

228-06 Northern Blvd.
Douglaston, NY 11362



APEC



Environmental Studies for Grades 6-12

Our secondary education programs focus on supplementing Middle School, Regents, and Advanced Placement curricula in the sciences. Through hands-on experiences implementing the scientific method with environmental testing, sampling, and observations in the field, students gain a true sense of ecology in New York City's natural habitats.

APEC Class Visits

All programs provide educational concepts about various aspects of Alley Pond Park's living environment that will enrich the NYC science curriculum objectives. Look inside for a listing of our programs.

How to Arrange a Visit

Class visits are by reservation only. To schedule a trip or for further information call and speak to the Upper Grade Coordinator in the Education Department at (718) 229-4000 ext. 202. We begin scheduling for the current school year the last week of August.

Please Keep in Mind

- Classes are limited to 30 participants.
- Program length is generally 2 hours.
- Visits to APEC include a walk on Alley Pond Park's trails and a field component.
- We recommend students and teachers wear heavy shoes and warm clothing during colder months and insect repellent during warmer months. Closed toe shoes are always recommended.

Program Fees

- The class visit program fee is \$10 per student.
- There is a fee of \$4.00 per parent/chaperone; no fee for teachers/paraprofessionals.
- The minimum fee for all programs is \$50 per group/class.
- To confirm your trip, a \$50/class deposit is due IMMEDIATELY in order to secure your spot. This deposit is non-refundable. The balance for the program is due on your trip date. If cancellations are made at least one month in advance an attempt to reschedule can be made.

The Nature of Water **

Investigate the steps of the water cycle and explore how water travels through a watershed system. The program focuses on the chemical, biological, and physical properties of water, as well as the social implications of water use. Learn about NYC's water and water pollution, and participate in hands-on water quality testing.



Wetland Ecology**

What is the importance of these ecosystems? Compare the complex ecology of various wetlands. Learn about the diversity of organisms that inhabit these ecologically threatened areas. Students visit a salt water marsh and a fresh water pond, and perform water quality testing to measure the health of our tidal wetland ecosystem.



Endangered Species

Why are so many plants and animals on the brink of extinction? Students learn about past periods of mass extinction, the characteristics of endangered species, and the human activities associated with extinction. Learn how scientists and the government have responded to the plight of threatened species. Students will learn about local endangered plants and animals, and what they can do to help foster biodiversity.



Invertebrate Animals

Did you know that this often neglected group of animals accounts for over 95% of the Animal Kingdom? Students are introduced to basic taxonomy and biological classification while learning about these beautiful and bizarre organisms. Unfold the unseen ecological importance of mollusks, annelids, arthropods, and more.



Animal Adaptations

What are adaptations? What makes each animal unique? Students will explore various structural, behavioral, and physiological adaptations within the vertebrate animal group. They will get the opportunity to observe and touch live animals and note their adaptations during our animal observation session. Focus is on 4 vertebrate groups: birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.



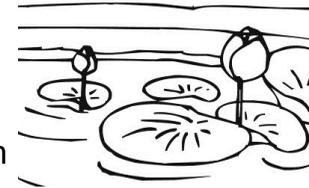
Forest Ecology

Participants will learn about the stratification of the eastern deciduous forest. Students will discuss the anatomy of trees and the functions of their parts, and meet some live forest animals. Explore APEC's forest while practicing how to identify a tree using its leaves and a dichotomous field guide in this program.



Pond Ecology**

Learn about the physical components, trophic relationships, energy flows, and chemical cycling of nutrients found in the pond ecosystem. Students will visit and compare a fresh water pond and a salt water marsh, and will perform hands on water quality testing at the pond.



Climate Change**

What factors cause climate change to occur? What is the Anthropocene epoch? Learn the ecological mechanisms that shape climate change from the greenhouse gas effect to positive feedback loops in warming seas. Come examine the various consequences of climate change on the ecosystem and human health. We will discuss ways to reduce carbon emissions, and ways to increase both sustainability and resiliency in the face of climate change. Program includes a choice of 1 of 3 STEM-based climate change activities, and a walk through the nature trails.



**** \$15 Materials fee applies****

If you would rather not do water quality testing, we can arrange an indoor animal observation session and waive the materials fee.

Custom Programs and Outreach Visits

Work with APEC staff to organize a program that will complement your current curriculum. Topics range from native plant identification to air pollution studies. Can't visit APEC? We'll come to you with outreach programs at your school. Call APEC's diverse and experienced staff to discuss your program ideas!



To book a program please call Upper Grade Coordinator, Katie Bryson, at 718-229-4000 ext. 202. A \$50 deposit per class is due at the time of booking.



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