

MASSABESIC CENTER HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Junior Explorers

Tuesdays, 12:30-2

Wednesdays, 10-11:30

Cost: \$8 M / \$11 NM (per adult/child pair)

Leader: Angie Krysiak, Program Naturalist

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Winter

Parents, drop off your older children for a class that can't be beat. Join us for our winter series: Locomotion in Winter. We'll explore the natural world with live animals, nature walks, and hands-on activities that follow a different natural theme each day. Be prepared to be outside! Classes are for ages 7-12. Pre-registration is required, parents may stay and participate.

Dec 13/14: Homes for the Holidays: Winter is just around the corner, and by now the animals should know exactly where they will need to shelter as the snow and ice takes hold of the New England landscape. What kinds of winter homes and hibernacula will the animals be settling into? Today we'll learn about a few different animals, and find out where they will call home for the winter holidays.

Jan 17/18: Wings of Winter: Some of our feathered friends flew away south for the winter- but many of them over-winter right here in our backyards! Do you know which ones stayed? How do they keep warm? What might they find to eat here all winter long? Join us as we explore backyard birds flying through winter- and make them a special treat to hang out in your yard!

Feb 7/8: Animals on Snowshoes: Deep snow can make winter survival and travel very difficult – until you strap on your snowshoes! Animals may not be able to wear them- but some animals' feet so big they certainly look like snowshoes! The lynx and snowshoe hare are two such animals that have snowshoe feet- and it is no wonder that this predator-prey combination ecologically dependent on each other. Come and learn about these winter-adapted animals, as we try on our own snowshoe feet, and play some predator-prey games!

Feb 14/15: Burrowing through Snow: As a layer of snow blankets the ground, all may appear calm and serene... but is it? Who's burrowing down there under the snow, and are they really warmer under there? Today we will take a look under the snow to discover the fury of activity taking place as our smallest of animals are struggling to survive.

Spring

Join us for our spring series! We'll explore the natural world with live animals, nature walks, and hands-on activities that follow a different natural theme each day. Be prepared to be outside! Classes are for ages 7-12. Pre-registration is required, parents may stay and participate.

Spring series I: The Earth is Our Home

March 13/14: Rocks: Rocks are everywhere – you see them everyday! The rocks you see may have once been part of a magnificent mountain or on the bottom of a vast ocean! They may have been stomped by the dinosaurs! They are as old as the earth itself, but continuously change and recycle themselves. Come today and learn about the bones of the earth, as we discover, explore and create – ROCKS!

March 27/28: Invertebrates: About 95% of all animals on Earth are invertebrates; animals without a backbone or internal skeleton. Some may be soft and squishy, and some may have a hard shell or exoskeleton. There are over a million different kinds. Come today and learn about our incredible invertebrates, while we meet a few up close and personal!

April 17/18: The Earth is Our Home: We've explored many of the things that make our planet unique and enable us to call it our home! From rocks to water to plants to animals; all that shares the earth with us is an amazing gift to behold. Come today as we celebrate Earth Day and learn some ways to protect our home by celebrating Earth Day every day.

Spring Series 2: Spring Celebration

May 8/9: Nesting Success: What better symbolizes spring than bird song, nests, and eggs! Birds all around us are getting ready to raise their young. Join us as we take a close up look at all that goes into their nesting success!

May 22/23: Amphibians All Around: Spring songs and migrations usually bring to mind... amphibians? Amphibian migration known as "Big Night" has already occurred, and now we venture out to listen for the choruses of frogs. Join us for some amphibian fun as we search for salamanders and hop like frogs.

June 5/6: Wildflower Wonders: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder- but who can argue the beauty of our wildflowers in spring? We've waited all winter, and half of the spring for color to return to our forests and fields. Come and discover the colors, shapes and wonders of our wildflowers today!