

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM GUIDE



Environmental education is about conserving our natural resources and making sure that they will be available for future generations to use wisely too.



**Discover
your natural
world!**

*It's right
before
your eyes!*



AWARENESS

APPRECIATION

ACTION



“Porcupine Pat” McKinney,
Environmental Education Coordinator
Schuylkill Conservation District
1206 AG Center Drive, Pottsville, PA 17901

porcupinepat@yahoo.com
570.622.4124 x 113



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About these programs:

The programs in the guide are available year-round at any location including the Dr. James S. Shadle Nature Center within the Bear Creek Environmental Area in the county fairgrounds, your school grounds or other natural locations. Programs are “hands-on” and “minds-on” and are designed to comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Education Environment and Ecology Standards. Of course, any program can be tailored to meet your individual group’s needs.

About this guide:

All programs allow for a flexible time frame including 30-, 45-, or 60-minutes for each one. All listings suggests a recommended grade level and specific standards.

Who we serve:

All schools both public and private, Boy and Girl scout troops, church groups, preschools and Head Starts, 4-H, senior citizen groups, garden clubs, special needs populations, service organizations, families, home-schoolers, conservation clubs, and all residents of Schuylkill County.

Who is “Porcupine Pat?”

“Porcupine Pat” McKinney has served as Environmental Education Coordinator for the Schuylkill Conservation District for over 17 years. “Porcupine” won the prestigious “Conservation Medal” from the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1995. In 1998, the Schuylkill County Education Association presented him the noted “Friend of Education Award.” The Pennsylvania Forestry Association’s “Sandy Cochran Award for Excellence in Natural Resources Education” was awarded to him in 2005.



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Check out these ‘net resources. Our partners for environmental education!
Porcupine Pat

PA Center for Environmental Education: www.pcee.org

PA Association of Environmental Educators: www.paee.net

PA Association of Conservation Districts: www.pacd.org

Schuylkill River Greenway Association: www.schuylkillriver.org

PA Fish and Boat Commission: www.fish.state.pa.us

PA Game Commission: www.pgc.state.pa.us

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (state parks & Bureau of Forestry): www.dcnr.state.pa.us

PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers: www.pawatersheds.org

PA Department of Environmental Protection: www.dep.state.pa.us

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: www.cbf.org

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary: www.hawkmountain.org

Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau: www.schuylkill.org

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Earth Ethics (grades 7-12)

People make conscious decisions in their personal relationship with their natural environment. You can choose to recycle or choose to illegally dump. Participants are challenged to become more aware of what choices exist in order to conserve resources. (Standards: *Environmental Health, Humans and the Environment, and Environmental Laws and Regulations*)

Environmental Hearing (grades 7-12)

Environmental protection is in the hands of concerned and informed citizens. Role play is stressed in a mock environmental hearing to debate dilemmas and provide solutions. A timely issue will be explored. (Standards: *Environmental Health, Humans and the Environment and Environmental Laws and Regulations*)

Schuylkill County—Naturally! (grades 1-adult)

Hike from our highest point! Check out the different animal signs and wildflowers of Schuylkill County without leaving your chair. A colorful slide program with narration allows viewers to experience local natural settings they may never have seen before. (Standards: *Humans and the Environment and Ecosystems and their Interactions*)

Searching the Soil (grades 1-6)

Soil is the basic ingredient of all life. It's not just "dirt!" Worms, grubs, pillbugs and ants are just a few of the soil critters below our feet. Learn about the different types of soil, soil horizons and what lives in it. (Standards: *Environmental Health, Agriculture and Society, and Humans and the Environment*)

Down on the Farm (grades 1-adult)

No farms, no food. It's as simple as that! Agri-business is Pennsylvania's largest industry and involves production, processing and the marketing and distribution of food. Learn where food comes from and how it gets to your table. (Standards: *Agriculture and Society, Integrated Pest Management, Humans and their Environment and Renewable and Nonrenewable Resources*)

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What is the Schuylkill Conservation District?

Founded in 1955 by local farmers interested in soil and water conservation, the Schuylkill Conservation District is a county government agency that administers and participates in a variety of programs to protect and promote the wise use of natural resources. The Schuylkill Conservation District is dedicated to protect, enhance, restore, and promote the responsible use of the county's natural resources for future generations by partnering, coordinating, and fostering cooperation. This is accomplished with the assistance of public agencies, private groups, and individuals.

How to schedule a program:

Select the program, time and date desired in advance. Please have another date in mind in case your first choice is already taken. Before scheduling, check for transportation availability (if needed). Please tell us of any special requirements that your group may have. Call immediately if you have to postpone or cancel. You can call "Porcupine Pat" at 570.622.4124 ext. 113 or porcupinepat@yahoo.com Fees vary according to the program.

Other environmental education programs:

In addition to these listed educational programs, the conservation district either coordinates or assists with the following:

- Schuylkill County Envirothon
- Teacher In-service Workshops
- Norm Thornburg Youth Conservation Camp
- Schuylkill County Youth Field Day
- Bear Creek Festival
- Summer wildlife day camps
- Schuylkill County Nature Club
- Earth Day Poster and Environmental Essay contests
- Park and recreation and nature center development
- Scholarships
- Resource assistance
- Seedling sale
- Community Service includes projects for the Eagle Scout and Gold awards
- Programs at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park
- Dr. James S. Shadle Nature Center

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Tickly & Prickly (preK-grade 1)

So much can be learned by just sharpening our observation skills. We'll learn about our senses and use them to discover the many shapes, colors, and textures found in nature. *(Standards: Ecosystems and their Interactions and Humans and the Environment)*

Habitat Trek (grades K-3)

All senses will be used to explore the three major wildlife habitat types. Survival needs of plants and animals will also be discussed. *(Standards: Watersheds and Wetlands, Environmental Health, and Ecosystems and their Interactions)*

Ways of Wildlife (grades K-adult)

If you were a chipmunk, where would you live, what would you eat, and how do you survive in a habitat? Folklore and facts about local wildlife using hands-on specimens and a hike to search for animal signs is possible. *(Standards: Watersheds and Wetlands, Agriculture and Society, Ecosystems and their Interactions, and Humans and the Environment)*

Green & Growing (grades 2-8)

Plants provide humans with food, clean air, and so much more. Discover the "magic" of pollination through a discussion of plant parts and purposes. Then, using magnifying lenses, participants will search for various plant parts and types. *(Standards: Agriculture and Society, Humans and the Environment, and Ecosystems and their Interactions)*

Water Worlds (grades 3-12)

Pennsylvania has 88,000 miles of waterways. Learn about aquatic creatures such as mayflies and more as we explore a water world to take a biotic index. *(Standards: Watersheds and Wetlands, Environmental Health, and Humans and the Environment)*

Earth Day, Every Day (grades 2-7)

Recycling is the right thing to do! Recycling and littering is emphasized as we learn about ways to help become stewards of our Earth. *(Standards: Renewable and Nonrenewable Resources, Environmental Health, Humans and the Environment, and Environmental Laws and Regulations)*

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Weatherwatch (grades 4-8)

Everybody talks about it! Weather affects people in so many ways. Learn how weather is observed and measured. Then develop a basic weather forecast by observing present weather conditions. Issues such as global warming and acid rain will be discussed. *(Standards: Watersheds and Wetlands, Ecosystems and their Interactions, Threatened, Endangered and Extinct Species, and Humans and their Environment)*

Local Indian Life (grades 3-12)

The Lenape people have left their heritage throughout Schuylkill County especially with names like Tuscarora, Tamaqua, and Mahanoy City. Indian Sign Language is stressed in this program as we learn the beauty of the language and wildlife values of area Native Americans. Respect for the Earth and "how to tune into nature—the Indian way" are emphasized. *(Standards: Agriculture and Society and Humans and the Environment)*

Old Time (or Pioneer) Toys (grades 1-8)

Past and present styles of play and toys will be compared as we learn how our ancestors survived in the wilds of Schuylkill County. Emphasis is on pioneer and folk toys including buzzsaws, whimmy-diddle gee-haws, and stilts. *(Standards: Humans and the Environment and Agriculture and Society)*

Tree-mendous Tree Trek (grades 3-12)

Pennsylvania has a great diversity of trees from hemlock to the tulip tree. Here's your chance to meet a tree, learn about its parts and how trees benefit wildlife and people. A hike is featured to point out trees in the area. *(Standards: Agriculture and Society, Watersheds and Wetlands, Humans and the Environment, and Environmental Laws and Regulations)*

Endangered! (grades 3-12)

The rate of species extinction has accelerated rapidly in recent times. How do plants and animals become threatened, endangered or extinct? What can we do to help? *(Standards: Renewable and Nonrenewable Resources, Environmental Health, Ecosystems and their Interactions, Threatened, Endangered and Extinct Species and Environmental Laws and Regulations)*