

At Home in Acadia – Kindergarten Habitats

We are looking forward to your visit to Acadia National Park which will provide your students with a special opportunity to learn about survival and relationships in several of Acadia’s habitats. Please meet your ranger at 9:00 AM at the location in your confirmation letter. The program concludes at 11:00 AM. Plan a restroom break just before departing school. If you have any questions about the program in advance please call the education office at 288-8823, or 288-8825 on the day of the program. If you will be more than 15 minutes late, please call the Visitor Center at 288-8832 so that they can contact the ranger by radio.

**Program Schedule (timing and sequence may vary)**

9:00 Welcome, Logistics, and Restroom Break

9:15 Animal Role-Play & Habitat Match Puzzle – Animal Needs in a Habitat

9:45 Snack

10:00 Exploration Hike – Explore a trail with a focus on discovering the needs of plants and animals and their relationship with their habitat.

10:45 Conclusion and Restroom Break

11:00 Departure

**Plan to Bring**

* Chaperones: Plan early! Acadia requires a chaperone for every ten students and suggests a chaperone for every five students for Kindergarten. Extra chaperones are welcome.
* Food: A water fountain is available at the field trip site but there is no food or drinks to purchase. Each student needs to bring a snack and a re-sealable drink. Although a lunch break will not be included in the program, you are welcome to plan to eat your bag lunches on site before heading back to school.
* Clothing: Wear layered outdoor clothing to accommodate changing weather conditions. Supportive shoes are essential—no sandals or flip-flops. It’s best to wear pants instead of shorts for extra tick protection.
* Nametags: Students and adults need name tags. A piece of masking tape with the name in marker is sufficient.
* Signed photo release forms: Please send photo releases home with students for parent signatures. Teachers’ Responsibilities
* Prepare students for the program by utilizing suggested classroom activities or your own.
* Adherence to school procedures such as permission slips, insurance, transportation, etc.
* Recruit chaperones and inform them of their responsibilities. Please photocopy and distribute the chaperone handout.
* Prepare students to follow Leave No Trace practices:
* Stay on trails if possible.
* Respect, listen, and use quiet voices.
* Leave all natural objects. Take trash with you. (You may want to bring a trash bag.)
* Supervise students and help them stay focused while on the program.
* Notify trip participants about the recommendation to check for ticks after visiting the park. Tick numbers here have risen in recent years.
* Ensuring that safe practices are followed throughout.

**Program Goals:**

* To provide an opportunity for students to connect to the resources of Acadia through sensory exploration & discovery.
* To increase students’ knowledge of what plants and animals need to survive.
* To help students understand the relationship of plant and animal needs with the places they live.
* To foster a sense of respect and stewardship for Acadia and the environment.
* Program Objectives: Students will be able to:
* Name several things plants need to grow.
* Name several things animals need to grow.
* Match animals to a habitat that could support them.

**Learning Standards:**

From the Next Generation Science Standards: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

K-LS1-1 Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals need to survive.

K-ESS2-2 Construct argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs.

K-ESS3-1 Use a model to represent relationship between needs of different plants and animals and the places they live.

K-ESS3-3 Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.