

Albany Pine Bush Preserve In-Person Education Programs



All programs are based on NYS Learning Standards.
For more information or to schedule, please contact
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ALL YEAR

Discover the Pine Bush (Grade K-12) - Join Albany Pine Bush staff on a journey into the Pine Bush and discover one of the last remaining examples of an inland pitch pine-scrub oak barrens. Through a 1-mile hike and activities, students will be introduced to the geology, ecology, and unique diversity of life, as well as how we are working to ensure the survival of this landscape for generations to come. If trail conditions require ice cleats or snowshoes, they will be provided to participants on a self-serve basis. **Maximum 60 students. 60 minutes**

SPRING

Help A Habitat (Grade 2-3): In this two-part program, students participate in a hands-on habitat restoration project for the endangered Karner blue butterfly. **Maximum 60 students**

Part I 60 minutes, Part II 90 minutes

- **Part I** At school (Inside)
 - * 20 minute presentation: Background information on the endangered Karner blue butterfly and its habitat.
 - * 20 minute planting: Seeds of the Karner blue's host plant, the wild blue lupine, are planted by students in band pot containers and germinated in the classroom.
 - * 20 minute math game and care.
- **Part II** Field trip to Albany Pine Bush Preserve and Discovery Center
 - * 30 minute hike
 - * 30 minute exploration in the Discovery center
 - * 30 minute planting

SPRING CONTINUED

Future of the Karner Blue Butterfly (Grade 2): Karner blue butterflies are an endangered species. Join us for an exploration into why this beautiful butterfly is nearing extinction. Learn about how we are trying to save the Karner blue and how you can help. We will start inside for a short PowerPoint presentation and then outside for a hike. **Maximum 60 students 90 minutes**

Exploring Life in a Pine Barrens Vernal Pond (5th – 8th grade): You might call it big puddle or a little pond, but the temporary pools of water we find in the spring are actually “pine barrens vernal ponds”. Come out to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve and explore the plants and animals that make use of these special water bodies. Discover what characteristics make up a pine barrens vernal pond, create your own field notebook, and experience a habitat that is full of life. Please noted that this program takes place off site, not at the Discovery Center. **Maximum 25 students 2 hours**

NOTE: Please reserve the “Vernal Pond” kit in preparation for this program.

Habitat Watch (6 – 8th grade): The Albany Pine Bush Preserve not only protects a globally rare ecosystem but also provides a unique outdoor laboratory for local students. In Habitat Watch, students participate in a long-term monitoring project at a site adjacent to the Rapp Road Solid Waste Management Facility (a.k.a. Albany Landfill) located on Rapp Road in the City of Albany. This region of the Pine Bush has a long history of human disturbance. Today, the City of Albany is working to restore this degraded area to a system of wetlands and stream corridors. Students participating in Habitat Watch will have the opportunity to collect data on water quality, vegetation, aquatic macro-invertebrate species richness, and monitor a photo point using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology and compass bearing. The data collected by students is being compiled over time and used to document changes in the natural communities and assess achievement of ecological objectives. Teachers will also have access to the data to use in their classroom. **Maximum 25 students 90 minutes**

WINTER

Where Do All the Wild Things Go? (Grade 3-6) - The Albany Pine Bush is home to many animal species. Where do they go and how do they survive during the winter? We will start inside with a short presentation. Then experience the Albany Pine Bush in winter on a 0.9 mile hike. They will learn to recognize animal activity and learn how animals are adapted to winter survival. If trail conditions require ice cleats or snowshoes, they will be provided to participants on a self-serve basis. **Maximum 45 students. 90 minutes**