

Interpretive Trail Hikes

Explore the Pequest Wildlife Management Area (WMA) while learning about wildlife. These sessions incorporate fun-filled conservation education themes, and simulation activities/games from Project WILD while hiking the Pequest trails. grades 4-12 2-3 hours Weather dependent Year-round

Winter Wildlife Safari

Journey to the Pequest Wildlife Management Area to explore the snow-covered landscape in search of tracks, scat, and other signs of wildlife. Students will observe wildlife active during December through March, compare and contrast factors related to winter creatures versus those active during warmer months, and learn the difference between hibernation and torpor.

Insect Treasure Safari

All wildlife - great & small - has a niche in our shared environment. In this session, students will: observe the differences between "true bugs" and other creepy crawlies; define, compare and contrast complete and incomplete metamorphosis; identify signs of insect life such as: galls, browse, frass, homes, etc.; simulate an ant on a treasure hunt.

Habitat Hike

Students will visit three distinct habitats on the Pequest Wildlife Management Area. In this session, students will: distinguish between three distinct habitats (upland field, forest and wetland); recognize that wildlife is dependent on the vegetation; and define concepts such as: succession, biodiversity, carrying capacity and species richness

Everybody Needs A Home

Emphasizes that even though wildlife live outside, they depend on shelter to help them survive. In this session, students will: define wildlife and differentiate wildlife from domestic animals; discuss the value of shelter for wildlife and people; observe, compare and contrast wildlife shelter through field investigations; and construct a shelter of their own based on given scenarios.



The Pequest Trout Hatchery & Natural Resource Education Center is located in Oxford, NJ, 8 miles west of Hackettstown. The facility is open to the public Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For more information and to schedule a group visit please call (908) 637-4125.



Who Eats Who?

Explore the web of life in and around the river. We'll take a look at what trout eat and what eats trout in this hands-on web of life activity. grades K-8 2 hours Year-round

Trout Habitat Exploration

Hike along the river looking at the river ecology and explore what makes the river a good home for trout. We will take a hands-on look at shelter, oxygen, water temperature, food and space in the river. grades 5-12 2 hours March-October

Exploring a Riparian Forest

Participants take a closer look at the benefits of riparian forest zones along a waterway and discuss the benefits of riparian buffers, what they are and explore the effects of removing riparian forests. grades 9-12 2 hours April - October

Fishing Basics

Learn the basics of fishing - equipment set-up, knot tying, casting, and more. This hands-on session will give you all the basics you need to go fishing on your own. Presentation will be followed by an actual fishing experience at the Education Pond. grades 2-12 3 hours April - October

Life Cycle of a Hatchery Trout

Take a tour of the Pequest Trout Hatchery where more than 700,000 trout are raised each year! The program includes a session on trout identification and biology, a 15-minute video showing behind-the-scenes operations at the facility and will end with a guided tour of the hatchery grounds. grades K-12 2 hours Year-round

Sessions are designed to support most major subject areas while teaching about wildlife and can be used to meet state standards for core course proficiencies and scout badge requirements.

Fish Fun Games

Learn about the habits of fish through a variety of hands-on games that will educate you about fish, their biology, their habits and some of the challenges that they face in rivers and ponds.

grades K-12 2 hours Year-round

Seeing the Forest for the Trees

Learn how to identify the trees of the Pequest Wildlife Management Area. Depending on the season, we'll identify the trees by their twigs and bark, seeds, leaves, color and/or shape.

grades K-8 2 hours Year-round

Amphibian Amble

Get your feet wet as we explore the differences between reptiles and amphibians at our pond. We will discuss the life cycles of amphibians, listen to their calls and discuss seasonal changes in these animals. We'll even hop into the pond to round up some amphibians for a closer look.

grades 4-12 2 hours April-October

Sensory Safari

A hands-on introduction to the wildlife of New Jersey. Learn about these amazing animals and how to identify them through their skulls, hides, tracks, and some of their vocalizations.

grades K-12 2 hours Year-round

Focus on Furbearers

Learn about New Jersey's furbearers. Discussions will include their biology and habitat. Take a close look at hides, skulls and tracks and learn how these animals are adapted to their habitats.

grades K-12 2 hours Year-round

Dragonflies

Bring out the binoculars for a closer look at dragonflies. We'll learn about the life cycle and biology of these animals as we observe and identify them through binoculars.

grades 4-12 2 hours April-October

Wonders of Wildlife

Each month, we'll focus our discussion on one of NJ's many wildlife species. Discussions will include life cycle, biology, identification and much more as we hike through their habitat looking for signs.

grades K-12 2 hours Year-round

Owls of New Jersey

Join us as we discuss the nine species of owls that can be found in the Garden State. We'll talk about their habitat requirements and life cycles, learn how to identify them by sight and sound and take a hike to look at some of their habitat. We'll also look at ways to attract owls to your yard. Groups 2nd grade and above can extend the program by dissecting an owl pellet and reassemble its last dinner to take home.

grades K-12 2-4 hours Year-round



Aquatic Insect Safari

Discover the differences between insects and bugs in this hands-on, get your feet wet program. We'll hop into the river and dig up some insects to get a better look at what's living in the river. We will also learn how scientists use these insects (and other organisms) to determine the health of a stream.

grades 2-12 2 hours Oct-Nov, Apr-Jul

Hydrology Basics

Hydrology is the study of water - its distribution and the water cycle. Understanding the science of hydrology will give us a better insight into trout habitat and how humans can affect waterways. We'll look at watersheds, water cycles and human impacts on our waters.

grades K-12 2 hours Year-round

Introduction to Forestry

Paper is a necessity in our daily lives and is generally treated as an infinite resource. This session explores paper as a forestry product and a misunderstood renewable resource. Students will: explore the intrinsic value of trees for wildlife and people; discuss where paper comes from and its relevance in our society; simulate foresters to learn how to collect tree data: type of tree, height, canopy cover and diameter; learn simple paper-making techniques by recycling paper and create a "growing" gift card.

grades 4-10 3+ hours Year-round

Art-N-Nature

Wildlife awareness and appreciation are key to developing an environmentally conscious citizen. Using the natural world, participants will hone their skills of observation and create artistic renderings.

Students will explore the Pequest WMA; describe food webs within the diverse habitats; and create student-driven artistic renderings.

grades 4-12 2.5+ hours Year-round

Early Learner Reading Program

Children have an innate interest in wildlife and the natural world around them. This reading program jump-starts their imagination about diverse animals and habitats using stories, songs and hands-on craft activities. Students will observe the natural world in a short walk at Pequest, and learn about a specific wildlife species.

3-5 Year Old 1.5 hours Year-round

Birding Basics

Participants will learn the basics of bird identification in the field and the role coloration plays within given species. Students will identify parts of a bird, learn how to use field guides and understand the use of field marks; and will discuss impacts of climate change on birds.

grades 4-12 3 hours Year-round



For information about other programs offered by NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, please visit www.njfishandwildlife.com