Where will your group's next adventure lead them?

Programs for Groups

“In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught.” (Baba Dioum, 1968)

www.MonmouthCountyParks.com
Who We Are
The Monmouth County Park System was established in 1960 when 24 acres of land left over from the construction of the Garden State Parkway were used to create Shark River Park. We have been growing ever since. Today, we manage 43 park areas that include forests, wetland/marine habitats, golf courses, historic sites, recreation areas and conservation sites. One of our long-term goals is to preserve a minimum of 20,000 acres of public open space. Along with securing land for future generations, we also offer more than 5,000 programs, camps, activities and events each year.

What We Do
The Monmouth County Park System is proud to offer many opportunities for school, community, scout, and other groups. Our group programming provides a wide range of quality recreational services that enhance and enrich the lives and wellness of our participants. We strive to assist people of all ages, interests, abilities and skills to engage in recreational activities in order to develop a deeper appreciation of open space and the natural, historic and cultural resources of Monmouth County.

Our Mission
The Board of Recreation Commissioners is committed to improving the quality of life of the citizens of Monmouth County by providing open space, park and recreation areas, facilities, programs, and services of the highest quality and to furnishing these recreational and educational opportunities in the most effective, efficient, and economical manner possible.

The Monmouth County Park System is proud to have achieved and maintained national accreditation status among park and recreation agencies since 1994. Conferred by the National Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies and sanctioned by the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Association, the Monmouth County Park System was the first park and recreation agency in the nation accredited and is one of less than 200 accredited agencies in the nation to have achieved such an honor.

The Monmouth County Park System received re-accreditation in September 2019 from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This distinguished accomplishment was announced at the 2019 NRPA Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Board of County Commissioners
Board of Recreation Commissioners
Printed on recycled paper with eco-solvent ink
G22117-5-22
## Contents

### Scheduling a Program

2

### Outdoor Adventures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenge Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the Water</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Climbing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Adventures</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Environmental Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manasquan Reservoir</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throughout the Parks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenape Programs</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Animal Presentations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Walks</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Adventures</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prehistoric Times</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Explorations</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Ecology</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine &amp; Estuarine Ecology</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Boat Tour Programs

17

### History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Throughout the Parks</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longstreet Farm</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Walnford</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Scout Adventures

21

### Horticultural Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speakers Bureau</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Tours</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Creative Arts

23

### Equestrian

24

### Outreach Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature on the Move</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature in Your School</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids on the Block</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable Rock Climbing Wall</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Up Close</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Story Hours</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Opportunities

28

**NOTE:** It is understood and agreed that park visitors and participants in Monmouth County Park System programs, activities and events may have their names and pictures used, without fee, in broadcast, television and print media accounts for promotional and publicity purposes.

www.MonmouthCountyParks.com

General Park Information: 732-842-4000, ext. 4312

For persons with hearing impairment, the TTY/TDD number is 711.
Scheduling a Program

Canoeing, farm tours, nature walks and rock climbing are just a few of the reasonably priced activities available to schools, youth clubs and organizations, and community groups. All programs are led by Park System recreation professionals trained to provide a safe, enjoyable and educational experience.

- To arrange programs, please contact our group program coordinator at the phone number listed with the program. Reservations can be made Monday through Friday.

- Program fees are listed for groups originating outside of Monmouth County. Groups from Monmouth County receive a discounted rate. Program fees are subject to change.

- Please allow at least four weeks prior to scheduling your group activity. We suggest scheduling programs two to four months in advance and will accept reservations up to six months prior to the program date.

- Although no rain dates may be reserved, every effort will be made to accommodate your group in case of inclement weather.

- Note minimum and maximum numbers of participants where indicated to determine if your group can be accommodated. For programs that have a per participant charge, groups that do not reach the minimum will be billed for the minimum number of participants as noted. If your group has more than the maximum permitted for a particular program, please inquire about opportunities where you may divide your group so they can rotate through multiple activities (additional fees will apply).

- Your program confirmation will be mailed within two weeks. Please verify date, time, number of participants, and location.

- A limited number of supervising adults may attend youth programs for free; all others will be charged the per person fee, where applicable. Only registered participants and supervising adults with completed release forms (where required) can take part in the activities.

- If the program you have selected is three or more hours in length, please bring a non-perishable lunch. Picnic tables are available at most facilities on a first come basis.

- All programs require participants and supervising adults wear closed-toe, closed-heel. Failure to comply will result in being unable to participate in the activity.

Is your organization in need of financial assistance for group programming?

Your agency may be eligible for RecAssist! This program gives qualified organizations the opportunity to participate in a sampling of the Monmouth County Park System's group programming at a reduced rate. In order to qualify for this program, you must submit an application and certify that a minimum of 85% of your program participants have been determined to be economically disadvantaged. Please call the Community Recreation division at 732-834-9606 for more information.

Icon Legend

Available to be offered at your facility December-March (within Monmouth County)

Available to be offered at your facility year-round

Program can be adapted to suit the recreational nature of summer groups

Bring a non-perishable lunch

www.MonmouthCountyParks.com
General Park Information: 732-842-4000, ext. 4312
Where will your group’s next adventure lead them? There are many opportunities for outdoor adventures through the Monmouth County Park System. Join us for a program on our challenge course and portable climbing wall. Learn a new sport or hone your skills during one of our kayaking, canoeing, hiking and archery programs. Don’t see the outdoor adventure program you want listed here? Contact the group program coordinator at 732-842-4000, ext. 4325, to see if we can make the program you want happen!

Challenge Course

Our Challenge Courses at Thompson and Big Brook Parks provide experiential education adventures designed to promote team building, communication and trust. The facilities offer low and high challenge course elements which can be utilized individually or in sequence to meet the needs of the group. Challenge Course programs are great for corporations, school groups, sports teams, scout groups and more!

**Team Building Challenge**

Ages 10-Adult
Offered: year-round
Park: Thompson
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325

This low ropes challenge course program is comprised of elements and obstacles that encourage team members to break down interpersonal barriers and work together, with each member playing a part to accomplish the goal. Both physical and mental challenges allow your group to work toward their objectives as a cohesive unit, as our instructor facilitates discussions on teamwork, communication, leadership, goal setting, and trust. Each program can be catered towards the discussion topics of your choice.

Program Fee: $25 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $21 per person

**Zipline Challenge**

Ages 8-Adult
Offered: year-round
Park: Big Brook
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325

Soar across the 175 ft. zipline at Big Brook Park. Suspended up to 12 feet in the air, this experience will bring enjoyment to anyone new or experienced. Access to this zipline makes it fun for all, especially the younger zippers.

Program Fee: $280 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $240 per group

**High Challenge Adventure**

Ages 12-Adult
Offered: year-round
Min 8/Max 24
Park: Thompson
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325

Design a high adventure challenge specifically for your group based on group size and time available.

High Adventure Challenges focus on goal setting, safe risk, building self-confidence, and leaping beyond the barriers of perceived limits. Each challenge requires support from other team members, teaches balance and coordination, and encourages concentration. The degree of challenge within each element is dependent upon the level at which each person challenges themselves. Choose from the following elements to create an experience that your group will remember for a lifetime!

**Zipline**

Push yourself out of your comfort zone! Climb 35 feet up a cargo tube, traverse across a suspended obstacle course and zipline back to the ground.

**Pamper Pole**

Climb a telephone pole 30 feet to the top and take a leap of faith as you try and catch a trapeze suspended in the air.

**Flying Squirrel**

This giant swing allows you to fly 30 feet in the air while being anchored by your team members.

**Vertical Ladder**

Your team will vertically ascend 30 feet as the cabled and logged ladders remain free moving. This goal driven challenge can be a true upper body workout.

Fees begin at $270 per group. Call us today to design your one-of-a-kind High Challenge Adventure!
Outdoor Adventures

On The Water

**Can-U-Canoe**

Ages 8-Adult  
1-2 hrs  
Offered: May - October  
Park: Thompson, Turkey Swamp  
Max 30  
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325  

Push-away from the shoreline and draw your attention to the local wildlife as we explore a lake by canoe. Our instructors will teach you basic water safety and various paddling strokes. We’ll provide the canoes, paddles and personal flotation devices. Bring water and be prepared to get wet.  

Program Fee: $285 per group up to 15;  
$360 per group 16-30  
Groups from Monmouth County:  
$245 per group up to 15;  
$310 per group 16-30

**Kayak Discovery**

Ages 10-Adult  
2 hrs  
Offered: June-October  
Max 12  
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325  

Adventure is just a paddle away! Explore the beauty and wildlife of a local water way with the instruction and guidance of qualified Monmouth County Park System staff via sit-on-top kayaks. Instructors will teach you everything you need to know to have a safe and fun time on the water, including basic water safety and various paddling strokes. We provide the sit-on-top kayaks, paddles and personal flotation devices. Bring water and be prepared to get wet.  

*This program can be held at any county park with lake access (with approval of Outdoor Adventures staff).*  

Program Fee: $305 per group  
Groups from Monmouth County:  
$255 per group

**Eco-Guided Kayak Tour**

Ages 12 & up  
1 ½-2 hrs  
Offered: Spring-Fall  
Min 10/Max 18 (including chaperones)  
Park: Hartshorne Woods  
Contact: 732-872-7369  

Explore the Navesink River’s calm tidal waters and dynamic estuarine environment while paddling on sit-on-top kayaks. Along the way participants learn about the ecology and conservation efforts that make this river system unique along the Jersey shore. This activity is best suited for small groups, such as science clubs, ecology clubs or scout groups. Program is tide and weather dependent. Fee includes basic instruction and all equipment.  

Program Fee: $20.30 per person  
Groups from Monmouth County:  
$17.55 per person

“Outdoor Adventures designs our trips to meet our needs by supplying the equipment, transportation, and most of all an excellent staff. The staff drives, leads the trip, and works very well with my students. Instruction on camping, love of the outdoors, safety and respect for our environment is always stressed!”
Rock Climbing

**Time to Rock Climb**
Ages 6-Adult  1-2 hrs
Offered: April - November
Max 15
Park: Thompson
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325
Challenge your group to climb higher on the Monmouth County Park System’s portable rock wall. Groups experience what the hype surrounding rock climbing is all about. Rock climbing is a fun way to get a full-body workout and to challenge yourself mentally. By the end of this program, your group will surely be roped into rock climbing.

Program Fee: $245 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $210 per group

Archery

**Discover Archery**
Ages 8-Adult     2 hrs
Offered: March- November
Max 15
Park: Thompson, Turkey Swamp
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325
Learn the basics of the ancient sport of archery. Whether you and your group are interested for recreation, competition or hunting, our Outdoor Adventures staff assist you in developing the skills necessary to pursue this timeless pastime. All equipment is provided.

Program Fee: $240 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $205 per group

Camping

Group camping is available to chartered organizations at the Nomoco Group Campground, Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold. Tent and platform tent camping is available from April 1 through the second weekend in November. There are six group campsites to choose from, depending on your requirements, and each accommodates up to 40 people. **Call 732-462-7286 for more information on Group Camping at Turkey Swamp Park.**

Hiking

**Hiking Monmouth County**
Ages 10-Adult    2 hrs
Offered: year-round    Max 15
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325
Explore the variety of trails that the picturesque county parks have to offer. Choose the park you want to discover and Outdoor Adventures staff will lead your group on a fun adventure. Ask us about our multi-day hiking series!
*If conditions are snowy, this can be a snowshoe trip.

Program Fee: $145 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $126 per group

**Hiking Excursion**
Ages 12-Adult    4-8 hrs
Offered: year-round    Min 8/Max 12
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325
Looking for a hiking adventure? Outdoor Adventures staff has extensive hiking experience throughout the tri-state area and would love to lead you and your group. Outdoor Adventures staff is even licensed to guide in the Catskill Mountains in upstate New York. Tell us whether you want a rocky trail with a bit of scrambling, a trail sprinkled with beautiful views, or a trail with crystal clear streams and waterfalls. Outdoor Adventures staff will assist you in picking the right hike for you and your group, handle logistics and transportation, and guide you on your adventure.
*If conditions are snowy, this can be a snowshoe excursion.
*Price varies upon duration and location.

“Always a great trip”
-Ocean Township Intermediate School

www.MonmouthCountyParks.com
General Park Information: 732-842-4000, ext. 4312
More Adventures

Cross-Country Skiing / Snowshoe Clinic
Ages 8-Adult 2 hrs
Offered: Winter Max 15
Park: Thompson
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325
You don’t have to wait for the snow to fall to learn the basics of cross-country skiing. Our clinics run on natural snow or using our ski-mats so you’re ready for “Old Man Winter’s” surprises. Ski with confidence after taking a clinic with our experienced Outdoor Adventures staff. All equipment is provided.
Program Fee: $210 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $180 per group

Cross-Country Skiing Excursion
Ages 12-Adult
Offered: Winter Max 12
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325
Have you learned how to cross-country ski and are ready for an adventure? Let Outdoor Adventures staff take care of the logistics and guide you along your winter wonderland experience. There must be snow in order to do this trip.
Program Fee: Price varies upon duration and location.

Geocaching
Ages 8-Adult 2 hrs
Offered: year-round Max 15
Park: Thompson
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325
Give your mind and legs a healthy workout with the adventurous sport of geocaching. Geocaching is the search for hidden containers, called caches, using GPS (global positioning system) navigation devices. Through instruction and practice, discover the basic operation, key functions, and navigation options of a GPS unit.
Program Fee: $195 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $170 per group

“...and learned how to ski despite having no snow. The ski mats worked well to allow us to try out the techniques we learned. The instructors were experienced.”

Design Your Own Adventure!

Half Day, Full Day, and Camping Trips
Ages 10-Adult • Offered: year-round • Min 8/Max 24
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325
Take your group for a trip, without all the hassle! We can customize adventures to meet your groups individual needs. Outdoor Adventures will provide the equipment, food and transportation, you provide the enthusiasm.
• Biking, canoeing, climbing, overnight adventures, white water rafting, river tubing, cross country skiing, kayaking and more.
• Price varies upon duration, location and activities.
• Outdoor Adventures usually camps at Turkey Swamp’s Nomoco Group Campground Area. However, we have special permission to camp at Monmouth County parks not designated for camping, such as Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park and Hartshorne Woods Park. Please contact us to discuss availability.

Outdoor Adventure Sampler
Ages 8-Adult • 4-6 hours • Offered: year-round • Min 8/Max 60
Can’t decide which adventure your group would like? Your group size is larger than the maximum number allowed? Combine your choice of three or four of the following activities based on your group size and time allotment.

Summer Sampler Activities:
Canoeing • Hiking
Archery • Climbing Wall
Games • Geocaching • Kayaking
Stand Up Paddle Boarding

Winter Sampler Activities:
Cross-Country Skiing
Snow Shoe Hike
Games • Geocaching
Funtastic Games
Ages 8-Adult
1-2 hrs
Offered: year-round
Min 8/Max 60
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325
Discover new ways to get your group to know each other and be more comfortable interacting. Whether a group of scouts, a school setting, or your work group, these activities are fun and energized. We can offer mental and/or physical activities for small and large groups, indoors or out. Looking for something a little more structured or have more time for training? Give us a call and we can customize a program especially for you.
Program Fee: $130 per group of 15
Groups from Monmouth County: $110 per group of 15
At your facility in Monmouth County: $150 per group of 15

Team Building Get-Away
Ages Teen-Adult
Offered: Spring & Fall
Min 8/Max 30
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325
Start your team off on the right foot by signing them up for this camping adventure! Our trained experiential education staff will guide them through a series of teambuilding and adventure based activities which can strengthen the core of your program. These activities can be made available throughout your camping experience based on length of your getaway:
- Ice Breaker Activities
- Archery
- Wilderness Survival
- Hiking
- Fire Safety
- Canoeing
- Climbing Wall
- Geocaching
Looking for something not listed here? Just ask...
Program Fee: Price varies upon duration and location.

Picnics
Find a beautiful setting for group picnics at Turkey Swamp Park in Freehold. The Sandy Run Area can be reserved for a fee. The Deer Trail and Oak Point areas are available free on a first come, first served basis. In addition to Turkey Swamp Park there are picnic areas in Holmdel Park (Holmdel), Shark River Park (Neptune & Wall), and Thompson Park (Lincroft).
All groups of 50 or more must obtain a program receipt at least seven days prior to the proposed picnic date.
Call 732-842-4000, ext. 1, for an application or more information on Group Picnics.

“Our kids loved it & look forward to it every single year. They have a chance to bond and trust each other. Thank you for making their bonding a wonderful experience.”
The Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center is designed to connect visitors with the natural world by providing an understanding of the vital role that water plays in our daily lives. We offer quality experiential learning through group discovery activities related to wetlands ecology, watersheds and wildlife and habitat protection.

Nature Presentation
PreK-Adult  
35 min-1 hr
Max 30
Offered: year-round
Park: Manasquan
Contact: 732-751-9453
Topics for this show and tell program can include reptiles and amphibians, dinosaurs and other fossils, plant life, insect life, geology and astronomy. We can tailor topics to suit your needs.
Program Fee: $63.25 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $55 per group

Multimedia Nature Presentation
All Ages
45 min-1 hr
Max 30
Offered: year-round
Park: Manasquan
Contact: 732-751-9453
Watch a multimedia presentation highlighting the natural features, ecology and history of the Manasquan Reservoir. Other topics are available. Multiple programs can be scheduled on the same date at the same location for a discounted rate.
Program Fee: $40 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $35 per group

Building Tour & Multimedia Presentation
All Ages  
1 ½-2 hrs
Max 50
Offered: year-round
Park: Manasquan
Contact: 732-751-9453
Enjoy both a building tour and multimedia nature presentation with your group for a discounted rate.
Program Fee: $65 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $55 per group

“The Naturalist was so patient, kind and super knowledgeable.”
Welcome to the Reservoir
Grades K-2 1 ½ hrs
Min 14/Max 75
Offered: year-round
Park: Manasquan
Contact: 732-751-9453
Participants are introduced to some of the wild animals that call the Reservoir home. This program includes a live animal presentation, a short nature walk, and a fun game about wildlife.
Program Fee: $6.25 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.25 per student

Little Critters
Grades K-2 1 ½ hrs
Min 14/Max 75
Offered: year-round
Park: Manasquan
Contact: 732-751-9453
Discover some of the little animals that call the park home. Participants create a craft and explore the outside world for animal life. The program also includes a live animal presentation.
Program Fee: $7.50 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.50 per student

Bugs, Birds & Biodiversity
Grades 3-5 1 ½ hrs
Min 14/Max 75
Offered: year-round
Park: Manasquan
Contact: 732-751-9453
Participants investigate insect and bird adaptations and learn about the importance of biodiversity. The program includes a nature walk, live animal presentation and an animal adaptation lab activity.
Program Fee: $6.90 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $6 per student

Pond Study
Grades 3-8 2 ½-3 hrs
Min 17/Max 50
Offered: May-October
Park: Manasquan
Contact: 732-751-9453
Hands-on collecting of macro-invertebrates gives students a chance to ‘immerse’ themselves in the wetland ecosystem. A nature walk around the pond explores all angles of the environment. After collecting, students study what they have found in a hands-on lab. Microscopes and hand lenses are used to get a closer look at tiny critters as we identify them. Students learn the connection between water quality and biodiversity. The concept of ‘indicator species’ is also discussed. Hip waders are provided, but a change of clothes is recommended.
Program Fee: $11 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $9.50 per student

Pond Study Short Course
Grades 2-5 1 hr
Min 14/Max 30
Offered: May-October
Park: Manasquan
Contact: 732-751-9453
Limited on time? No problem! We collect the water samples and you can come investigate the aquatic wildlife found in our wetlands. Learn how these organisms can help us determine the quality of the water they live in.
Program Fee: $6.30 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.50 per student

Freshwater Monitoring & Management
Grades 9-12 3 ½ hrs
Min 17/Max 30
Offered: May-October
Park: Manasquan
Contact: 732-751-9453
Participants discover what it is like to scientifically monitor a freshwater system through biological, chemical and observational activities. Participants collect and analyze data from a freshwater system and learn some ways to protect and manage this finite resource.
Program Fee: $13.80 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $12 per student

Eco-Kayak Tour of the Manasquan Reservoir
Ages 12 & up 1 ½-2 hrs
Max 13 (including chaperones)
Offered: May-October
Park: Manasquan
Contact: 732-751-9453
Tour the Manasquan Reservoir with a Park System Naturalist as your guide. We will be on the lookout for great blue herons stalking prey in shallow water and turtles basking in the sun on floating logs. No experience is needed. Basic paddling techniques are discussed before the trip begins. Each trip’s course varies according to water level, weather and the ability and interests of the group.
Program Fee: $225 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $195 per group

“We’ve attended this program for quite a few years… Thank you for a great experience for our students!”

– St. Benedict’s School
Our standards-based environmental education curriculum takes advantage of the rich natural resources available in Monmouth County through hands-on activities that promote awareness, understanding and stewardship of our natural history and environment.

**Lenape Programs**

**Lenape Coil Pots**
Grades 3-6  
Offered: Spring & Fall  
Min 12  
Park: Freneau Woods, Huber Woods  
Contact: 732-872-7369  
The Lenape cooked in clay pots and used them to store food and other household items. Students create and take home a small clay vessel using the coil pot method, an ancient technique of pottery building.  
Program Fee: $8.70 per student  
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.55 per student

**Lenape Pottery**
Grades 3-6  
Offered: Spring & Fall  
Min 14 / Max 42  
Park: Huber Woods  
Contact: 732-872-7369  
Every civilization which had access to clay created pots to serve as cooking, eating or storage vessels. Students replicate the methods used by the Lenape to create and decorate a pot of their own to take home. The program includes a brief lecture on the Lenape and a nature walk.  
Program Fee: $11.35 per student  
Groups from Monmouth County: $9.85 per student

**Lenape Day at the Bay**
Grades 3-6  
Offered: Spring & Fall  
Min 17 / Max 60  
Park: Bayshore  
Contact: 732-872-7369  
Experience life along Sandy Hook Bay as it was 400 years ago, by spending the day investigating how local Native American people relied upon the bounty of the bay environment for their survival. Students learn the importance of shellfish and the value of trading important economic goods with other Lenape people. Participants also learn ancient techniques, such as tool making, food preservation, and the creation of dye from berries and wood. Participants decorate shells they collect along the beach with homemade dye to take home.  
Program Fee: $13.80 per student  
Groups from Monmouth County: $12 per student

**Lenape Longhouse**
Grades 4-6  
Offered: Spring & Fall  
Min 16; 30 for 2 Longhouses  
Park: Huber Woods  
Contact: 732-872-7369  
Students transcend time and become Lenape children for the day. They work cooperatively to build a life sized replica Longhouse using only the tools of the era. Discussion regarding daily life in a Lenape village will be ongoing throughout the program. Indoor alternative program may be available if there is inclement weather the day of your trip. Please inquire when you register.  
Program Fee: $14.50 per student  
Groups from Monmouth County: $12.50 per student

**Live Animal Presentations**
Grades PreK-Adult  
45 min - 1 hr  
Offered: year-round  
Maximum of 30 per group  
Park: Huber Woods, Manasquan Reservoir  
Contact: Southern and Western Monmouth County Parks 732-751-9453 or Northern and Eastern Monmouth County Parks 732-872-7369  
Groups are offered a choice of presentations highlighting live specimens of reptiles, amphibians or insects. Information on the life cycle, habitat and habits of the animals are the focus of these presentations with an emphasis on the role each has in nature.  
Program Fee: $69  
Groups from Monmouth County: $58  
At your facility in Monmouth County:  
One program: $100  
Two programs (consecutive): $135  
Three programs (consecutive): $170

**Nature Walks**
PreK-Adult  
45 min - 1 hr  
Maximum of 30 per group  
Contact: Southern and Western Monmouth County Parks 732-751-9453 or Northern and Eastern Monmouth County Parks 732-872-7369  
Guided explorations of natural areas are available at many of our county parks. When requested in advance, topics can be tailored to your group's particular interests.  
Available year-round at Bayshore Waterfront Park, Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area, Freneau Woods Park, Holmdel Park, Huber Woods Park, Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Shark River Park, and Turkey Swamp Park. Other park locations available upon request.  
Program Fee: $52 per group  
Groups from Monmouth County: $45
Eco-Adventures

Nature Explorers
Grades PreK-K 1 ½ hrs
Offered: year-round Min 14 /Max 75
Park: Huber Woods
Contact: 732-872-7369
You are never too young to discover the wonders of nature. During this program children are introduced to the simple aspects of our natural world through a craft, guided nature walk, and a live animal show.
Program Fee: $7.50 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.20 per student

Fun with Nature
Grades 1-2 1 ½ hrs
Offered: year-round Min 14 /Max 75
Park: Huber Woods
Contact: 732-872-7369
Discover the wonders of nature during a guided nature walk and live animal show featuring some of the well-known animals of Monmouth County. Children create an educational craft to remind them of the fun they had in nature that day.
Program Fee: $7.50 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.20 per student

Earth Day is Every Day
Grades 1-4 1 ½ hrs
Offered: year-round Min 12 /Max 75
Park: Huber Woods
Contact: 732-872-7369
Don’t “Go Green” just one day a year. In this program, students learn how to incorporate environmental stewardship into their everyday lives through hands-on activities, games and an eco-walk.
Program Fee: $7.15 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.15 per person

Critters & Jitters
Grades PreK-2 1 ½ hrs
Offered: October Min 15/Max 75
Park: Huber Woods
Contact: 732-872-7369
Join us for a fun-filled hayride through Huber Woods and make unforgettable memories this fall. Participants experience nature up close during a live animal presentation and create a craft to remind them of their autumn visit to this beautiful park. Pumpkin picking is optional.
Program Fee (up to 4 adult teacher/chaperones free): $9.70 per person; $8.45 per person without pumpkin
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.35 per person; $7 per person without pumpkin

Wildflower Wonders
Grades: 1-6 1 ½ hrs
Offered: April – June, August – October Min 15/Max 30
Park: Huber Woods
Contact: 732-872-7369
Have you ever wondered about the role that wildflowers have in our environment? Students embark on a guided wildflower walk and have an up-close look at how flowers relate to specific pollinators. Then each participant pots up some native wildflowers for the class to take home.
Program Fee: $10.40 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $9.00 per student

Ecology ABCs
Grades 4-6 2 ½ hrs
Offered: May-October Min 15/Max 75
Park: Shark River
Contact: 732-751-9453
Bring your students to Shark River Park to investigate ecology in the best lab: Nature! Students learn and apply the four key concepts of ecology: abiotic, biotic, cycles and change. This is a fun and hands-on program focused on in the field experiments designed to reinforce concepts and demonstrate how ecosystems function.
Program Fee: $7.50 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.50 per student

Applied Ecology
Grades 8-12 2 hrs
Offered: April-October Min 15/Max 30
Park: Turkey Swamp
Contact: 732-751-9453
What kind of tree is that? How old is this forest? Is this a good habitat for animals? Students answer all of these questions and more as they learn the basics of forestry and habitat assessment. Students identify local flora, perform soil sampling and assess habitat quality using a variety of forestry techniques.
Program fee: $11 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $9.50 per student

“The live animals and the info was perfect! Both facilitators were so enthusiastic and great with the students. Thank you!”
– Markham Place School

www.MonmouthCountyParks.com
General Park Information: 732-842-4000, ext. 4312
Prehistoric Times

New Jersey Rocks!

Grades 2-6 2 hrs
Offered: year-round Min 14
Park: Huber Woods
Contact: 732-872-7369

Investigating below Earth’s surface can give us many clues to its geologic past. Using models, students learn to identify patterns in rock formations and fossils to explain how our local landscape has changed over time. We create imprints of real Monmouth County fossils to develop our paleontological skills and to investigate how fossils are formed. Participants take a guided walk along woodland and wetland trails and imagine what it was like when dinosaurs roamed New Jersey.

Program Fee: $9.25 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.75 per student

Fossil Exploration

Grades 4-Adult 2-3 hrs
Offered: May–September
Min 17; Max 50
Park: Shark River
Contact: 732-751-9453

Engage your group in hands-on, inquiry-based activities that explore the rich fossil history of New Jersey. We offer two great options with both including a real fossil hunt in Shark River, making this a truly memorable class trip.

Option 1: Build Your Own Sieve
Participants receive a hands-on, deep dive identifying different types of fossils and how they are formed. They will build their own sieve using hammers, nails, wood and screen (materials and tools are provided). They then use this sieve to sift through loose material in the stream bed to find fossils. The sieves are theirs to take home. Program is approximately 2 ½-3 hours.

Option 2: Fossil Challenge
After learning about fossils, participants are provided pre-made sieves for fossil hunting in the river. This program is approximately 2 hours.

All persons attending program must wear closed-toe shoes (old sneakers suggested), clothes that can get wet, and bring a complete change of clothes, including footwear. Participants take home any fossils they find. At the end of the program, group leaders receive an enrichment packet that includes a real shark tooth fossil to distribute to each participant.

Program Fee: $10.35 per participant; $12.65 per participant with Build Your Own Sieve
Groups from Monmouth County: $9 per participant; $11 per participant with Build Your Own Sieve

Animal Explorations

Insects of Ponds & Fields

Grades K-3 1 ½ hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 15/Max 25
Park: Freneau Woods
Contact: 732-751-9453

Students have a great time meeting critters they never knew existed. After learning some basic principles of identification and how to use magnifiers, students examine life in both a freshwater pond and in a nearby field area along the edge of the woods. In this program, we discover what lives in a pond and a field, why these creatures live there, and what characteristics allow them to survive in this habitat. Students discover the relationship between ponds and fields and the human impact to both.

Program Fee: $9.00 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.75 per student

Birds & Their Nests

Grades 3-6 1 ½ hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 12
Park: Huber Woods, Shark River
Contact: Shark River Park 732-751-9453 or Huber Woods Park 732-872-7369

Students learn about the various styles of nests birds build, and the function that nests play in a bird's life. Each participant decorates their own bird house to take home.

Program Fee: $12.40 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $10.75 per student

“Program was appropriate for our special needs group. Students were very engaged. Facilitators were fun and knowledgeable.”

– Freehold Township High School
My First Fish
Grades 3-8 1 ½ hrs
Offered: April-October
Min 15/Max 30
Park: Turkey Swamp
Contact: 732-751-9453
Participants learn to fish as they use cane poles to try to catch sunfish, largemouth bass, crappie and catfish. Participants are shown how to properly bait a hook and given instruction on the safe use of all equipment. The program includes a brief discussion on the variety of species of fish found in the lake as well as basic fishing regulations. Fishing equipment and bait are provided.
Program Fee: $9 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.50 per student

Animal Tracks
Grades 2-6 2 ½ hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 15
Park: Huber Woods
Contact: 732-872-7369
Learn the ancient skill of animal tracking through an interactive presentation and demonstration. Participants learn about wildlife as they create their own imprints of animal footprints, and then look for signs of local wildlife during a naturalist-guided walk through the woods.
Program Fee: $9.75 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.25 per student

Freshwater Ecology

Pond Ecology: Getting Started with Aquatic Sciences
Grades 3-6 2 hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 15/Max 25
Park: Freneau Woods
Contact: 732-872-7369
Plunge into the world of freshwater fish, frogs, and other life that call a pond home. Students are given an opportunity to learn not only what a pond is and its value to the environment but all about the many tiny critters (many are macroinvertebrates) living in and near the pond. Hands-on investigations allow students to observe and identify macros, such as dragonfly and damselfly larva, as well as many others. Have fun learning about pond animals, as well as earth science topics as they relate to ponds.
Program Fee: $9.50 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.25 per student

What's a Watershed?
Grades 3-8 2 hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 15/Max 25
Park: Freneau Woods
Contact: 732-872-7369
Have students become scientists as they use scientific methods to examine the woods and water around Freneau Woods Park, including Matawan Creek, to make diagnosis of the health of our watershed. Students discover the role the water cycle and watersheds play in a healthy environment. By using hands-on equipment, students discover how to net and then gently place a variety of macroinvertebrates in trays for observation. They determine watershed health using both visual assessment and biological monitoring. This experience helps students to think critically about how the surrounding environment affects the downstream environment.
Program Fee: $9.50 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.25 per student

The World is Blue: Freshwater
Grades 9-12 4 hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall
Min 15/Max 30
Park: Freneau Woods
Contact: 732-872-7369
This program introduces students to the biodiversity, adaptations, food webs, and stewardship of freshwater systems in northern Monmouth County, near Matawan Creek, a suburban waterway that is part of the Raritan Bay watershed. Students rotate through four (4) or five (5) hands-on activities, depending on group size, that include: 1) exploring a freshwater pond and stream with nets to collect macroinvertebrates; 2) examining aquatic creatures that live or move through freshwater and take a look at ways some animals have adapted to an ever-changing environment; 3) conducting a marsh survey to discover the importance of wetlands and vernal pools; 4) plant and tree identification to understand the role vegetation has on water quality; and 5) stewardship activities that focus on the causes and effects of nonpoint source pollution, climate change and how sustainable communities can be created, in part, through the protection and enhancement of natural resources including wetlands, floodplains and forests.
Program Fee: $11.25 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $9.75 per student

www.MonmouthCountyParks.com
General Park Information: 732-842-4000, ext. 4312
**Marine & Estuarine Ecology**

**Periwinkles**
Grades PreK-K 1½ hrs  
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 15 /Max 75  
Park: Bayshore  
Contact: 732-872-7369  
Search the beach for shells and explore the water for fish, crabs and other fascinating creatures of Sandy Hook Bay. Activities include a nature walk along a bay beach, shell collecting, a seine net demonstration and a craft project.  
Program Fee: $8.65 per student  
Groups from Monmouth County: $7.50 per student

**Down by the Bay**
Grades K-2 2 hrs  
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 17 /Max 75  
Park: Bayshore  
Contact: 732-872-7369  
Explore the estuary environment of Sandy Hook Bay and observe the dynamic influences of wind, water, waves, sand and salt. During a seining demonstration, children have the opportunity to study living creatures of the bay collected in our seine net. Children also explore the beach to collect and learn about shells and shellfish, and a craft project helps children better understand the biodiversity of the bay.  
Program Fee: $9.25 per student  
Groups from Monmouth County: $8 per student

**Sand Dollars**
Grades 2-3 2½ hrs  
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 14 /Max 75  
Park: Seven Presidents  
Contact: 732-872-7369  
Students observe and handle preserved specimens during activities that introduce them to sand dollars and their relatives. The program includes interactive activities that highlight the importance of sand dune habitats to beach ecosystems. On the beach, students discover and collect animal artifacts that wash up on shore while learning to identify the various seashells they encounter.  
Program Fee: $8.10 per person  
Groups from Monmouth County: $7 per person

**Sandpipers**
Grades PreK-K 1½ hrs  
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 14 /Max 75  
Park: Seven Presidents  
Contact: 732-872-7369  
Participants are introduced to the ocean and its inhabitants through hands-on activities, crafts and exploration. Then, students go on a beach walk and learn to identify some of the many shells they find at the water’s edge.  
Program Fee: $7.45 per student  
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.20 per student

**Seashells & Sea Stars**
Grades K-2 2 hrs  
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 14 /Max 75  
Park: Seven Presidents  
Contact: 732-872-7369  
Students explore the wonders of marine science through an interactive presentation, craft, and nature walk along the shore.  
Program Fee: $7.90 per student  
Groups from Monmouth County: $6.75 per student

**Seize the Bay**
Grades 2-3 2½ hrs  
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 17 /Max 75  
Park: Bayshore  
Contact: 732-872-7369  
Students are introduced to the estuary environment of Sandy Hook Bay and the effects human activities can have on the watershed and water quality. Students examine live saltwater creatures during a seining demonstration and explore the beach to collect and learn about shells. Students also conduct a race to the finish to discover how daily water use is wasted and often gets washed downstream to the estuary and affects the conditions of the area in which we live.  
Program Fee: $9.80 per student  
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.50 per student
The World is Blue
Grades 4-12 4 hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall
Min 75/Max 120
Park: Bayshore
Contact: 732-872-7369
Designed to accommodate an entire grade level in one day, this coastal program introduces students to the biodiversity, adaptations, food webs, and stewardship of Sandy Hook Bay, a suburban estuary and an arm of the ocean which covers approximately 70 percent of Planet Earth. Students will rotate through five (5) hands-on activities that include 1) seining with a 25-foot long net to examine and release aquatic creatures that live or move through shallow areas of the estuary and to take a look at ways some animals have adapted to an ever-changing environment; 2) plankton collection using microscopes to view minute life and examine primary productivity within an estuary; 3) water quality testing using simple tools such as secchi discs to measure turbidity, thermometers to measure water temperature, and test strips to measure pH and nitrates; 4) shellfish identification to examine the wide diversity of clams, snails, crabs and other invertebrates that call an estuary home and their adaptation to a stressful tidal environment; and 5) stewardship activities that focus on the causes and effects of nonpoint source pollution, marine debris, climate change, and sea level rise, and how sustainable coastal communities can be created, in part, through the protection and enhancement of natural resources including wetlands, floodplains, beach dunes and oyster reefs.
Program Fee: $12.10 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $10.50 per student

Fisherman’s Cove Maritime Adventure
Grades 3-8 2 ½ hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall
Min 15/Max 75
Park: Fisherman’s Cove
Contact: 732-751-9453
Students explore the maritime forest ecosystem of Fisherman’s Cove Conservation Area. Students examine live saltwater creatures during a seining demonstration, search the beach for shells, and explore the nearby forest to learn about the specialized plants that call this environment home. Park System Naturalists will help students learn about the unique maritime forest and beaches of Fisherman’s Cove Conservation Area all while making lasting memories.
Program Fee: $10.50 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $9 per person

Peek Into the Life of Plankton
Grades 4-6 2 ½ hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 17/Max 60
Park: Bayshore
Contact: 732-872-7369
Plankton is not just a cartoon character! Enter the fascinating world of aquatic phytoplankton (plant plankton) and zooplankton (animal plankton) beginning with their role in food chains. Students toss a plankton net into the river to collect live specimens. Then learn observation and identification techniques using hand lenses, microscopes and reference guides. We will also haul a seine net through the bay to find local fish that depend on plankton for food.
Program Fee: $11.30 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $9.80 per student

Ecology of Sandy Hook Bay
Grades 7-12 3 hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 17 /Max 50
Park: Bayshore
Contact: 732-872-7369
This field trip provides hands-on experience seining, clamming, collecting plankton and exploring mud flats and micro-organisms. This trip is geared towards discovering habitats found along the edge of an estuary and some of the key players within the shallow parts of the bay, from plankton to clams to crabs to fish. Participants learn how to haul a 20- to 30-foot seine net through the water to conduct a biological survey, how to gather a plankton sample, and how to investigate a mud flat. We also discuss how humans can and have had an impact on local water quality. This field trip can be modified to make the experience as technical and hands-on as desired. The program is tide and weather dependent.
Program Fee: $11.50 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $9.75 per person

“Waves of thanks for educating the next generation and inspiring them with marine wonders”
-Cindy Zipf, Executive Director, Clean Ocean Action
Environmental Education
Throughout The Parks

Seashore Scientist
Grades 3-6 3 ½ hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 14 /Max 75
Park: Seven Presidents
Contact: 732-872-7369
This program introduces students to beach zonation and the physical properties of the surf, and their combined effects on beach habitats through an interactive demonstration and hands-on beach erosion activity. Students also participate in experiments exploring properties of physical oceanography such as tides, currents and waves, and discuss the effects of pollution on the marine environment before attempting to clean up their own polluted “beaches.”
Program Fee: $10.50 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.90 per student

Bay Lab
Grades 3-6 3 ½ hrs
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 18/Max 75
Park: Bayshore
Contact: 732-872-7369
Students discover some of the creatures that call an estuary home as they collect shells along the Bayshore and handle live aquatic animals collected in their seining activity. This program includes an experiment that investigates non-point source pollution and the effect it has on the biodiversity of Sandy Hook Bay.
Program Fee: $12.10 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $10.50 per student

Seining at the Bayshore
Grades 3 - Adult 1 hr
Offered: Spring - Fall Min 15 /Max 30
Park: Bayshore
Contact: 732-872-7369
Explore the edge of the Bayshore for fish, crabs, eels and other critters during an hour of seining and discover how these animals have adapted and endured in a world of tides, salt and surf. Participants learn how to haul a 20- to 30-foot seine net through calm shallow waters in order to encounter and study a variety of marine life and then return them safely back into the water.
Program Fee: $6.75 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $5.75 per person

Seining at the Cove
Grades 3-Adult 1 hr
Offered: Spring & Fall Min 15/Max 30
Park: Fisherman’s Cove
Contact: 732-751-9453
Discover what sea life is lurking just below the surf. Explore Fisherman’s Cove Conservation Area in Manasquan and discover the biodiversity of the inlet. Participants learn how to haul a 20-30 foot seine net through the calm shallow waters of the inlet in order to discover fish, crabs and other critters during an hour of seining. Participants have the opportunity to identify, count and study a variety of living marine life before returning them safely back into the water.
Program Fee: $7 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $6 per person
The Manasquan Reservoir is an important part of the water supply in Monmouth County. Our boat tour programs allow for up-close observation of the abundant wildlife that call the Reservoir home. Participants may observe osprey, great blue herons, bald eagles and more while learning about the history of the Reservoir, its use as a water source, and the wildlife habitat it provides. Tours are conducted on a 36-foot pontoon boat and all passengers are provided with personal flotation devices, which must be worn. Boat tours are also available to the general public. Please refer to our website (www.MonmouthCountyParks.com) for current information.

Studying Our Natural Aquatic Resources

Grades 3-12 3 hrs
Min 17/Max 75
Offered: May-August
Contact: 732-751-9453
This program includes a nature walk, boat tour of the Reservoir, and an experiment.
Program Fee: $10.35 per student
Groups from Monmouth County: $9 per student

Level I: Grades 3-5
The Level I experiment examines the human effects on a watershed.

Level II: Grades 6-8
The Level II experiment examines how drinking water is purified.

Level III: Grades 9-12
The Level III experiment deals with wetlands and their role in preserving water quality.

Manasquan Reservoir Boat Tour

All Ages 1 hr
Max 25 (including chaperones)
Offered: May-August
Contact: 732-751-9453
Take a fun tour of the Reservoir to learn about its construction, use, and animal life.
Program Fee: $172.50 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $150 per group

Exploring the Reservoir

Grades 2-Adult 2 hrs
Min 17/Max 50
Offered: May-August
Contact: 732-751-9453
This program includes a one-hour nature walk and one-hour boat tour of the Reservoir.
Program Fee: $9.50 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $8.25 per person

“Very good job — the kids were engaged and enjoyed the trip”
History

History is intertwined in the fabric of the Monmouth County Park System. Looking for a fun and innovative way to explore this history further? Don’t see the history program you want listed here? Contact the Park System Historian at 732-842-4000, ext. 4268, to see if we can make the program you want happen!

Defend Our Shores: Tour of Battery Lewis
Ages 12-Adult  1-2 hrs
Offered: April-September  Min 10/Max 25
Park: Hartshorne Woods (Rocky Point section)
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4268
Join a Park System Historian in exploring the fortifications that would have protected the Jersey shore and New York Harbor during the dire days of World War II and the Cold War. A history hidden in our own backyards, the Navesink Military Reservation would have been home to the largest guns ever used by the United States for coastal defense.
Program Fee: $60 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $50 per group

History on the Bay: Seabrook-Wilson House Tour
Ages 10-Adult  1 hr
Offered: year-round  Min 10/Max 25
Park: Bayshore
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4268
Dive into the unique history of the Seabrook-Wilson House, which dates to the early 1700s. Perched along the scenic Sandy Hook Bay, learn about the prominent Seabrook family and their contributions to Monmouth County. While exploring the historic home, this program brings to life the history of the fishing industry that was vital to the region.
Program Fee: $40 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $30 per group

A Thoroughbred Legacy: Thompson Park Walking Tour
All Ages  1 hr
Offered: April-October  Min 10/Max 30
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4268
Hold your horses! Now, before going "off to the races," join a Monmouth County Park System Historian on a scenic walking tour of Thompson Park (Historic Brookdale Farm). Learn the history of horse breeding within Monmouth County while exploring the magnificent landscape and barns of the park.
Program Fee: $50 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $40 per group

Meet the Hartshorne Family: Historic Portland Place Private Tour
Adults  1 ½ hrs
Offered: April - November  Max 12
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4264
Portland Place, the ancestral home of the locally prominent Hartshorne family, sits high on a bluff overlooking the Navesink River. The historic 18th century house, furnishings, art and exhibits illustrate the legacy and lifestyle of generations of Hartshorne men and women and the region’s early settlements. Portland Place is part of the Monmouth County Park System and recently opened to the public for the first time in its 300-year history. Visitors will be among the first to enjoy a guided tour of the house and surrounding riverfront acreage. Tours are weather dependent.
Program Fee: $60 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $50 per group

“I have gone on this trip for several years and each time it has been a fun learning experience for my class. The staff at the park demonstrate knowledge, patience, and a sense of fun! I am retiring this year and hope my replacement continues this trip!”

www.MonmouthCountyParks.com
General Park Information: 732-842-4000, ext. 4312
Living History at Longstreet Farm

Take in the sights, sounds and smells of rural life in the 1890s at Historic Longstreet Farm, Longstreet Road, Holmdel, a 19th-century living history farm. Group program reservations can be made up to six months in advance by calling 732-946-3758. Due to the unique nature of this site, no more than three chaperones are permitted for each program.

**Guided Farm Tour**

- **All Ages** 1 hr
- **Offered:** year-round
- **Max 25 participants/3 chaperones**
- **Contact:** 732-946-3758

This tour provides an understanding of farming and technology in 1890s Monmouth County rural life. Explore the barns and buildings and learn about horse-drawn agriculture while watching farm staff work alongside the livestock.

**Program Fee:** $65 per group

**Groups from Monmouth County:** $45 per group

**Guided House Tour**

- **All Ages** 1 hr
- **Offered:** year-round
- **Max 25 participants/3 chaperones**
- **Contact:** 732-946-3758

Gain an understanding of family roles, clothing, and domestic life in 1890s Monmouth County. Tour the Longstreet Family farmhouse and out-kitchen, and learn about social customs and household management in late-Victorian New Jersey.

**Program Fee:** $65 per group

**Groups from Monmouth County:** $45 per group

**Barnyard Adventure Tour**

- **Ages 4 & 5** 1 hr
- **Offered:** year-round
- **Max 25 participants/3 chaperones**
- **Contact:** 732-946-3758

Children experience the daily activities of life on the farm for a 4 or 5 year-old child. During their guided tour of the farm, the group uses our historic equipment to shell and crack corn for chicken feed.

**Program Fee:** $120 per group

**Groups from Monmouth County:** $85 per group

**Farmer’s Field Day Tour**

- **Ages 6-Adult** 1 ½ hours
- **Offered:** Seasonally
- **Max 25 participants/3 chaperones**
- **Contact:** 732-946-3758

This guided tour highlights the history of Longstreet Farm and rural life in 1890s Monmouth County. Choose from a number of hands-on activities, depending on the season:

- **Feed Processing** – Use our historic equipment to make chicken feed from scratch (year-round).
- **Chores** – Experience the hard work required to live on a farm or keep livestock (year-round).
- **Children’s Games** – Play turn-of-the-century games, like sack races and tug-of-war (April – November).
- **Butter Making** – Churn fresh butter and taste the homemade goodness (April – November).
- **Ice Cream Making** – Hand-churned ice cream can’t be beat (June – September).
- **Cider Making** – Crush and press apples for a delicious fall treat (October – December).

**Program Fee:** $65 per group

**Self-Guided Tour**

- **All Ages** 35 Minutes
- **Offered:** year-round
- **Max 25 participants/3 chaperones**
- **Contact:** 732-946-3758

Our self-guided tours offer a less-structured option for groups wishing to tour the farm at their own pace. Informational packets and maps of the farm are provided with paid reservation.

**Program Fee:** $15 per group

**Groups from Monmouth County:** $10 per group

**Breakfast on the Farm**

- **Ages 9-Adult** 2 ½ hrs, 9 – 11:30 a.m.
- **Offered:** year-round
- **Min 8/Max 12**
- **Contact:** 732-946-3758

Milk the cow, collect eggs and prepare your breakfast in our historic out-kitchen using techniques and recipes from the late 19th century. Sausages, pancakes and scrambled eggs fresh off the wood stove make for a hearty breakfast!

**Program Fee:** $30 per person

**Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides**

Your horse-drawn wagon adventure awaits! Passengers experience what it was like to travel before automobiles came into common usage during this leisurely trip through Holmdel Park.

**Custom Tours**

Historic Longstreet Farm makes every effort to accommodate the goals of your educational programming.

**For custom tour options and rates, please call 732-946-3758.**

Other Available Activities
History

Walnford

Group Programs at Historic Walnford

Historic Walnford offers over 150 years of history through multiple generations of the Waln Family in Upper Freehold. Buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries - including the grand 1773 home, carriage house with vehicles, operating 19th century gristmill, and many original artifacts - provide a variety of program opportunities that focus on domestic life, industrial heritage, and historical and current environmental challenges. Programs have multi-disciplinary options and are tailored to meet the needs of home schoolers, scouts and adult groups, as well as classroom field trips.

Guided Site Tour
Grades: 2-Adult 1 hr
Max 25
Offered: year-round
Contact: 609-259-6275

Our Guided Site Tour provides an overview of the Waln family at Walnford: the buildings, environment, and social and cultural traditions of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries.

Program Fee: $65 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $45 per group

Little Red Hen
Ages: 3-7 1 hr
Max 20
Offered: April - November
Contact: 609-259-6275

This classic tale is retold in Walnford’s historic gristmill where corn is processed into corn meal. Youngsters assist in making corn meal and enjoy a slice of corn bread as a reward for their hard work!

Program Fee: $80 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $60 per group

Ice Cream Social
Grades: 2-Adult 1 ½ hr
Max: 25
Offered: June – September
Contact: 609-259-6275

A tour of Historic Walnford takes you back in time and whets your appetite for a cool taste of history. Have some summer fun cranking and then sampling ice cream made from a historical recipe!

Program Fee: $185 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $135 per group

Guided Mill Tour
Grades: 2-Adult 1 hr
Max 25
Offered: April - November
Contact: 609-259-6275

Learn about 19th century gristmills - take a tour, watch the machinery in action, experience the how and why of milling grain, and discuss the evolution of milling and water power at Walnford.

Program Fee: $65 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $45 per group

Old-Fashioned Fun
Grades: 2-Adult 1 ½ hrs
Max 25
Offered: April-October
Contact: 609-259-6275

This program adds the history of fun and games to your historical tour of Walnford. A variety of indoor and outdoor (weather permitting) activities from the 18th and 19th centuries are shared with the group.

Program Fee: $125 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $90 per group

Hands-On Experiences
Grades: 2-Adult 30 min
Max 25
Offered: April - October
Contact: 609-259-6275

These activities are available to enhance your guided site or mill tour (pick one per time block): pen and ink calligraphy or visual scavenger hunt. Other seasonal opportunities may be available.

Program Fee: $30 per group
Scout Adventures

The Monmouth County Park System offers programs at multiple park locations that assist scout groups in fulfilling badge requirements. In addition, many of the programs listed throughout this guide can be modified to meet badge requirements or enjoyed as a fun activity. Please contact the group program coordinator at the number listed with the program to find out more information. Please note, no badges or pins are provided by the Park System.

Scout Adventures at Manasquan Reservoir

The programs listed below include hands-on activities and hikes that meet requirements for some badges. Most programs spend a portion of time outdoors, so dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes. Discussion is tailored to fit a group’s needs and age. Programs have a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 25 scouts. Please call 732-751-9453 for pricing and scheduling.

Young Scouts: Our Wild World
1 hr
Meet some of the reptiles and amphibians that might be living in your own backyard. We see these animals in a live animal show, followed by a hike around the Environmental Center with a naturalist guide.

Hiker/Paws on the Path
1 ½ hrs
Get the most enjoyment out of your next hike. Review hiking safety with a Park Naturalist. Map reading, clothing, preparedness, and safe hiking habits are discussed. Includes a short hike on the trails near the Environmental Center to practice our skills.

Watershed Exploration
1 hr
What is a watershed? Learn about where your drinking water comes from and how we can protect it from pollution. Watersheds and the water cycle are among the topics discussed during the program.

Energy
1 hr
Energy is all around us, but what does it cost us to collect it? Learn how energy is used and how it can be conserved. We also explore how energy is collected from the sun and the wind.

Geology
1 ½ hrs
Identify rocks with hands-on activities. Discover the common uses of minerals. Study local fossils and learn about the geologic past of Monmouth County.

Fur, Feathers and Ferns
1 ½ hrs
What do animals need to survive? Where do they live? Why do animals become endangered or extinct? We take a one-mile hike and see different habitats along the way. Look for wildlife or signs that they live here. Learn about plants and animals in the forest and how they live together.

Into the Wild
1 hr
Gain a deeper understanding of the ecosystem that surrounds us. Study animals in their natural habitat and learn about the food chains that connect these living things. Also, learn to identify poisonous plants and venomous animals.

Into the Woods
1 hr
The forest around us has a story to tell. Learn about the trees that grow in our area. Identify common native trees and shrubs. How are they useful to wildlife and how are they useful to us? Examine and compare different samples of wood from around the world and see how their unique properties fit them to their uses.

Animal Habitats
1 hr
What is a habitat? Why do some animals or plants become endangered? What can we do to protect endangered animals? Learn the answers to these and other questions as you explore the woods and wetlands around the Manasquan Reservoir.

Boat Tour
1 hr Min 17/Max 25
Tour the Reservoir in search of wildlife. The construction and use of the Reservoir will be discussed. Discussion can be modified to fit relevant badge requirements.

For more information about additional scout program opportunities or to make reservations, please contact the specific site:

Scout Adventures at Dorbrook Recreation Area
Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck
Please call 732-542-1642, ext. 29, for more information & availability.

Scout Cooking Program
Girl & Boy Scout Troops can get involved in a hands-on cooking project. Program time 1 ½ hours after school.

Fossil Adventure at Big Brook Park
1 ½ hrs
Learn about Monmouth County’s unique geological history while searching for fossils at Big Brook stream. Our activities help us to understand the ancient life, environment, climate and geography of New Jersey. All persons attending program must wear closed-toe shoes (old sneakers suggested) and clothes that can get wet. Bring a complete change of clothes, including footwear, for after your fossil adventure.
Please call 732-872-7369 for additional information and availability.

Historic Longstreet Farm,
Holmdel 732-946-3758

Sunnyside Equestrian Center,
Middletown 732-224-1367, ext 1#
Deep Cut Gardens, with 54 acres of gardens, ponds, a demonstration greenhouse, and horticultural center, is dedicated to the home gardener. The gardens and greenhouses are planned as a living catalog of cultivated and native plant materials to be observed through the seasons. Our renovated Parterre features 52 varieties of roses with over 180 bushes.

**Speakers Bureau**

Adults  1 hr  
Offered: Year-round  
Min 10/Max 100 (30 at Deep Cut)  
Contact: 732-671-6050  
Program Fee at Deep Cut: $100  
Groups from Monmouth County: $75  
These programs can be offered at your location for an additional fee.

**The Ultimate Marketing Team: Flowers!**

The roles of a flower are all about communication, enticement and reward. Learn about the ways that flowers are well-suited for these roles and the amazing ways they excel at marketing. Your garden will be alive with the chatter of flowers once you understand what they are saying!

**Botany for Gardeners**

Gardening would be so much easier if we understood why plants do what they do! Participants learn the reasons behind successful gardening techniques and leave with a better understanding of how to help plants achieve your gardening goals.

**Rock Stars of the Landscape**

Meet 30 plants that excel in Monmouth County landscapes. These “Rock Stars” include everything from ground covers to hedge plants and full sun to full shade. Picking the right plant for the right spot ensures you will have a beautiful landscape that thrives in our local environment. The presentation also includes basics about plant selection and planting.

**Guided Tours of Deep Cut Gardens**

Adults  Offered: May - September  
Min 8/Max 40  
Program fee: $5.75 per person  
Groups from Monmouth County: $5 per person  
Contact: 732-671-6050

**Fully Accessible Tour**

1 hr  
Explore Deep Cut Gardens with a guide who will share its secrets and stories. A slow pace allows you to enjoy all the fascinating information there is to learn. The guides have hands-on items to explore and a passion for gardening. This option is perfect for groups with mobility challenges and the route can be navigated by wheelchairs or scooters. Your group will visit the All-American Garden, Demonstration Greenhouse, Koi Pond, and Horticultural Center.

**Extended Tour**

1 ½ hr  
In addition to the fully accessible tour, your group will also visit the Rockery and Rose Parterre. These areas are not accessible by wheelchair or scooter.

**Professional Development Workshops**

Want to improve your teaching skills and knowledge base and bring exciting new ideas into your classroom? The Monmouth County Park System offers a wide range of workshops to give educators of all grade levels the tools that ensure student achievement in science or social studies. Training from our expert staff will show educators how to transform lessons about the natural world into fun and enlightening experiences. Some of the exciting workshops offered include Project Wild Aquatic, Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), and WOW (Wonders of Wetlands). Additional workshop topics are available upon request. Please call 732-872-7369 or 732-751-9453 for more information.
The Creative Arts Center in Thompson Park features pottery and ceramics studios, as well as classrooms for painting, drawing and other craft activities. Many works of art created by students and instructors can be viewed in display cases that line the entrance of the building. At just under 12,000 square feet, the Creative Arts Center serves as an artistic outlet for county residents.

**Ceramics**
- Ages 6-Adult
- 1 ½ hrs
- Offered: year-round
- Min 10/Max 12
- Park: Thompson
- Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4253

Glaze pre-cast ceramic pieces. They will then be kiln fired and the finished work will be ready a week later. Pieces include small figures or decorative boxes.

Program Fee: $18.25 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $16 per person

**Painted Canvas**
- Ages 7-Adult
- 1 ½ hrs
- Offered: year-round
- Min 8/Max 12
- Park: Thompson or your facility
- Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4253

Our art instructor will teach you to create your own masterpiece! Use traditional painting techniques to make your art come to life.

Program Fee: $16.25 per person
Groups from Monmouth County: $14 per person

“Instructors were wonderful and informative”
Sunnyside Equestrian Center, 628 Middletown-Lincroft Road, Middletown, is the home of the Park System’s Equestrian Division. This division provides fundamental equestrian experiences for people of all abilities, with an emphasis on offering the benefits of therapeutic horseback riding to individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities, helping them to develop to their full potential. Limited group programs are offered.

### Disability Awareness

**Ages 8-11**

1 ½ hrs

Offered: year-round

Min 10/Max 15 (including minimum of 3-5 chaperones)

Park: Sunnyside Equestrian Center

Contact: 732-224-1367, ext. 1#

Participants learn how therapeutic riding can be helpful to a person with a disability. The program includes classroom activities, a barn tour, and some hands-on ground work with horses.

**Program Fee:** $37.50 per person

Groups from Monmouth County: $32.50 per person

### Therapeutic Riding

**Ages 4 and up with disabilities**

Park: Sunnyside Equestrian Center

Contact: 732-224-1367, ext. 3#

Offered in affiliation with Special People United to Ride (SPUR), a therapeutic riding program partner, these lessons offer an opportunity for persons with disabilities to participate in therapeutic riding. Participants must complete an application. Sitting stability is required.

### Equine Environment for Learning

This custom eight-week program is designed for school groups of up to 10 participants. The curriculum consists of classroom sessions, plus mounted and non-mounted activities with the horses. Goals such as team building, respect, responsibility, safety, kindness and self-esteem are encouraged and enhanced within the program. Participants explore horse behavior and care, along with learning basic riding skills.

*Please call 732-224-1367, ext. 1#, for more information, including rates and scheduling.*

The mission of the **Therapeutic Recreation Division** is to provide access to recreational opportunities for Monmouth County residents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in order to enhance physical, cognitive, emotional and social functioning, as well as a sense of belonging to the community. We provide specialized year-round recreation programs for individuals with special needs and are also available to recommend other appropriate Park System programs, community links and support. The Monmouth County Park System provides modifications for individuals with disabilities (who meet minimum eligibility requirements - with or without an accommodation documented for the specific program) to participate in regular Park System programs. It is our intent to provide a safe, successful and enjoyable experience for all. We understand that not every person with a special need desires specialized programming. Therefore, through our Inclusion Process we will assist and advise prospective participants and families who are interested in general recreation programs offered through the Park System, to find programs that best fit their interests and abilities (with or without modifications).

*Please contact our Therapeutic Recreation Department at 732-460-1167, ext. 24, for additional information.*
Our outreach programs bring the parks to you! These programs are offered primarily to communities, schools and related groups that may not have the opportunity or means to visit your local Monmouth County parks. Some programs are also available at select park locations as noted. Please contact the group program coordinator by calling the phone number listed under each program to obtain more information and to make a reservation.

**Nature on the Move**

*All ages*  
*1 hr*  
*Max: 25*

**Offered:** Spring – Fall *(program is fully outside and will be cancelled due to inclement weather)*  
**Contact:** Groups in Southern and Western Monmouth County  
732-751-9453 or  
Groups in Northern and Eastern Monmouth County 732-872-7369

Can’t make it to the parks? Invite our talented naturalist staff to your location for this outdoor interpretive small group program. Our eye-catching nature van comes filled with hands-on tabletop activities and displays sure to educate and engage your students or campers. Choose from one of our three interactive themes (Forest, Pond or Ocean) with activities to do and items to touch and feel. Staff/counselor participation required for activities.

*Bring Nature on the Move to Your Event!*  
Are you running a school fair, Earth Day celebration, or community event? One or more of our talented naturalists can bring our eye-catching nature van and provide your attendees a glimpse of our local environment with an assortment of nature displays and information on the parks and programs they’re sure to love!

**Small event $150 – up to two hours,**  
**$30 additional/hour up to six hours**  
**Large event $200 – up to two hours,**  
**$50 additional/hour up to six hours**

Limited availability to travel to select out-of-county locations, please inquire for pricing.

**We are so fortunate to have such an awesome Park System and are able to take advantage of all the wonderful programs you offer our patrons. Giving a fellow non-profit such great programs at super affordable rates helps us do our job better while stretching our budget. Kudos to MCPS!”**

–Middletown Public Library

---

**www.MonmouthCountyParks.com**  
General Park Information: 732-842-4000, ext. 4312
Nature In Your School!

Can’t make it to the parks or need an affordable way to reach large groups of students over a short period? Invite our talented staff to your gym/all purpose room for this interpretive outreach program. Available throughout the school year, choose from one of our four interactive themes with activities to do and items to touch and feel. Activities may vary for each program dependent upon class interest and time. Parent volunteers are needed to help the students at each station.

Length: 1 hr
Max 60
Offered: year-round
Program Fee: $350 per group
Two consecutive programs: $450
Three consecutive programs: $550
Limited availability to travel to select out of county locations, please inquire for pricing.

Every Day Can Be Earth Day
Grades 1-5
Contact: Groups in Southern and Western Monmouth County 732-751-9453 or Groups in Northern and Eastern Monmouth County 732-872-7369
Discover what makes Earth Day so special and what you can do in your classroom and at home to celebrate Earth Day 365 days a year.

Wonderful World of Water
Grades 3-5
Contact: 732-751-9453
Students discover the journey water takes through the natural world as they visit various station activities and become part of the water cycle. By investigating properties of water, hunting for invertebrates that live in freshwater, discovering what makes up a watershed, and seeing the importance of wetlands, students enter the Wonderful World of Water!

Bring the Forest Inside!
Grades 2-3
Contact: Groups in Southern and Western Monmouth County 732-751-9453 or Groups in Northern and Eastern Monmouth County 732-872-7369
Travel from station to station as you experience the habitats and wildlife of a New Jersey mixed hardwood forest. Students investigate signs of life in the forest by learning to use binoculars, looking for and identifying birds, deciding which adaptations enable an animal species to thrive, identifying various animal tracks, examining animal artifacts, and meeting live creatures. It’s the next best thing to visiting a forest!

Lenape Village for a Day
Grades 3-5
Contact: 732-872-7369
Naturalist staff bring local history to life as your students travel from station to station learning traditional Lenape methods of preparing food, making pots, hunting and lashing. We supply the materials and artifacts and you supply the “Lenape Children” and the parent volunteers.

Kids on the Block
Grades K–5 1 hr
Min 15/max 75
Contact: 732-460-1167, ext. 24
Kids on the Block is an interactive puppet show designed to heighten awareness and understanding around the world and to help everyone accept differences in other and themselves.

Fees vary

Portable Rock Climbing Wall
Ages 6 and up
Offered April–November
Contact: 732-842-4000, ext. 4325
Make your event a rockin’ good time by renting the Monmouth County Park System’s portable rock wall. Everyone at your event is bound to have a blast as they get to experience the fun of rock climbing.

Groups from Monmouth County:
$500 for up to 2 hours, $75 for each additional hour up to 4 hours
$800 for 5 hours, $75 for each additional hour up to 8 hours
Nature Up Close

PreK-Adult 1 hr
Maximum of 30 per group
Contact: Groups in Southern and Western Monmouth County 732-751-9453 or Groups in Northern and Eastern Monmouth County 732-872-7369

Get up close with the natural ecosystems of Monmouth County through interactive presentations brought directly to your facility. Designed for smaller groups, participants will explore a topic through stories, activities and demonstrations. Available at Huber Woods Park and Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center (year-round)

At your facility in Monmouth County:
One program: $85
Two programs (consecutive): $117
Three programs (consecutive): $150

Limited availability to travel to select out of county locations, please inquire for pricing.

Forest ☀
Offered: year-round
Our forests are alive with many beautiful and exciting plants and animals. A Park System Naturalist will introduce various natural items that can be discovered in our forests. Participants may count tree rings, discover what’s inside an owl pellet, touch a turtle shell, and more.

Seashore ☀
Offered: year-round
A large portion of Monmouth County is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and Raritan Bay. Learn what creatures live along our shores and view many of the seashells and other interesting natural items found along our shorelines.

Pond
Offered: April–October
Inspect a water sample from one of our ponds to discover the critters in our waters and learn why it’s a good thing to find bugs in your water.

Live Animal Presentations are also available.
Please see page 10.

Nature Story Hours

During our Nature Story ☀ ☀ ☀ Hour programs, children learn about the natural world through stories, rhymes, games and songs.

Available at Huber Woods Park, (year-round), or your facility (December–March and late June to mid-September)

Maximum of 30 per group
Length: 45 min–1 hr
Program Fee: $70 per group
Groups from Monmouth County: $59
At your facility in Monmouth County:
One program: $97
Two programs (consecutive): $131
Three programs (consecutive): $166
Contact: 732-872-7369

Dinosaur Bones & Tales
Grades PreK–K
Long, long ago the Earth was very different. Children learn about animals and plants which lived on the Earth millions of years ago by listening to stories and viewing fossils and scale models.

Big Fish, Little Fish
Grades PreK–K
Come hear a lively tale about a school of small fish living among the big fish. Through story and interactive activities children experience life in the big ocean. (Also available at Bayshore Waterfront Park)

Owl Hoots
Grades PreK–K
Children learn about the distinctive calls, silent flight, and the amazing eyesight, hearing and hunting abilities of owls through a variety of puppets and mounted specimens.

Funny Freckled Frogs
Grades PreK–K
Meet several live frogs as we learn about their amazing life cycle: how they go through metamorphosis, why they sing, where they go in winter and more. Children share the fun of helping to tell several frog stories and discover why ponds are so important to frogs and to the environment.

www.MonmouthCountyParks.com
General Park Information: 732-842-4000, ext. 4312

Silly Snake Stories
Grades PreK–K
Listen to a story about a teacher who brings a pet snake to school to help students with their lessons. Meeting a live snake enhances the children’s understanding of these fascinating creatures.

Baby Raccoon’s Big Adventure
Grades PreK–K
Join Little Raccoon as he learns how a simple smile can change a situation for the better. Discover all about raccoons and other forest animals through story and interactive play.

Turtle Tales
Grades PreK–K
Children are introduced to several different kinds of live turtles as they learn about these intriguing reptiles and participate in turtle stories.

Little Horseshoe Crab Visits the Bay
Grades 1–2
Horseshoe crabs have been in our waters since before dinosaurs walked the Earth. Hear a story about these magnificent creatures that live in New Jersey and learn how they help humans and other animals. (Also available at Bayshore Waterfront Park)

A Seahorse’s Tale
Grades 1–2
Seahorses have an unusual equine shape, but that is not the only thing that makes them unique. Students discover interesting facts about these intriguing marine creatures as we read stories and create a craft to take home. (Also available at Bayshore Waterfront Park)

“Instructors were exceptional”
Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

Become a VIP! Volunteers in Parks provide a valued service and can be found in many different roles throughout the Park System. Some act as gardeners, historic site interpreters, and program leaders while others contribute to the success of events such as Earth Day, Creatures of the Night, and the E. Murray Todd Half-Marathon. Docent volunteers at our Environmental and Activity Centers greet visitors with a warm welcome and provide information about on-site ecology, exhibits and facilities. Trail volunteers regularly lend a hand to the Park System at trail maintenance activities from March through December.

Find out more about our Volunteer In Parks program and how to join by contacting the Coordinator of Volunteers at 732-842-4000, ext. 4283 or writing to: Coordinator of Volunteers, 805 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ 07738 or email volunteer@monmouthcountyparks.com.

Come Party With Us!

Are your children or someone you know begging for a fun-filled, creative or exciting birthday party? Are you tired of the hassle of doing all the work yourself? If you want a party package that’s affordable, well-run and fun, let the Monmouth County Park System help you plan a celebration everyone will enjoy. We have a party to suit nearly every interest. Choose from an eco-adventure at one of our environmental centers, treat yourself to a group FootGolf outing, reserve our climbing wall in the park, have fun with Funtastic Birthday Games, play soccer or baseball, go swimming, or explore archery, ceramics and more!

Visit www.MonmouthCountyParks.com and select Birthday Parties under Activities to see our current offerings.

Note: All refreshments and party goods must be supplied by the parent/party-giver.

Park Partners

Formed in 1991, the Friends of the Parks is a non-profit charitable organization comprised of area citizens and businesses committed to the support of the Monmouth County Park System. In this day and age, when recreation funding must be stretched to meet the needs of a burgeoning population, membership dues, donations, and proceeds from special fundraisers furnish the financial assistance necessary to achieve a number of worthwhile goals. To contact the Friends, call 732-975-9735 or write: Friends of the Parks, P.O. Box 686, Lincroft, NJ 07738.

Special People United to Ride (SPUR) is a non-profit organization of local citizens established in 1981. Members assist the Park System in serving individuals with physical and mental disabilities through horseback riding lessons. Students work to improve self-esteem, social skills, balance, muscle tone, and posture as well as to process sensory messages.

A dedicated group of individuals works together to staff the Sunnyside Equestrian Center year round. Instructors are certified by the PATH International, the governing body of therapeutic horseback riding. In addition to the staff, over 100 volunteers help with programs every year. Caring, dedicated individuals are needed to work as volunteers. Minimum age to volunteer is 14.

For more information about SPUR, please call 732-224-1367, email spur@monmouthcountyparks.com, visit www.spuronline.org or write to: SPUR, 805 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ 07738.

Monmouth Conservation Foundation is the only county land trust dedicated to saving open space, creating parks, preserving farmland, protecting wildlife, and safeguarding waterways exclusively in Monmouth County. Since its founding in 1977, the Foundation has worked closely and collaboratively with the Monmouth County Park System and local municipalities to acquire and expand park lands and natural areas for the benefit public recreation and water quality. The Foundation can be reached by calling 732-671-7000 or writing to: Monmouth Conservation Foundation, P.O. Box 4150, Middletown, NJ 07748.