Kindergarten 1 hour programs

Sensory Safari
What’s that smell? Who made that sound? Students will explore all five of our primary senses while learning how our local wildlife use their senses for survival.

Change Makers
K-ESS2-2
What do ants, mushrooms, and beavers have in common? They each have ways to change their environment that benefit other plants and animals. Students will learn about how these and other change makers transform their world.

First Grade 1 hour programs

Animal Kingdom
Mammals, birds, amphibians, fish and reptiles all have backbones – but are not all alike. Students will explore the Preserve while learning the main characteristics of each class of animals.

Next Generations
1-LS1-2
Like their parents, young animals need food, shelter and the right type of space to live. Students will examine a wide range of strategies that ensure a healthy next generation.

Second Grade 1.5 hour programs

Nature Detectives
Much of our wildlife goes into hiding midday, but they leave clues about their food choices, hiding places, and nighttime activities. Students will search the Preserve trails to discover which animals have passed our way.

Hitching a Ride
2-LS2-2
Plants disperse their seeds in many ways—including animals! Learn more about the relationship between local animals and the plant seeds that are hitching a ride.

Third Grade 1.5 hour programs

Food Web
Herbivores, omnivores, carnivores, oh my! All animals have to eat whether its plants, other animals, or even each other! Use exploration-based learning to see how each interaction fits within a vast food web.

Social Structures
3-LS2-1, 3-LS4-3
There is strength in numbers! Why do animals gather in packs or herds, or even in small family groups? What makes it possible for an animal to survive in one habitat, but not in another? Learn how social connections can help animals cope with stress and change.

Fourth Grade 2 hour programs

Habitat Exploration
Explore three distinctly different habitats—field, forest and stream—where students measure and record data about soil, temperatures, plant types, and animal inhabitants, and then learn to compare and contrast each environment.

Survival of the Fittest
4-LS1-1
Are you built for survival? Every living thing has specialized adaptations that help it to survive by protecting it from being eaten, allowing it to grow and reproduce, forming social bonds, and gathering information about its surroundings. Students will earn that each animal has its own unique survival strategy.

Fifth Grade 2.5 hour programs

Field Scientist
Students will become Field Scientists—investigating different habitats and collecting data about the soil and water conditions. Using their data, students will assess which of several mystery animals will survive best in each habitat.

Energize!
5-LS2-1, 5-PS3-1
Here comes the sun! Whether it is food needed for growth, movement or body heat, all energy comes from the sun. Explore the processes that turn the sun’s energy into food, and follow the energy from plants to herbivores, to carnivores and decomposers, while finding examples of each out on our trails.
Close the books, leave the classroom, and explore the natural world at the Plainsboro Preserve.

Our programs, designed around STEM and Next Generation concepts, immerse students in a new environment and encourage them to have fun while learning.

Booking your school program is as easy as a phone call or email away - call (609) 427-3052 Tue-Sun or email Plainsboro@njaudubon.org

We offer our programs year round. Spring dates fill up quickly, so please have a few available dates in mind when you contact us.

All program hikes can be modified for students with special needs. Our staff can also help find the correct program for different ability levels. Simply mention it when you book!

Price Structure

Our fees depend on the number of qualified Teacher Naturalists we provide, therefore they are on a per-class basis. We consider a class size to be between 15-25 students.

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New Jersey Audubon
Plainsboro Preserve

The Plainsboro Preserve is centrally located in New Jersey on over 1,000 acres of land with a mix of habitats, from mature forest to open fields to wetlands areas. There are five miles of trails which are easy to moderate to walk, making the Preserve a wonderful place to hike for all ages. The centerpiece of the Preserve is the scenic 50-acre McCormack Lake, with a diverse wildlife population that includes beavers, raccoons, aquatic turtles and herons.

Trails are open to the public every day from 7:30 A.M. until the posted time at dusk, and are available for all to use. The Nature Center building is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9—5, and Sundays from 12—5.

NJ Audubon is a privately supported, not-for-profit, statewide membership organization. Founded in 1897, and one of the oldest independent Audubon Societies, NJA has no formal connection with the National Audubon Society.

Making New Jersey a better place for people and wildlife since 1897.