages. Environmental Art residencies, exhibitions, school and public programs serve nature-based artists and non-traditional art audiences. Land Restoration programs improve habitats, distribute native plants, and help local residents and organizations gain the knowledge and skills to be environmental stewards. Our Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic provides medical care and treatment for over 4,000 wild animals each year, releasing 60% back into the wild.

Approximately 36,000 people visit the Center each year to hike our trails, participate in our programs and learn about the natural environment in our protected green spaces.