

2024-2025 PROGRAM CATALOG

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Katahdin Learning Project

a program of Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters



Our Mission

The Katahdin Learning Project (KLP) —a program of Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters— nurtures connections between learners and land in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and the surrounding communities.



What do we do?

The Katahdin Learning Project (KLP) offers PreK-12 place-based programs. Our programs take place at local schools, in our communities, and in Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.

Why?

We envision a community where learners benefit from a breadth and depth of place-based experiences, forge lifelong connections to nature and their communities, and realize the full potential of their education. We envision a community where Wabanaki people determine how Indigenous and settler peoples learn about the history and culture of the Wabanaki Nations.

Who can attend?

KLP programs are open to PreK-12 youth in public schools, private schools, homeschools, youth groups, summer camps, YMCAs, and more! Group size is limited to 24 students.

What support do we provide?

KLP is committed to lowering barriers to the outdoors by making our programs as accessible as possible. Programs are offered at no cost. Transportation reimbursement is available, and clothing, gear, and snacks can be provided to students if requested in advance.

What support do we need from teachers?

We ask that you bring a ratio of no greater than 15:1 students to teachers to our programs. Teachers have the benefit of understanding their classroom dynamics. We ask teachers to use this knowledge to intervene with students who may need more one-on-one time with an adult. All of our educators and volunteers have passed background checks, and we expect the same from all adults attending the program. As role models, we encourage teachers to participate in the activities with their students.

How do you request a program?

Email klp@friendsofkww.org



Deasey Pond Trail

Katahdin Woods & Waters NM

Photo: Taylor Walker

Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument Programs

Join KLP for a walk in Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument and uncover what makes this place special. Each program will showcase a unique part of the monument. These programs are open to all grades and limited to June-October.



Trip Tips

The journey into Katahdin Woods & Waters can be long and bumpy. We ask you to leave school as early as you are able to maximize our time in the monument. KLP staff will meet your school bus at a designated location outside of the monument and escort you in. You and your class will return to school in time for the end of the school day.

Students will carry their lunch and water with them on the trail. Walks will be between 0-2.2 miles and include a variety of active and hands-on activities. If anyone in your group has any limitations, please let us know, and we will make appropriate modifications. On the trail, we may encounter heat, sun, rain, mud, insects, dust, and wind. Please prepare your students for any conditions. Close-toe, comfortable shoes are required.

What to Bring

- Sack lunch for all attending
- Snacks (optional)
- A garbage bag for trash disposal
- Reusable water bottles, extra water
- Hand wipes or sanitizer
- Bug spray and sunscreen
- Weather-appropriate clothing



Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument Programs

The Power of Glaciers

Location: Deasey and Esker Trails | Distance: 1.2-2.2 miles

This walk along the Deasey Pond and Esker trails will reveal clues to the past. Discover geologic features, such as erratics and eskers, which showcase the extreme changes that took place because of powerful glaciers thousands of years ago.



Home on the River

Location: Lunksoos Boat Launch | Distance: 1 mile

For a variety of special species, the pristine and undisturbed water that flows through the East Branch of the Penobscot River provides all the components of a safe, nurturing home. Students will learn about the wildlife that depend on this river and understand how home can take many shapes.



Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument Programs



Deasey Pond Overlook

This Special Forest

Location: Deasey Trails | Distance: 1.2 miles

The forests within Katahdin Woods & Waters are an example of a transition forest, which is a unique and biodiverse environment. These forests support many types of plants and animals. Using tangible examples and hands-on activities, students will unpack transition forest ecology and take a closer look at the relationships that have formed here. Discussions around these relationships will challenge us to ask about our relationships and responsibilities to this forest.

Note: This lesson was designed to connect with grade 3-5 Next Generation Science Standards. This lesson includes a pre and post-trip lesson.

Standards:

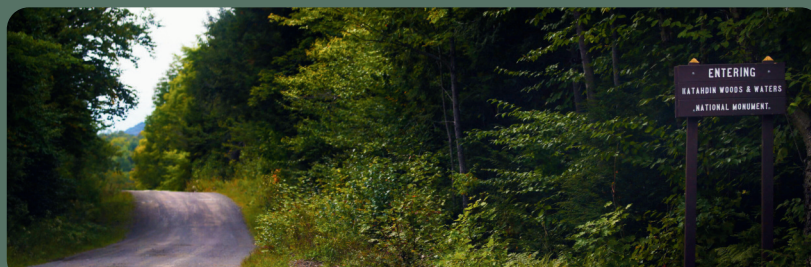
NGSS 3-LS4-3

NGSS 3-LS4-4

NGSS 3-LS4-2

NGSS 4-LS1-1

NGSS 5-LS2-1





Nature Explorers Lesson

Fall & Spring Programs

Community Programs

Foster a deep connection with nature, promote personal growth, and cultivate lifelong skills with these full day community programs. Learn about the ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural processes unique to the trip location. Step away from the classroom and show your students the many forms learning can take. Each program is interdisciplinary and connects to state learning standards.

Trip Tips

These full day programs offer you flexibility- choose which topic and location is the best fit for you. Then, either select 3 mini lessons or let us design the perfect trip for your class!

Example Itinerary

9:00-9:20 Welcome, split into two groups

9:20-10:15 Mini lesson 1

10:20-11:15 Mini lesson 2

11:15-11:35 Lunch

11:35-12:30 Mini lesson 3

12:35-12:55 Debrief and reflection

12:55-1:00 Load buses for school

Please plan accordingly.



Locations

- Medway Recreation Area
- Jerry Pond, Millinocket
- Island Falls Fish & Game Facilities on Mattawamkeag Lake



This gives my son an opportunity to be involved in an activity outside of school that provides opportunities for socializing and learning in a more non-traditional academic setting. Learning can happen at any time, and we need to engage our children in more than one school environment to promote learning.

-3rd Grade Parent

Fall & Spring Programs

Community Programs

Choose a topic and 3 mini lessons to build your custom program.

Our World in Water

Explore the vast diversity of aquatic ecosystems. Students will learn about the importance of clean water, the connections between freshwater habitats, and the species that rely on these ecosystems. We will instill a sense of responsibility for the water by discussing the importance of conservation, participating in community science, and discovering ways they can make a difference.

Mini Lessons

- Human Impact (K-12)
- Naturalist's Notebook (K-12)
- Wild Water Animals (K-8)
- Water Quality Testing (3-12)
- River Geology (4-12)
- Wabanaki People and The River (4-12)



Footprints of the Past and Present

Humans have called the Katahdin region home for over 11,000 years. Join us as we journey back in time to explore the captivating history, rich heritage, and stories of the people of this region. Students will have the chance to step into a role as an active community member by doing a volunteer project, guided reflection, or learning about career opportunities in the region.

Mini Lessons

- Katahdin Artists (K-12)
- Volunteer Project (K-12)
- Trail Walk & Reflection (K-12)
- Wabanaki Peoples (2-12)
- The Logging Era (2-12)
- Careers in the Outdoors (6-12)

Fall & Spring Programs

Community Programs

Choose a topic and 3 mini lessons to build your custom program.

Wildlife in the Woods

Students will engage in hands-on activities and games that teach them about the animals that live here, their adaptations, what signs they leave behind, and the unique characteristics of various species. Older students have the opportunity to take their interest in wildlife to a deeper level and learn about the interconnectedness of species, why some animals in Maine are being threatened and the impact humans have on these creatures.

Mini Lessons

- Birds & Bats (K-8)
- Who Lives Here? (K-12)
- Wildlife Signs (K-12)
- Adaptations (2-12)
- It's All Connected (2-12)
- Endangered Species (4-12)



Mini Lessons

- Forest Bingo (K-5)
- Tree Identification (K-12)
- Nature Art (K-12)
- Parts of a Tree (K-12)
- Trail Walk & Eco-Ethics (K-12)
- Forest Uses (6-12)



These Special Forests

The forests in the Katahdin region are unique and filled with biodiversity. These Special Forests is designed to introduce students to the fascinating world of forestry. These lessons will open the door to understanding the vital role forests play and ask students to examine their own environmental ethics.



Our World In Water Lesson

School Visits

Fall, Winter, and Spring

We make things easy and come to you! These programs take place at your school or meeting place. Our traveling educators will bring all the supplies needed to make this program memorable.

Trip Tips

Each program is designed to be 1-4 hours, which means you can host KLP for a full day at your school or for a shorter session. If you're unable to devote a full school day to a lesson but want your students to experience the full program, depending on KLP's availability, you can schedule multiple visits throughout the school year. Unless specified, programs can be adapted for all grades.

- Students must be prepared to be outdoors in all weather conditions. Several of these programs will need access to an indoor space for part of the lesson and to warm up between mini-lessons, however, the majority of these lessons will take place outdoors.
- Trips will be canceled for temperatures below 0 degrees or if driving conditions are too hazardous.
- KLP will strive to notify teachers of cancellations one day in advance.
- At least one teacher must be with the students during these programs.



CONTACT US: KLP@FRIENDSOFKWW.ORG

School Visits

Fall, Winter, and Spring

Wilderness Survival and Safety

Grades: 3-12 | Time: 1-4 hours | Location: Outdoors

Prepare your adventurous students by equipping them with essential knowledge and skills to stay safe, confident and well-prepared during all weather conditions. This program may include instruction on preparedness, building a shelter, starting a fire responsibly, navigation, foraging, and first aid. This lesson empowers children to navigate the outdoors with confidence while fostering resilience and self-reliance.

Leave No Trace

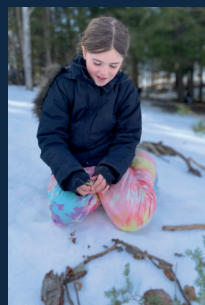
Time: 1-4 hours | Location: Indoors and Outdoors

Introduce your students to the principles of environmental stewardship and responsible outdoor ethics with this Leave No Trace lesson. Discover the seven Leave No Trace principles and their significance in preserving the beauty and integrity of natural spaces. Students will learn about the importance of leaving nature as they found it, reducing waste, and respecting wildlife and vegetation.

Wildlife Signs

Time: 1-4 hours | Location: Indoors and Outdoors

Embark on a tracking expedition through the landscape to identify and interpret animal tracks, scat, and other signs left behind by Maine's creatures. Students will uncover the hidden stories of animal movement, behavior, and survival strategies in winter. These skills cultivate patience, observation, and critical thinking abilities.



Maine Wild Animals

Grades: K-5 | Time: 1-4 hours | Location: Outdoors and/or in a gym

Explore and gain appreciation for the diverse array of resilient and resourceful animals found in Maine's forests. From majestic moose to elusive lynx and playful birds, students will learn about the characteristics, habitats, and unique adaptations of these creatures.

Forestry

Time: 1-4 hours | Location: Outdoors

Learning to identify trees and plants is at the heart of understanding the forest around us. In addition to identifying trees, youth will explore the life cycles and ages of trees, the importance of different species in the forest, and the ways forests change over time.

Community Scientists

Grades: 3-12 | Time: 1-3 hours | Location: Outdoors

By actively contributing to real-world research, students not only deepen their understanding of environmental issues but also contribute directly to the collective efforts aimed at safeguarding our natural resources. This lesson will inspire the next generation of scientists, environmentalists, and informed citizens, equipping them with the tools and motivation to make a positive impact.

Nature Explorers

Time: 1-6 hours | Location: Outdoors

Unleash the spirit of curiosity and deepen your students' connection with nature through this awareness and observation lesson. Participate in challenges that sharpen awareness and encourage creativity. Students will draw what they see, sketch tracks, and record their reflections in a personal nature journal.

Nature Art

Time: 1-3 hours | Location: Indoors and Outdoors

The Katahdin region has been an inspiration to countless artists over centuries. Students will learn about the renowned artists who found inspiration here and then engage in a variety of nature art projects.

Summer Programs

Katahdin Region Outdoor Collective

Students will hike, camp, canoe, and bike with beginner friendly instruction- no experience necessary! These programs allow students to take their connection to the outdoors to the next level, develop leadership skills, and make new friends. For students in grades 6-10 these programs promise unforgettable moments and personal growth. All programs in 2024 are free and meals are provided for overnight trips. Discover the best of the Katahdin region!



KROC (Katahdin Region Outdoor Collective) is a dynamic group of non-profits, individuals, businesses, and government organizations with a shared belief in the profound impact of outdoor experiences on youth wellbeing and the future vitality of the Katahdin region. Our collaborative efforts result in year-round opportunities for young individuals to foster a deep connection to nature, cultivate leadership skills, and become future land stewards.



Special Programs

Give Back

Vacation Camp

During February and April school breaks, we collaborate with community partners to provide students in elementary school with a week-long learning experience. These programs promote a connection to community and nature with a heavy emphasis on giving back to the places we love.



Community Service Assistance

Are your students excited about giving back to their school or community? We're passionate about service learning and will help your students achieve success on their project.



Community Service Project

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Each time you work with us we go deeper with our thinking and can begin to create more of a vision of how to incorporate place-based learning experiences into our curriculum.”

-Teacher at KES



2018 Teacher Camp

Special Programs

Be Involved

Teacher Camp

Do you want to bring place-based learning to your classroom? Teacher Camp is a professional development workshop that teaches educators how they can successfully integrate place-based learning into their curriculum. We listen to what teachers are in need of most and base our yearly theme on these needs. Teacher Camp takes place annually in June.



Become a Member

We couldn't do what we do without you! Become an individual member or sponsor through your business or school and help support the Katahdin Learning Project.

www.friendsofkw.org/becomeamember





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