



Denison Pequotsepos
Nature Center

Spring 2026 Catalog
March–May

Spring into nature this season!

**Woodland Egg Hunt,
Earth Weekend, &
the Woodland Ramble**

**Plan your garden with
our regenerative
gardening workshops**

**New animal anatomy
homeschool series**

**Lady's Slipper &
Woodcock Walks return!**





DPNC Locations

DENISON PEQUOTSEPOS NATURE CENTER

109 Pequotsepos Rd.
Mystic, CT 06355

COOGAN FARM

162 Greenmanville Ave.
Mystic, CT 06355

GUNGYWAMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

231 Gungywamp Rd.
Groton, CT 06340

THE PEACE SANCTUARY

233 River Rd.
Mystic, CT 06355

Program Scholarships

DPNC is pleased to offer scholarships for many of our public programs, including camp, preschool, and Neighbors & Nature. For more information, contact info@dpnc.org or (860) 536-1216.

The Chickadee Newsletter

DPNC sends out quarterly digital newsletters with the release of seasonal program catalogs, as well as monthly newsletters highlighting upcoming programs, news, and Nature Notes. To sign up to receive the Chickadee newsletter, [click here](#).

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DPNC MISSION

To inspire an understanding of the natural world and ourselves as part of it—past, present, and future.

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Photo by Mason White

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ADULT & BIRDING PROGRAMS

Companion Planting

Saturday, March 7 at 9-11 AM

Virtual via Zoom

Free with generous support from the Eastern CT Community Garden Association

Tomatoes and basil are friends in the garden just like they are in marinara sauce, but never plant brussels sprouts nearby! Learn which plants thrive together and which combinations to avoid for healthier, more productive beds. This class covers strategic pairings to improve your yield, plus reminders from previous classes about inoculants, bed prep, row covers, and planting flowers to attract pollinators or repel pests. Join us before you plant this season!



Foliar Feeding

Saturday, March 14 at 9-11 AM

Virtual via Zoom

Free with generous support from the Eastern CT Community Garden Association

Boost your garden's health and productivity with foliar feeding. Learn how to create nutrient-rich foliar sprays using simple, natural ingredients. We'll explore the benefits of foliar feeding, from providing plants with quick access to essential nutrients to enhancing disease resistance and overall growth.





Birding at Rocky Neck State Park

Saturday, March 21 at 9–11 AM

@ Rocky Neck State Park

Members: \$17

Non-members: \$20

Explore Rocky Neck State Park in search of resident songbirds, raptors, and ducks. This program is great for birders of all skill levels.

Invasive Plants & Our Natural World

Thursday, March 26 at 6–7:30 PM

@ DPNC

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Invasive plants are changing our landscape, crowding out native plants and making it harder for our ecosystem to stay healthy. Join Jim Natale of Wilder Gardens LLC to learn how these non-native species arrived, how they spread, and the challenges they create for our native plants. We'll also discuss local species that are at risk of being pushed out by invasive species and habitat loss.

Signs of Spring

Thursday, April 2 at 5–6 PM

@ DPNC

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Spring sneaks in slowly here in Connecticut, but if you know what to look for, the signs are everywhere. From the first calls of spring peepers to skunk cabbage pushing through snow, from salamanders on the move to tiny snow drops blooming, we'll explore the classic harbingers of spring in New England.

Woodcock Walks

At Manatuck: Saturday, April 4 at 7–8 PM

At Haley Farm: Wed., April 15 at 7:15–8:15 PM

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Join us at twilight to witness one of nature's most bizarre courtship displays. Male American Woodcocks leave the safety of the forest to perform their dramatic spiraling "sky dance" for watching females below. This normally secretive, well-camouflaged bird transforms into an aerial showman, and it's quite the spectacle!

To attend on 4/4 at Manatuck, meet at Pine Point School in Stonington. To attend on 4/15 at Haley Farm, meet at Haley Farm State Park in Groton.

Companion Planting & Planning Your Garden

Saturday, April 18 at 9–11 AM

@ the Giving Garden at Coogan Farm

Members: \$17

Non-members: \$20

Peppers love onions, but some vegetables are sworn enemies. Join us to discover which plants boost each other's growth and which ones don't play well together. Learn the secrets of companion planting before you put anything in the ground this season, plan out your garden, and watch your whole garden bed thrive.

Birding at Avery Farm

Sunday, April 26 at 8–10 AM

@ Avery Farm Preserve

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Join a DPNC naturalist for a guided walk through Avery Farm Preserve in Ledyard. We'll search for year-round residents and migrating birds just passing through. Bring water and binoculars if you have them.

Hummingbird Zoom Presentation

Thursday, May 7 at 6–7 PM

Virtual via Zoom

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Discover the amazing diversity of hummingbirds around the world and take a closer look at our native Ruby-throated Hummingbird. We'll also discuss what plants to add to your yard to turn it into hummingbird habitat!

Lady's Slipper Walk & Talk

Saturday, May 16 at 10–11 AM

@ the Peace Sanctuary

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Late May is prime time for one of Southern New England's most unique wildflowers: the Lady's Slipper. Join us to learn about these native orchids and their fascinating relationships with fungi and pollinators. Moderate difficulty over uneven terrain.

Birding at Coogan Farm

Saturday, May 23 at 8–10 AM

@ Coogan Farm

Members: \$17

Non-members: \$20

Explore Coogan Farm in search of migrating and resident songbirds as well as raptors. Great for birders of all skill levels.



SPRING BREAK PROGRAMS



Ages 6–10 years

9 AM–1 PM

Members: \$42.50

Non-members: \$50

Dress for the weather and please pack water and lunch for your child.

Reptiles

Monday, April 13

Come meet Connecticut’s scaly residents! We’ll get up close with live reptiles, discover their super-powered adaptations, explore their habitats, and play games.

Awesome Amphibians

Tuesday, April 14

We’re going on the hunt for frogs and salamanders in vernal pools and woods around DPNC. Between hikes, games, and meeting live amphibians, kids will discover why these slimy creatures are actually pretty awesome.

Pond Dipping

Wednesday, April 15

Grab a net and get ready to see what’s lurking in our pond! Kids will catch, observe, and release the creatures that call our pond home, plus explore habitats, meet animals, and play games.

Owls

Thursday, April 16

Spend the morning meeting DPNC’s resident owls, learn about their amazing adaptations, and even dissect an owl pellet to discover what they’ve been eating!

Nest Builders

Friday, April 17

Ever wonder how a bird builds a nest? We’ll meet the animals that are master builders, discover their unique nest designs, and try building our own. Between hikes, games, and live animal encounters, there’s plenty to explore!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



Adventures in Nature: Tree Tapping

Ages 6–10 years

Saturday, March 14 at 10 AM–12 PM

@ DPNC

Free with generous support from the Chelsea Groton Foundation

Join us the second Saturday of every month as we adventure into nature! This month, we'll be tapping into our natural roots by exploring the science of tree tapping. Learn why trees make sap, how it moves through the tree, and the proper techniques for tapping. Then head outside to tap trees around the Nature Center and check on ones we've tapped before.

Discovery Station

Kids of all ages with caregiver

Saturday, March 21, April 18, & May 16 at 10 AM–12 PM

@ DPNC

Free with generous support from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

Discover the wonders of nature together at this monthly, inclusive family-friendly program! Move at your own pace as you explore themed activity stations, meet live animals, and examine fascinating natural artifacts. Then get creative with a hands-on craft before heading out on a self-guided hike and scavenger hunt that brings each month's topic to life.

Nature Night Out

Ages 6–12 years

Saturday, March 28, April 25, & May 23 at 5 PM–8 PM

@ DPNC

Members: \$34 per child

Non-members: \$40 per child

Treat your kids to a fun-filled evening at the Nature Center while you treat yourself to a night off! They'll explore the outdoors with exciting games, hands-on nature activities, live animal encounters, and an evening hike. To top it all off, we'll gather around the fire for pizza and s'mores! Don't forget to dress for the weather and bring a flashlight for the adventure ahead!



Adventures in Nature: Signs of Spring

Ages 6–10 years

Saturday, April 11 at 10 AM–12 PM
@ DPNC

Free with generous support from the Chelsea Groton Foundation

Join us the second Saturday of every month for Adventures in Nature! This month, we'll explore the signs that spring has arrived. Learn to identify the first plants and flowers emerging from the ground, discover animals returning to the area or waking from winter, and meet some of our resident springtime animals. We'll hike the nature center trails looking for all the clues that warmer days are here.



Adventures in Nature: Eggs

Ages 6–10 years

Saturday, May 9 at 10 AM–12 PM
@ DPNC

Free with generous support from the Chelsea Groton Foundation

Join us the second Saturday of every month for Adventures in Nature! This month, we're cracking the case of who laid which egg. Learn about the different animals that lay eggs, discover why they choose certain spots, and see if you can match eggs to their owners. You'll get to meet some of our resident egg-laying animals too! We're so egg-cited to see you there!

EARLY CHILDHOOD



Hummingbirds

Ages 0 – 2 with caregiver
Mondays @ 9:30–10:30 AM

Session 4 (5 weeks)

Members: \$89.25
Non-members: \$105

Session 5 (6 weeks)

Members: \$107
Non-members: \$126

Experience nature with your little one! Through stories, songs, meeting live animals and lots of time exploring the trails, Hummingbirds will help to kickstart a lifelong love of the outdoors!

Please be prepared to use a front or back carrier for your child, strollers do not work on the trails.

Session 4
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Session 5
April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18

Chickadees

Ages 2 – 4 with caregiver
Fridays @ 9:30–11 AM

Session 4 (5 weeks)

Members: \$107.35
Non-members: \$126

Session 5 (6 weeks)

Members: \$128.75
Non-members: \$152

Embark on a nature adventure with your little chickadee! Join us Friday mornings for Chickadees to explore the wonders of the world through age-appropriate hikes, live animal encounters, creative crafts, and interactive nature activities. This class is perfect for bonding, exploring, and learning together.

Session 4
Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27

Session 5
April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Eager Explorers

Ages 2.5 – 4
Sign up for Tue, Wed, or Thurs
@ 9:30–11:30 AM

Session 4 (6 weeks)

Members: \$177.65
Non-members: \$209

Session 5 (6 weeks)

Members: \$177.65
Non-members: \$209

Is your child ready for a drop-off class of their own? Eager Explorers is just the place to start! Through nature play, circle time, meeting animals, and hikes on the trails, children learn important social, emotional, and school-readiness skills.

Tue. Session 4
Feb. 24–March 31

Wed. Session 4
Feb. 25–April 1

Thurs. Session 4
Feb. 26–April 2

Tue. Session 5
April 21–May 26

Wed. Session 5
April 22–May 27

Thurs. Session 5
April 23–May 28



Environmental Afternoons

Ages 4 – 15

Tuesdays @ 1:30–4:30 PM

Members: \$21.25
Non-members: \$25

Price is per child, per class

Our science-based curriculum introduces students to the wonders of the natural world. New topics are covered each week through hands-on activities, meeting live animals, games and time for nature play and socialization. Sign up for one, some, or all classes!

Please bring a snack and water bottle to each class and be prepared to go outside in all weather conditions!

Explorers: 4–5 years
Scientists: 6–8 years
Adventurers: 9–12 years
Animal Curators: 13–15 years*

**Please note that our Animal Curator Program does not follow the same curriculum as above. Students are immersed in hands-on activities working with our resident and rehabilitating wildlife.*

Animal Anatomy & Dissection Series

Ages 9 – 16

Fridays monthly @ 1–2:30 PM

Members: \$17
Non-members: \$20

Price is per child, per class

Explore animal anatomy hands-on through the dissection of diverse specimens. Students will discover how different animals are built, learning about physiology, adaptations, and what makes each group unique.

All mammal and bird specimens have died from natural or accidental causes such as car strikes.

Small Mammals

Friday, March 20

Go beneath the fur and see how small mammals work!

Birds

Friday, April 17

Learn what makes birds built for flight!

Squid & Fish

Friday, May 22

Dive into aquatic anatomy!

FAMILY PROGRAMS



Eastern Bluebirds and Team Bluebird

Saturday, March 7 at 10–11:30 AM
@ DPNC
FREE

Discover the comeback story of the Eastern Bluebird, made possible by dedicated community scientists who have built and monitored nest boxes for decades. After an introduction, we'll head out on the trails to observe bluebird habitats firsthand and you'll have the opportunity to join Team Bluebird. The team monitors nest boxes from late March to early July and makes a real impact on local Bluebird populations. This program is great both for those looking for a solo meadow hike and for those seeking a rewarding activity to share with family and friends.

Snakes of CT

Sunday, March 22 at 12:30–1:30 PM
@ DPNC

Free with generous support from the Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation & the Carol Lusignea Memorial Fund

Learn to identify Connecticut's native snakes and discover their important role in our ecosystems. We'll explore unique snake adaptations and you'll get a chance to meet and touch live snakes!

Family Birding at Rocky Neck

Saturday, April 25 at 1–2 PM
@ DPNC

Free with generous support from the Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation & the Carol Lusignea Memorial Fund

Birding is for everyone! Join us at Rocky Neck State Park to learn the basics with your family and get the kids excited about the birds right in our backyard. Bring binoculars if you have them.

BioBlitz

Saturday, May 2
@ DPNC

Join us for a mini BioBlitz as we explore the trails and document the incredible diversity of life around us! Through a series of guided hikes focused on different groups, such as birds, plants, and fungi, we'll work together to identify and record as many species as possible.

Pond Dipping Exploration

Sunday, May 10 at 1-2:30 PM
@ DPNC

Free with generous support from the Philadelphia Foundation

Grab a net and spend some quality time at the pond with your family! Try to catch (and release) frogs, fish, and insects with expert coaching from a DPNC educator. Come prepared with closed-toed shoes that can get wet and muddy (no Crocs or flip-flops).

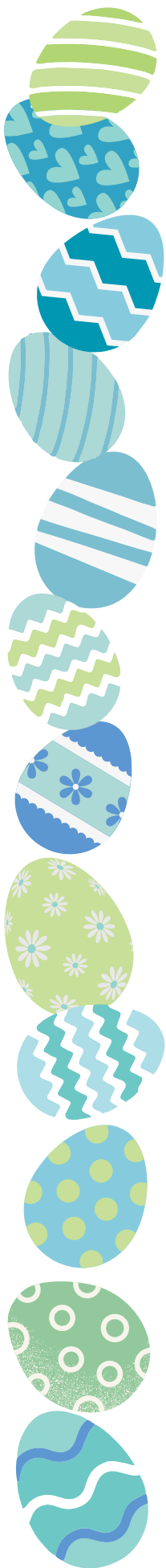
Spring Flower Fun

Sunday, May 17 at 1-2 PM
@ DPNC

Members: \$8.50
Non-members: \$10

May is the month of flowers! Bring your family to search the trails for our favorite spring blooms and meet the pollinators that depend on them. We'll explore what makes these partnerships work and why they matter.





woodland egg hunt

Friday, April 3

10 am – 4 pm

Celebrate spring in nature!

Hunt for eggs along our trails and meet our resident rabbits, birds, snakes, turtles, and other animals.

Trade in your found eggs for four wooden eggs, and decorate them at our Creation Station.

Advance ticket
purchase required.

Children: \$15

Adults: \$8

Timed entry at 10 am,
11:30 am, 1 pm, & 2:30 pm.

Tickets at
dpnc.org/events.

Generously sponsored by:

**FLEMING'S
FEED**



EARTH WEEKEND

Celebrate our home with Earth Weekend at DPNC! All activities are at DPNC and are free unless otherwise noted.

Earth Weekend is generously sponsored by:



Print & Sip

4-6:30 PM

Members: \$51
Non-members: \$60

Grab your favorite beverage, throw on an apron, and settle in for an evening of creativity and conversation. A local artist will guide you step-by-step through creating your own Earth Day themed painting. We provide the canvas, paint, and music; you just bring the drinks and a willingness to get a little messy.

Saturday, April 18:

Family Pond Dipping

11 AM-12 PM

Grab a net and spend some quality time at the pond with your family! Try to catch (and release) frogs, fish, and insects with expert coaching from a DPNC educator. Wear closed-toed shoes that can get wet and muddy.

Raptor Encounter

12:30-1:30 PM

Meet Connecticut's top predators, like owls, hawks, and falcons, and get to know DPNC's resident raptor ambassadors up close. Learn what makes these birds such skilled hunters.

Avalonia's Orange Trail Hike

2-3:30 PM

Explore the wilder edges of DPNC on the orange trail. Keep an eye out for beautiful birch trees and vernal pools teeming with life. Moderate difficulty.

Sunday, April 19:

Hike DPNC & Coogan Farm

10-11:30 AM

Starting at DPNC, we'll wander through woods and fields, stopping to explore Pequotsepos Brook, the Giving Garden, and the Stillman Foundation. Along the way, we'll talk about how people have shaped this landscape and its natural wonders.

Reptile & Amphibian Encounter

12-1 PM

Meet the coolest residents at the nature center, literally! Get face-to-face with our cold-blooded animal ambassadors, and touch live specimens if you dare! Hold bio-facts like snake sheds and turtle shells and learn how to help protect these amazing species in the wild.

Family Insect Catching

1:30-2:30 PM

Spring is prime time for bugs! Gather the family and search the meadow for grasshoppers, butterflies, spiders, and more. Please wear closed-toed shoes and bug spray.

GUIDED HIKES & WALKS

Avalonia's Avery Preserve

Sunday, March 8 at 2-3:30 PM
@ Avery Preserve
FREE

Join us as we explore this beautiful Avalonia Land Conservancy preserve in Ledyard. Stonewalls and beech trees are some of the highlights to take a closer look at.

Meets at the entrance on Avery Hill Road in Ledyard.



Gungywamp

Walk with us through the woods and absorb the mysteries of Gungywamp.

Gungywamp is an archaeological site of distinct natural and cultural interest. It has rocky ridges, glacial erratics and swamps along with enigmatic stone shelter and structures whose use and origin are open to interpretation.

DPNC holds monthly guided hikes at Gungywamp. These hikes are suited for adults and families comfortable walking two miles over uneven terrain. Moderate difficulty.

Meets at the Gungywamp trailhead
500 Gungywamp Road, Groton.

Members: \$25.50
Non-members: \$30

Dates:

Friday, March 20 at 4-6:30 PM
Sunday, April 12 at 10 AM-12:30 PM
Saturday, May 9 at 1-3:30 PM



Full Moon Hikes

All Full Moon Hikes are free to attend. Full Moon Hikes happen rain or shine, clear skies or clouds, except for heavy rain. Suited for adults and older interested children.

Full Worm Moon

Tuesday, March 3 at 5:30–6:30 PM
@ Coogan Farm

Celebrate the full moon (also a blood moon eclipse!) and the changing season with an evening walk at Coogan Farm. Dogs welcome on Coogan Farm trails.

Full Pink Moon

Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30–7:30 PM
@ the Peace Sanctuary

Watch the April Pink Moon rise from a beautiful overlook! Join us for a guided evening hike through the Peace Sanctuary as daylight fades and the full moon makes its appearance.

Full Blue Moon

Sunday, May 31 at 8:15–9:15 PM
@ the Peace Sanctuary

Watch the Full Blue Moon rise over the Mystic River! With a DPNC educator as our guide, we'll wander the trails at the Peace Sanctuary and, if we're lucky, spot some spring wildflowers along the way.

Walden Preserve

Saturday, April 4 at 10–11:30 AM
@ Walden Preserve
FREE

Take a moderate-difficulty walk through the beautiful Walden Preserve in Salem. This Nature Conservancy property managed by Salem Land Trust sits right along the Eight Mile River and is home to some seriously industrious beavers.

Meets at the entrance on Hagen Road.

Hike the Nature Center

Sunday, May 24 at 11 AM–12:30 PM
@ DPNC
FREE

Join us for a hike along DPNC's trails. We'll keep our eyes peeled for local plants and animals while exploring forests, meadows, and wetlands.

Groton-Ledyard Reservoir

Saturday, May 2 at 9:30 AM–12 PM
@ DPNC
FREE

Explore remote and secluded sections of the Groton Reservoir watershed normally closed to the public. This guided hike with a DPNC naturalist takes you through beautiful woodlands and along pristine waters on trails on the north side of the Groton Public Utilities property.

WOODLAND RAMBLE AND TRAIL RUN

SATURDAY, MAY 30
AT COOGAN FARM

*Join our trail run & walk
to support DPNC!*

*Family-friendly and dogs
are welcome!*

Nature trail 5k by:
KELLEY'S PACE

SIGN UP AT
DPNC.ORG/RAMBLE



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

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Saucony, the Shockley-Rogers Team, Topo Athletic, Vail & Robson Dentistry,
Westerly Community Credit Union, Wilder Gardens



Celebrate your next birthday with DPNC!

Our birthday parties feature your choice of live animals, natural crafts, nature walks, outdoor free play, and more! Birthday parties are scheduled for two hours, beginning with a one-hour nature program in the theme of your choice, followed by an hour of unstructured time for exploration, cake, gifts, or free play.

Check out a few popular theme ideas below, or create your own! Learn more at dpnc.org/birthday-parties.



Critter Encounter

Our most popular theme! Meet the animals who live at DPNC, then head out for a hike, visit the birds of prey, and finish with a scavenger hunt or nature craft.

Owl Prowl

Meet a live owl, learn about their unique adaptations, and visit the bird of prey enclosures before hiking to look for signs of wild owls.

Woodland Survival

This adventure includes lots of time outside and your choice of learning campfire building, shelter building, or tracking. Learn about surviving in the woods and end the party with marshmallows around a campfire.

Pond Adventures

Use nets to explore Duck Pond led by one of our DPNC naturalists, and discover the amazing world of frogs, fish and insects. Plan on getting a little muddy!

Nocturnal Notions

Find out which animals wake up when the sun goes down! At this party we'll head outside for a night hike to test your senses and wrap up the evening around a campfire.

Beaks, Feet, & Feathers

Meet DPNC's resident birds, examine feathers up close and use binoculars to go bird watching in DPNC's woodland sanctuary.

Bugs & Butterflies

Meet a live insect, spend time in the meadows using insect nets and learning about some of our tiniest critters and create a bug craft to bring home.

Nature Fairies

Hear a story about nature fairies before heading outside to create fairy houses in the woods. Create a fairy craft to bring home.

Snakes Alive!

Meet the Nature Center's resident snakes and learn how to identify some of our native Connecticut snakes before heading outside for a snake scavenger hunt! Then complete the party with a special snake craft.

BEFORE & AFTER CARE



Neighbors & Nature

Ages 5 – 12

@ Coogan Farm

Dates follow Stonington Public School schedule

Morning: 7 AM until bus pickup

Afternoon: End of school day until 6 PM

Before-school only: \$18/day

After-school only: \$22/day

Before & after: \$35/day

For questions or to enroll, contact neighbors@dpnc.org or call 860-536-1216 ext. 151.

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center and Precious Memories Place (our neighboring day care center) collaborate on our Neighbors & Nature program to offer create a unique school-aged child care program, where nature is our playground. Each day before and after school (and for full days for most school vacation days and summer vacation days), our program participants spend time in outdoors, be it in our nature playground, on the trails or in the Giving Garden. From improved concentration to agility, confidence and coordination, nature play is proven to have lasting benefits for children.

Each day, children will spend time appreciating the natural world, developing social skills and enjoying activity through exploration of Coogan Farm, playing games, crafting, hiking, fort building, dramatic play, gardening and much more!

SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, & GROUPS



DPNC offers year round opportunities for children, adults and families to connect with nature. Whether you come to us or we go to you, DPNC educators help expand understanding and appreciation of the natural world and foster scientific capability. In the classroom or in the field, learn with live animals, mounted specimens, monitoring and natural objects.

For questions or to schedule, please contact Lauren Michael, Outreach Coordinator, at lmichael@dpnc.org.

Schools

We have decades of experience educating students of all grade levels about the diverse ecosystems of southern New England. Whether in class, online, or at one of our locations, we help students of all ages learn about the natural world, while meeting Next Generation Science standards.

Libraries

Our Nature Center educators are ready to deliver high-quality, interactive, nature-inspired programs tailored to a mixed-age library audience. We work with all ages (and adults, too!) and can customize each of our nature programs to best suit your needs of your location, timing, and audience.

Scouts

Scouting and the outdoors go hand in hand! DPNC will help your group complete badge requirements through hikes, live animal encounters, and engaging, hands-on activities. Programs can be completed at your location or as a field trip to either DPNC or Coogan Farm.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are vital to our mission at DPNC. Take your first step to becoming a part of an amazing group of people while helping DPNC and the environment! Visit dpnc.org/volunteer to sign up.



Conservation & Habitat Restoration

Do you love getting outside and making improvements to the land around you? In this area, volunteers work in teams to help restore native plants, eradicate invasive plant species, and maintain trails around the greenway at both the Nature Center and Coogan Farm. Must be 18 or older to volunteer in this department.

Trail Maintenance

Do you enjoy the great outdoors and working with your hands? DPNC is looking for both experienced trail volunteers and those interested in learning more about trail work to help maintain the various hiking trails around and between the two campuses through our Trail Blazers program.



Animal Care

Interested in working with our resident animals? In animal care, you can work with a diverse variety of species. This work requires a commitment of time and a period of shadowing before working on your own. We also offer opportunities for high school students interested in working in Animal Care.

Giving Garden

The Craig Floyd Giving Garden at Coogan Farm educates the public about earth friendly, regenerative gardening practices while growing produce for mobile food pantries. Thousands of pounds of fresh produce is donated to families in need across New London County.



Special Events

Are you an outgoing and enthusiastic person who enjoys working with people of all ages? We are looking for volunteers to assist with special events throughout the year. You can help with planning, prepping, event day duties such as supervising art projects or manning a food or ticket table, photography, video and content creation, and more!

Camp Assistant

Volunteers in our Summer Nature Camp program assist with daily activities like hiking, pond dipping, exploring, art projects, animal encounters, sharing stories, and playing games. We have half-day and full-day volunteer opportunities within this program. Must be 13+ years.





See how your gifts directly benefit the Nature Center in our annual impact report at dpnc.org/support.

Membership

Your membership does more than provide access to the Nature Center. Member support ensures that we can maintain our facilities, care for our sanctuary, continue to provide quality environmental education programs, preserve our valuable nature resources, and rehabilitate injured animals and return them safely to the wild.

DPNC members enjoy:

- **Free admission** to the museum, facilities, and live animal exhibits
- **Discounted programs**, events, and merchandise
- **Discounted early registration** for Summer Nature Camp
- **Member rates for birthday parties** at DPNC and Coogan Farm

Learn more about our membership levels at dpnc.org/support.

Giving

Your gift to the Nature Center supports our environmental education programs, nourishes our resident and rehabilitating animals and helps us steward hundreds of acres of land. We accept one-time and monthly gifts, planned gifts, gifts of securities, donations via our Amazon Wish List, and more.

GIVING GARDEN APPEAL

Give to the Craig Floyd Giving Garden this spring to help set the garden up for a successful growing season! The Giving Garden appeal helps fund the seeds, soil, and supplies needed to grow plentiful harvests. Your gift ensures that we can continue to grow nutrient-rich, environmentally-friendly produce for the food insecure of New London County.

Adopt an Animal

As a federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation and education facility, we regularly take in, rehabilitate, and care for native creatures. Our goal is to release healthy animals back into areas of good habitat, but some are unreleasable due to the nature of their injuries. The animals remaining in our care become Animal Ambassadors, and a part of our education programs. Your purchase of an Adopt-an-Animal gift package helps offset the costs of our rescue and rehabilitation efforts and supports our resident animals and their care. While you can't take Mr. Bill home with you, your gift directly makes a difference in his life and the lives of countless other wild animals.

Adopt-an-Animal packages range in cost and can include anything from a photo of the animal to a unique piece of animal-created art!

HIKE OUR TRAILS!

While we hold free guided hikes regularly, sometimes you might want to strike out on your own. DPNC stewards 10+ miles of trails between the Nature Center and Coogan Farm campuses. Visit dpnc.org/trails to see our full trail map, information about each route, and download a copy to bring with you on your hike!



Denison Pequotsepos
Nature Center

Mystic, CT 860-536-1216 dpnc.org

Our mission: To inspire an understanding of the natural world and ourselves as part of it - past, present and future



Trail Etiquette

- Trails are open from dawn to dusk.
- Please stay on trails to avoid trampling delicate plants and ground-nesting animals.
- Fires, camping, hunting, and motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- Bikes only on designated paths (see map).
- Pack out your trash.
- Removing, picking, collecting, or otherwise disturbing plants and animals is prohibited.
- No smoking in DPNC buildings or anywhere on DPNC grounds.

What about my dog?

We love seeing your leashed dogs on the trails at Coogan Farm! Please help us protect delicate plants and habitats by keeping your dog leashed and on the marked trails. For the health and safety of our resident animal ambassadors, pets are prohibited on the trails around the Nature Center (east of Pequotsepos Road).

See dpnc.org/trails for our full trail map, including descriptions and lengths of each trail.



How to register for a program or event

ONLINE

Click the “register” link for any program in this catalog or visit our events calendar at dpnc.org/events.

OVER THE PHONE

Call us at (860) 536-1216 and we can sign you up via phone.

IN PERSON

Visit us at 109 Pequotsepos Rd in Mystic and we can register you at the front desk.

Cancellation Policy

Pre-registration allows DPNC to secure staffing and materials for programs so that we may best serve you and your family. We require pre-registration and pre-payment for all DPNC programs in order to reserve a space. If DPNC cancels a program, you will receive a full refund. If you withdraw from a program more than four days in advance, you will receive a refund less a 15% administrative fee. Withdrawals within four days of a program are not refundable.

About DPNC

The Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) is a leading nonprofit organization in southeastern Connecticut dedicated to environmental education, conservation, and wildlife rehabilitation. Each year, DPNC connects thousands of people to nature through hands-on programming, preserves over 350 acres of protected land, and cares for injured and orphaned wildlife.

VISITING DPNC

Museum Hours

Sunday–Friday: 10 AM–4 PM

Saturday: 9 AM–4 PM

Open 7 days a week except New Years Day, Easter, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Admission

Children (3–12): \$7

Adults: \$10

Seniors: \$7

Trails

Trails at DPNC, Coogan Farm, and the Peace Sanctuary are open to the public from dawn to dusk, free of charge. Hiking at Gungywamp requires a DPNC staff member on site; sign up for one of our scheduled hikes or email jmorris@dpnc.org to book a private tour.

DPNC Locations

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center: Main campus with museum, trails, programming & public events, private events, Summer Nature Camp, Early Childhood programming, and Homeschool programming.


Coogan Farm: Trails, Craig Floyd Giving Garden, Neighbors & Nature, Nature Preschool, events, and administrative offices.

Gungywamp: CT State Archaeological Preserve stewarded by DPNC. Closed to the public; access via public or private guided tours.

Peace Sanctuary: 30-acre preserve owned by the Mary Jobe Akeley Trust and stewarded by DPNC; open to public dawn to dusk.

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Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center

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