

Support the Nature Center!

Join the Friends of the Robert Moses State Park Nature Center Inc. Receive quarterly newsletters and special invitations to many seasonal events.



Please help us become one of the most fantastic Nature Centers in the North Country.

Memberships are:

\$5 Individual

\$10 Family

\$20 Classroom

\$25 Business/Organization

\$100 Lifetime

Please make checks payable to Friends of the RMSP Nature Center, Inc.

****Donations are tax-deductible****

Friends of the Nature Center
PO Box 408
Massena, NY 13662

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Nature Center
Robert Moses State Park

On & Off-site
2014-2015



We teach the joy of nature!

Available year round:

Email: ncrebirth@yahoo.com

Website: www.massenanaturecenter.org

Phone: 315-705-5022

Find us on Facebook:

*Friends of the Robert Moses
State Park Nature Center, Inc*

Background Information:

It's been a long road for the Nature Center, but the sun is shining on the horizon now – thanks to support from people like you!

The Nature Center had been offering environmental education programs to the North Country for more than 20 years.

Who & Where Are Our Staff:

Mary Danboise is the Executive Director. She has an AS, BA & MS in Teaching. She has been with the Nature Center for 22 years.

Linda Besio is the Recreation & Education Specialist. She has a BA in Biology and has been with the Nature Center for 18 years.

Joel Danko is one of the assistant education specialists. He has a BS in Biology and has been working seasonally with the Nature Center for the past 4 years.

The staff is working from a Mod Space near the trailhead at the old Nature Center location. This is only office and storage space, so all programs will take place on the trails or under a tent by the trailhead. Port-a-johns are available on-site.

When possible, programs may be “team-scheduled” with NYPA’s Visitor Center.

Contact Jodi Burke at 315-764-0226



Who Are the Friends:

Since 2000, The Friends Group has been an all-volunteer organization, founded to support the needs and programs of the Nature Center. There are almost 150 members! The board of directors includes:

- Rick Marshall, *President*
- Miriam Morrow, *Vice President*
- Tony Perry, *Treasurer*
- Betty Robillard, *Secretary*
- Ross Violi, *Trustee*
- Barbara Taylor, *Trustee*
- Randy Freiman, *Trustee*
- Martha Duchscherer, *Trustee*

If you are interested in meeting our board or attending a monthly meeting, please contact us. We are very interested in adding new skills and diversity to our board of directors.

Scheduling Programs

The Nature Center environmental education programs have been designed in such a way that with simple adjustments that they can meet the needs of any grade level. All programs meet the NYS Learning standards common core requirements.

On-site Programs:

Since we are presently without a building, on-site programs will take place on the trail system under a tent by the trail head. When possible, we suggest that you schedule a visit at the NYPA Visitor's Center (right down the road) also. This would make your visit even more fun and you could check out their facilities before heading back to school!

On-site programs follow a general nature topic or a specific choice from those listed in this brochure. Programs are designed to be hands-on and interactive. When possible, a nature game or activity is also included with on-site visits. At this point, only 2 classes can be scheduled per visit, but this may change, so inquire when contacting us. Programs take about 1.5 hours. Picnic tables and port-a-johns are available for public use. We are a "carry-in, carry-out" park, so please bring trash bags.



Off-site Programs:

Off-site programs are brought directly to the school or organization. We ask that maximum class size be no more than 23 students. Smaller classes are better able to enjoy our hands-on programs. Book a minimum of 3 programs (maximum 5) to help us conserve fuel. Due to all the items & mounts we'll be bringing, please make one room available for us and your classes come to us.

There is NO fee for our programs, but a great way to keep them going and teach your students about stewardship is to join the Friends as a classroom, for only \$20!

"Turtle Trivia" Learn all about native turtles, their place in history and how they survive. Live exhibits used when possible. Activity: Collect egg cartons & students will make turtle rattles.

"Beaver Bites" The survival and adaptation of our state mammal is explored. Learn what makes this animal so amazing & how it almost came to be extinct. Activity: Beaver track & fact book.

"Creepy Crawlies" Students explore the differences between insects and spiders and why they all play such an important role in the environment. Activity: Students design their very own insect.

"Fishy Facts" Learn how fish survive, what type of fish live in the North Country and how habitat change affects them. Activity: Fish printing (you provide tempera or acrylic paints & paper).

"Flying Monkeys" Monkeys & bats; what's the difference? You'll be surprised and so will your students. Facts end fear & teach your students just how important these creatures are to us!

"Birds & Bird feeding" Learn about birds, migration, winter bird feeding and much, much more! Activity: Collect toilet paper rolls & we'll make recycled feeders with your students.

"Track Detectives" Students will see and touch animal furs, skulls & learn all about animal tracks too. Assorted mounted animals will also be brought. Activity: Make a Track book or Plaster Tracks (you provide the plaster of paris).



"Night Hunters" Learn what makes owls silent hunters, what they eat & their role in the food chain. Activity: Students can also dissect owl pellets for a small fee – call for information on this please.

"Little Ladybugs" Ladybugs have invaded – learn all about them, the different types, what they eat, their survival & how they help the environment. Activity: Students learn about symmetry & make a Ladybug.

"Mister Blue Bird" Learn about our state bird & its fight for survival. Teach students to get involved and help. Activity: Blue Bird mobile.

Special On-site Programs:

"Tree Truths" *On-site, Fall only. Learn your trees & leaves at the same time. We'll even throw in some shrubs too! Activities: Tree ID game, bark rubbings or ID book.

"Monarch Mania" *On-Site, Fall only. Learn all about this amazing butterfly, its survival and migration. Explore a Monarch habitat & see if you find any specimens. Activity: Game & life cycle bookmark.

"Bear Paws" *On-site, Winter only. Students learn a bit of snowshoe history & then experience the program on their own 2 feet. Bring your own snowshoes or rent ours for \$4 a pair.

LOGISTICS:

Please call or email to schedule as far in advance as possible & have the following information gathered:

- Scheduled date(s) & Time(s)
- Program choice(s)
- Number of students
- Grade levels
- Alternate dates & times in case your first choice is taken.

High School Level Programs

Environmental Competition Prep Classes are available throughout the school year. Call or email for more information.