

35 Years of Environmental Education



New Pond Farm Education Center

SUMMER FUN 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you are doing well and that you have been finding ways to get outside to enjoy this beautiful season.

Since our regular summer camp has been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, our staff members have designed a series of small and personal outdoor programs that focus on the natural world, Native American culture, and life on the farm. These hands-on programs will be loads of fun, and in keeping with our mission of inspiring your children to actively engage with the world around them. If you prefer to stay just with your own family, please check out our Family Fun Friday programs.

The health of your family and our staff are of the utmost importance. With that in mind, please review the wide variety of safety protocols that will be observed during our programs. Feel free to call us with any questions (203) 938-2117. We can't wait to see you!

With warmest regards,

Ann Taylor, Executive Director
ann@newpondfarm.org
(203) 938-2117

DON'T MISS ANYTHING!

Facebook: [facebook / NewPondFarm](https://www.facebook.com/NewPondFarm)

Twitter: [@NewPondFarm](https://twitter.com/newpondfarm)

Instagram: [instagram.com / newpondfarm](https://www.instagram.com/newpondfarm)
[#newpondfarm](https://www.instagram.com/newpondfarm)

Be sure to add us to your Safe Sender's List:
info@newpondfarm.org

FAMILY FUN FRIDAYS

Join us on a Friday this summer with your family or friend group. Our staff will lead a program for up to six people, allowing you to maintain your own social distancing group. At least one member of the group must be an adult unless all the children are 8-years or older. Since it's just for you, any of the programs below can be shared on the Friday of your choice. **Please sign up a week in advance by calling the office or emailing info@newpondfarm.org**

FRIDAYS, JULY 10TH, 17TH, 24TH

MORNING SESSION 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

AFTERNOON SESSION 1 PM - 3 PM

Wetland Explorations

Tadpoles, dragonflies, diving beetles, water pennies, and frogs are just some of the fantastic creatures waiting to be discovered! Wear your water shoes, bring your bright eyes, and get ready for fun in our wetlands.



Native American Encampment

Come to our longhouse and hear stories about the family life of our area's original residents. What did they look like, where did they live, and how did they survive without stores, cars, and computers? Learn about the lives of the Indian children, sample some of their traditional foods, make rock paint, and create one of their favorite games to play and take home.



Insect Hunt

Using nets and bug boxes, you will hunt for insects in our meadow, wetlands, and gardens. Discover what makes these creatures unique and learn about their life cycles. We will celebrate our pollinators while talking about our local Pollinator Pathways, and you will learn how to help insects in your own backyards!

Farm Animals

Spend time with our cows, sheep, chickens, and pigs! Learn about udders, eyelashes, hooves, and tails. Come into the dairy barn, brush one of our cows, find out what she eats, and where she sleeps. Then it's off to the pasture to visit with members of our Romney flock, learn how their fleece keeps them dry in the rain and how it is turned into yarn. You will also have a chance to observe our smallest livestock members- our honey bees! Discover the differences between workers, drones, and even the queen!

*\$75 per member family or group
\$90 per non-member family or group*



On every acre, in all we do, we plant seeds for a lifetime of active engagement with the natural world.

PROGRAMS FOR 4-5 YEAR OLDS & A PARENT

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 9:30 AM - 11 AM

\$30 per member child, \$40 per non-member child. (Note: our class is limited to 4 parents and 4 children.) Pre-registration is required.



Week #1: Wildlife Week

Tuesday, July 7th

Wetland Wildlife

Tadpoles, dragonflies, diving beetles, and frogs are just some of the fantastic creatures waiting to be discovered! Wear your water shoes, bring your bright eyes, and get ready for fun in our wetlands.

Thursday, July 9th

Birds of a Feather

What makes a bird a bird? Using an assortment of mounted specimens, you will be amazed at the wonders of birds like owls, geese, and woodpeckers. Then we will be off to the coop to meet our chickens, hold a warm egg, and learn some fun facts about these feathered friends. Make a simple feeder to take home for your backyard birds.



Week #2: Farm Week

Tuesday, July 14th

Barnyard Beauties

Spend the morning with our cows and sheep! Learn about udders, eyelashes, hooves, and tails. Come into the dairy barn, brush one of our girls, find out what she eats, and where she sleeps. Then it's off to the pasture to visit with members of our Romney flock, learn how their fleece keeps them dry in the rain and how it is turned into yarn, and then make a fleecy craft to take home.

Thursday, July 16th

Honey Bees and Other Pollinators

Explore what the BUZZZZ is all about! Learn about our amazing honey bees, look into our observation hive and discover worker bees, drones, and maybe even the queen! Then head out into our meadow to search for many types of beautiful pollinators and discover the important role each of these insects plays in nature.

Week #3: Celebration of Eastern Woodland Indians

Tuesday, July 21st

Living off the Land Part I: Family life, Homes, and Games

Come to our longhouse and hear stories about the family life of our area's original residents. Where did they live, how did they make it through the seasons, what were some of the children's activities? Indian legends tell us that in addition to hard work, children loved to play games. You will play some of these traditional games of chance and skill and create a game to take home.

Thursday, July 23rd

Living off the Land Part II: Hunting, Gathering, and Gardening

Learn about the important roles woodland Indian boys and girls played in keeping their families healthy. Discover (and try) some favorite Native American foods, learn about gardening and the Three Sisters, and storing food for the winter. Make pinch pots out of clay, just the way children did hundreds of years ago.



Week #4: Habitat Week

Tuesday, July 28th

Habitat Hunt

Calling all Nature Detectives! Let's explore our woodlands, meadow, and stream. By gently rolling over logs and rocks, and using sweep nets, you will be surprised at how many quiet creatures live right beneath your feet! Let's put our heads together to consider how animals choose their homes.

Thursday, July 30th

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Follow our clues, discover exciting natural treasures that are hidden around our pasture and woodlands, and learn more about wildlife along the way! Fun prizes for EVERYONE!

PROGRAMS FOR 6-8 YEAR OLDS

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

\$40 per member, \$50 per non-member. (Note: our classes are limited to 6 participants.) Pre-registration is required.



Week #1: Wildlife Week

Monday, July 6th

Wetlands Explorations

What's the difference between a pond, a marsh, and a stream? Figure out the benefits and challenges of each habitat, and discover why animals like tadpoles, dragonflies, diving beetles, and frogs are so selective about where they live. Wear your water shoes, bring your bright eyes, and get ready for fun in our wetlands.

Wednesday, July 8th

Wildlife CSI

Our Program Closet is a treasure chest of bones!! Examine skulls and skeletons to determine whether it's a raccoon, a fox, a coyote, a bear — you will have to follow the clues! You will discover what teeth, beaks, skulls, skeletons, and footprints can tell us about our wild neighbors.



Week #2: Farm Week

Monday, July 13th

Chickens, Cows, and Sheep, Oh My!

Spend your morning on one of the last working farms in Fairfield County. Discover why our local farms are so important as you visit our chicken coop, barn, Dairy Annex, and pasture. Meet some of our chickens, dairy cows, and members of our Romney flock.

Wednesday, July 15th

Beekeeping and Planting for Pollinators

Spend time exploring our observation hive and discover the amazingly complex society that lives there. Discuss food sources and the impact of pesticides and weather on the hive. Then stroll through our beautiful pollinator meadow, searching for butterflies, wild bees, and other pollinators. Learn why we are so pleased to be a part of Redding's Pollinator Pathway and what you and your family can do to help.

Week #3: Celebration of Eastern Woodland Indians

Monday, July 20th

Native Americans - Outdoor Survival

How did they do it: no stores, no cars, no internet? Join us in our longhouse and learn how Native Americans found everything they needed by living off the land- food, medicine, clothing, and materials for their homes. Build your own survival shelter, learn how to use a pump drill, and more.

Wednesday, July 22nd

Native Americans - Hunting, Gathering, and Gardening

Learn about the important roles woodland Indian boys and girls played in keeping their families healthy. Discover (and try) some favorite Native American foods, learn about gardening and the Three Sisters, and storing food for the winter. Make pinch pots out of clay, just the way children did hundreds of years ago.



Week #4: Habitat Week

Monday, July 27th

Scavenger Hunt

Create your own Naturalist's Journal, hike on our trails finding hidden treasure along the way. After fine tuning your skills in observation you may discover signs our wild neighbors have left behind-evidence of flying squirrels, pileated woodpeckers- you never know! Your journal will be perfect for recording your discoveries.

Wednesday, July 29th

Habitat Hunt

Calling all Nature Detectives! Let's explore our woodlands, meadow, and stream. By gently rolling over logs and rocks, and using sweep nets, you will be surprised at how many quiet creatures live right beneath your feet! Let's put our heads together to consider how animals choose their homes.

PROGRAMS FOR 9-10 YEAR OLDS

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, 1 PM - 3 PM

\$40 per member, \$50 per non-member. (Note: our classes are limited to 6 participants.) Pre-registration is required.



Week #1: Wildlife Week

Monday, July 6th

Wetlands Explorations

What's the difference between a pond, a marsh and a stream? Figure out the benefits and challenges of each habitat, and discover why animals like tadpoles, dragonflies, diving beetles, and frogs are so selective about where they live. Wear your water shoes, bring your bright eyes, and get ready for fun in our wetlands.

Wednesday, July 8th

Wildlife CSI

Our Program Closet is a treasure chest of bones!! Examine skulls and skeletons to determine whether it's a raccoon, a fox, a coyote, a bear...you will have to follow the clues! You will discover what things like teeth, beaks, skulls, skeletons, and footprints can tell us about our wild neighbors.



Week #2: Farm Week

Monday, July 13th

Chickens, Cows, and Sheep, Oh My!

Spend your afternoon on one of the last working farms in Fairfield County! Discover why local farms are so important as you visit our chicken coop, barn, Dairy Annex, and pasture. Meet some of our chickens, dairy cows, and members of our Romney flock.

Wednesday, July 15th

Pollinator Parade

Spend time exploring our observation hive and discover the amazingly complex society that lives there. Then we will walk around the property to view honey bees, butterflies, and beetles in action. Learn the importance of pollinators and about the Pollinator Pathway initiative within our state and town. Find out what you can do on your open property to help our pollinator's.

Week #3: Celebration of Eastern Woodland Indians

Monday, July 20th

Native Americans that Walked our Lands

Examine discoveries made in archeological digs that give us clues to the past — arrowheads, projectile points, hide scrapers, pottery shards, and more. Learn about Woodland Indian families and their strategies for constructing shelters, finding food, and making tools that allowed them to thrive in their surroundings.

Wednesday, July 22nd

Native Americans - Outdoor Survival

How did they do it: No stores, no cars, no internet, no cell phones, no electricity? Join us at our longhouse and learn how the Woodland Indians found everything they needed by living off the land. They were like scientists, discovering medicinal plants, selecting seeds for their gardens, learning how to preserve their food, understanding the habits and importance of their wild neighbors. Learn some of their survival techniques and build a shelter, use a pump drill, make cordage, flake an arrow, and more.



Week #4: Summer Fun

Monday, July 27th

Scavenger Hunt and Hike to Mt. Baldy

Create your own Naturalist's Journal, hike up to the highest point on the property and following clues, find hidden treasure along the way. After fine tuning your skills in observation you will follow Baldy Ridge Trail searching for signs that our wild neighbors (flying squirrels, pileated woodpeckers, and wild turkeys to name a few) have left behind - you never know what you will find! Your journal will be perfect for recording your discoveries.

Wednesday, July 29th

Old-Fashioned Toys and Games

Make your own kite, paper airplane, whirligig, bullroarer, comet, and more! Let's have some old-fashioned fun with these flying devices and field test them on the property.

There's no need for a store when you can create your own toys!

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FORM

Once you have registered, please fill out this form and either scan and email it to:
info@newpondfarm.org or mail it to New Pond Farm Education Center; 101 Marchant Road; West Redding, CT 06896

Greetings from New Pond Farm Education Center!

Now that Governor Lamont has given organizations like ours the greenlight to host summer programs, we are looking forward to welcoming small groups of children and families back to the farm! We have missed you!

With this opportunity comes new safety protocols and procedures. We would like to assure you that we have thought things through carefully, and we are doing our best to ensure that parents, students, and our staff feel confident that we will be sharing a safe learning environment. We need to work together to make these protocols effective so please read this page carefully, after you have registered for a program, please sign the Paragraph of Understanding and Release.

Safety Precautions that will be in place

Group Size: Our 6-8 year and 9-10 year old programs will be limited to six children per program. Our 4 & 5 year old programs will be limited to four parent/child families.

Health Screening: We ask that parents arrive with their children 15 minutes prior to the start of each program to go through a quick health screening. Our staff members will be on hand at well-spaced tables, asking parents to fill out a form confirming that their child is not displaying typical Covid-19 symptoms such as flushed cheeks, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle pain, and any visible rashes. There will be an oxygen saturation test using a pulse oximeter. Temperatures will be taken, anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or more will be asked to go home.

We ask for your patience with this and your observance of our social distancing demarcations.

Note: all staff members will go through the same daily screening.

Masks: our teachers will be wearing theirs and we ask that all children wear masks or cloth face coverings to protect themselves and others. When we are predictably distanced, children will be invited to remove them.

Pool Noodles: These will be used to help with safe distancing when walking to and from teaching sites.

The Learning Center: Will be open to our staff members and students, not the general public.

Locations: Our programs will be conducted out on the property and under well-spaced pop-up tents. Children will be spaced at either end of our 6' tables when doing crafts. In the event of torrential rain or thunderstorms we will offer an alternate program and carefully space the children between our indoor Gathering Place and Classroom (two rooms in our Learning Center).

Signage: will be in place to remind all of us about the new rules

Bathrooms: We have four bathrooms for students, so a maximum of two people will be using an individual bathroom during any given program.

Enhanced Cleaning: Our tables, program equipment and any high-touch surfaces (door handles) will be sanitized at the beginning and conclusion of each class. Bathrooms will be wiped down with disinfectant between each use.

Hand Washing: Children will be asked to wash their hands several times during the two-hour program. Separate washing buckets will be provided for each child.

Tools & Supplies: We have an ample supply of items like pond strainers, magnifying glasses, and craft supplies so they will not have to be shared. Items will be washed down with disinfectant between classes. When it comes to crafts, each child will be given their own supplies.

Parking: During drop off and pick up social distancing must be observed. Please park in designated parking spots.

Before your child leaves home:

- Make sure your child has a well-fitted mask or cloth face covering
- Wear clothes and shoes that are exploration-friendly! No open-toed sandals, please. If you are signing up for Wetlands programs, then please wear shoes that can get wet. Hats are great!
- Put on sunscreen (and if you choose, bug spray)
- Pack a water bottle

Protocol if students or staff members have Covid-19 symptoms

- If a student or a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, or has come into prolonged contact with someone who has, we will maintain patient confidentiality but will notify all families and local health officials as soon as possible.
- Anyone who is determined to have had close contact with the affected person will be excluded from future programs for 14 days (credit given)
- Should public health guidelines change our plans, we will alert families and refund registration fees if requested.
- Our caring and professional staff members are committed to providing your children with exciting outdoor programs, observing safety protocols throughout their time on the property!

Paragraph of Understanding & Release

_____ To the best of my knowledge, my child has not been in contact with anyone who has Covid-19

_____ To the best of my knowledge, my child has not been displaying any symptoms of Covid-19

_____ I have read the safety precautions that are being put in place by New Pond Farm Education Center ('The Center') for the 2020 summer season, but understand there are no guarantees that my child will not be exposed to Covid-19 there or elsewhere.

_____ By signing this Paragraph of Understanding and Release, I, the legal parent/guardian, grant permission for myself/my children to participate in summer programs at New Pond Farm Education Center. I agree to release and hold harmless The Center and its directors, officers, employees, and other children at The Center from any and all injuries or claims which may result from my/my children's participation at The Center, including but not limited to exposure to Covid-19.

Date: _____ Name: _____ Signature: _____



New Pond Farm Education Center

Box 116 • 101 Marchant Road
West Redding, CT 06896



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration & Prepayment required for all programs
- To register please visit newpondfarm.org or call the office at (203) 938-2117
- One-week cancellation required for a refund
- Please park at the Learning Center and dress for the outdoors

New Pond Farm is a 501(c)(3) organization eligible for corporate matching grants. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

NEW POND FARM EDUCATION CENTER

On every acre, in all we do, we plant seeds for a lifetime of active engagement with the natural world.

The Environment • Local History • Astronomy • Agriculture • The Arts

As an alternative to annual memberships, we offer sustaining memberships which allow support of the farm on a monthly basis at a level of your choosing. You may also sign up online at newpondfarm.org.

Sustaining Membership:

- ☐ \$10/month
- ☐ \$15/month
- ☐ \$20/month
- ☐ \$25/month

Annual Membership:

- ☐ Individual\$50
- ☐ Family\$75
- ☐ Supporter\$100
- ☐ Contributor ...\$300

Legacy Membership:

- ☐ Please call me

- ☐ Patron\$500
- ☐ Sponsor\$1,000
- ☐ Guardian\$5,000

**Charged to your credit or debit card each month*

Name(s): _____

Name & Ages of Children: _____

Preferred method of receiving newsletters and calendars: ☐ Email ☐ USPS ☐ Both

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Amount enclosed _____ *(Please make check payable to New Pond Farm.)*

☐ Please sign me up for auto renewal annually. *(Auto renewal requires a credit card.)*

Amount _____ to be charged. Signature: _____

Credit or Debit Card #: _____ CVC#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

☐ Billing address same as above. *(If not, kindly provide.)* Employer Matching Gift Program: ☐ Yes ☐ No