

NATURE KEEPERS AT THE REFUGE

“Your child can become a Nature Keeper at Assabet River NWR”

“I remember my mom used to say ‘come home when the sun goes down’ and I wouldn’t see a parent until I came home.” – Mother Nature’s Child

Beginning Sunday March 27 at 1:30pm we will start a 4-week program for 5th-8th graders to get outside at the refuge. The program will be open for a total of 12 kids with 1 parent/volunteer to help chaperone and a refuge staff member (Kizette). This group will help in forming how the program will run in the fall for younger kids. At the start of the program the kids will be told to think about how this program can be run in a different season and how it can be taught for younger kids to understand concepts. At the end of each day we will reflect on these things. The older kids can then come back in the fall to help with the program. The hope is that this program could be done for a few weeks in the fall and spring and maybe eventually the winter. We would have one program for older kids and one for younger kids (3-5 year olds). The primary purpose for this program is to get kids outside with the hopes that this will create a nature steward attitude and allow them to develop a relationship with the refuge as a place they want to come to.

Schedule for 4-week program

Topic	Explanation
March 27 th : “Assabet Detectives” Introduction to Refuge and history	An introduction to the refuge and its history <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discuss: what does it take to be a history detective versus a nature detective?- Visit a bunker- Visit a chimney- Kingfisher trail – talk about the Native Americans- Explore the railroad platforms
April 3 rd : “Mammal Tracking”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Look for tracks in the mud- Visit beaver lodge- Have a member of AKT join us- Talk about the evidence of mammals at the refuge- Look for evidence of mammals (burrows, cavities, nests, scat, food)
April 10 th : “Birding” Bird Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Walk the loop around puffer pond and look for waterfowl while looking at other bird species that live in wooded areas- Look for evidence of birds (tracks, nests and feathers)- Discuss bird adaptations
April 17 th : “Wetland Explorers” Explore Vernal pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What is a vernal pool?- Look for life in nearby vernal pools- Discuss life cycle of different insects and amphibians- Discuss importance of vernal pools

Please drop off your child at the Visitor Center at 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA. Make sure your child has the appropriate attire for going outside that day (rain boots, layers, etc). The program will run for 2 and a half hours and your child will be outside for the entire time. We will go outside even if it is raining!

REGISTER TODAY by calling 978.562.3527 x117

