

# Program Descriptions

## SCIENCE-BASED:

**All About Trees\* (1.5 hr)** – Learn fun facts about common trees of our region, play interactive games that demonstrate tree structure and forest competition, and learn about key concepts of forest succession and dynamics while hiking our extensive trail system. With over 500 acres of pristine woodlands on our mountaintop property, there's never been a better place to 'take a hike.' Participants should be prepared for moderate to strenuous walking.

**Avian Adventures (45 min OR 1.5 hr)** – Spend some time getting to know the beautiful inhabitants of our skies. These amazing animals have incredible adaptations to make them successful fliers, predators, mate-finders, nest builders, migrators, and much more. Touchable artifacts and interactive games make this program a hands-on, minds-on experience.

**Creepy Crawly Creatures\* (45 min)** – Are they bugs or insects or maybe...neither? Invertebrates, the largest group of organisms in the Animal Kingdom, is often the most misunderstood. Discover how important these creatures are to all life on earth. Participants use nets, collecting jars, and magnifying equipment to get up close and personal with small critters in their natural setting.

**Down to Earth\* (45 min OR 1.5 hr)** – Geology, soils, and rocks...oh my! Become a rock detective to learn about the processes that shape the face of the earth and the geologic history of our area.

**Equine Science (45 min OR 1.5 hr)** – Can you tell if a horse is happy or mad? Much like humans, you can see it in their face. Our camp is home to a herd of horses who work for our equestrian program April through November. Learn how to brush, clean, and care for a horse as well as details about tack and horse characteristics.

**Fabulous Fungus\* (45 min)** – What did the mushroom say to the lichen? Go beyond the classic corny jokes and spend some time delving into the fantastic world of fungi. Did you know that Pennsylvania is the leading commercial producer of mushrooms in the country AND that mushrooms are Pennsylvania's largest cash crop!

**Happenin' Herps (45 min OR 1.5 hr)** – Observe, touch, and learn about live and preserved reptile and amphibian specimens. Many of the misconceptions about the often misunderstood animals will be dispelled when participants discover their special behaviors and adaptations.

---

1

\* indicates this is a "Trail" class which will be conducted while hiking and may require moderate physical exertion

(Martin Property) indicates this class will be conducted at our pond site and may require group to assist with transportation or combine with a "Trail" class

## SCIENCE-BASED (cont'd):

**Habitat Basics\* (1.5 hr)** – This basic ecology program teaches participants about the interconnections that bind plants, animals, and their non-living surroundings together. Participants will also learn to identify the four essential habitat elements that make a habitat suitable for various animals.

**Mammals (1.5 hr)** –Take a scientific look at the anatomy, habitat, and life cycles of local mammals by comparing and contrasting their basic characteristics through the examination of furs and skulls. Participants could be challenged with the task of putting together a deer skeleton, creating a food web, or playing interactive predator/prey games.

**Pond Study (Martin Property-1.5 hr)** – Even the smallest pond is often teeming with life; however, it's not always obvious to the naked eye. The presence or lack of aquatic invertebrates is an indicator of the environmental health of a pond or stream. Collect, identify, and study these fascinating and wonderful creatures up close and personal.

**Tracks & Traces\* (45 min)** – For thousands of years, human survival depended upon the ability to be efficient and successful hunters. In order to do that, people had to be able to successfully track their prey. Participants will learn how to track and investigate signs that animals leave behind (tracks, scat, feathers, nests, bones) while they search the woods for signs of wildlife. Participants should be prepared for moderate to strenuous walking.

**Watershed Wonders (45 min OR 1.5 hr)** – Investigate how watersheds work and why it's so important to understand this. The topics of erosion, the water cycle, and water pollution will be explored during a 3-D watershed model demonstration that brings to light how human actions affect water quality.