

2024-2025 PROGRAM CATALOG



PROGRAM CATALOG



Katahdin Learning Project

a program of Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters



Our Mission

The Katahdin Learning Project (KLP) —a program of Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters— nurtures connections between learners and land in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and the surrounding communities.



What do we do?

The Katahdin Learning Project (KLP) offers PreK-12 place-based programs. Our programs take place at local schools, in our communities, and in Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.

Why?

We envision a community where learners benefit from a breadth and depth of place-based experiences, forge lifelong connections to nature and their communities, and realize the full potential of their education.

Who can attend?

KLP programs are open to PreK-12 youth in public schools, private schools, homeschools, youth groups, summer camps, YMCAs, and more! Group size is limited to 24 students.

What support do we provide?

KLP is committed to lowering barriers to the outdoors by making our programs as accessible as possible. Programs are offered at no cost. Transportation reimbursement is available, and clothing, gear, and snacks can be provided to students if requested in advance.

What support do we need from teachers?

We ask that you bring a ratio of no greater than 15:1 students to teachers to our programs. Teachers have the benefit of understanding their classroom dynamics. We ask teachers to use this knowledge to intervene with students who may need more one-on-one time with an adult. All of our educators and volunteers have passed background checks, and we expect the same from all adults attending the program. We encourage teachers to participate in the activities with their students.

How do you request a program?

Email klp@friendsofkww.org



Our World In Water Lesson

Fall & Spring Programs

Community Programs

Step away from the classroom and show your students the many forms learning can take. Learn about the ecosystems, biodiversity, and human history unique to the trip location. Each program is interdisciplinary and connects to state learning standards.

Custom Programs

These full day programs offer you flexibility- choose which topic and location is the best fit for you. Then, either select 3 mini lessons or let us design the perfect trip for your class!

Example Itinerary

9:00-9:20 Welcome, split into two groups

9:20-10:15 Mini lesson 1

10:20-11:15 Mini lesson 2

11:15-11:35 Lunch

11:35-12:30 Mini lesson 3

12:35-12:55 Debrief and reflection

12:55-1:00 Load buses for school

Please plan accordingly.



Locations

- Medway Recreation Area
- Jerry Pond, Millinocket
- Island Falls Fish & Game Facilities on Mattawamkeag Lake



My students love the learning opportunities provided by Katahdin Learning Project. Elise and Isabelle have a great way with students, and they come away from the program feeling good about themselves, what they have learned, and about being a part of the outdoors.

-Ashland Middle School Teacher

Fall & Spring Programs

Community Programs

Our World in Water

Explore the vast diversity of aquatic ecosystems. Students will learn about the importance of clean water, the relationships in freshwater habitats, and the species that rely on these ecosystems. We will instill a sense of responsibility for the water by discussing the importance of conservation, participating in community science, and discovering ways students can make a difference.



Mini Lessons

- Human Impact (K-12)
- Naturalist's Notebook (K-12)
- Wild Water Animals (K-8)
- Water Quality Testing (3-12)
- River Geology (4-12)
- Wabanaki People and The River (4-12)

“ My son felt very empowered while testing water... It was easier for him to engage because he wasn't worried about not knowing everything about it.
-Participant parent

Choose 3 mini lessons to build your custom program.

Fall & Spring Programs

Community Programs

Wildlife in the Woods

Students will engage in hands-on activities and games that teach them about the animals that live here, their adaptations, what signs they leave behind, and the unique characteristics of various species. Older students have the opportunity to take their interest in wildlife to a deeper level and learn about the interconnectedness of species, why some animals in Maine are being threatened and the impact humans have on these creatures.

Mini Lessons

- Birds & Bats (K-8)
- Who Lives Here? (K-8)
- Wildlife Signs (K-12)
- Respect Wildlife (K-12)
- Adaptations (2-12)
- It's All Connected (2-12)
- Endangered Species (4-12)



Photos: Ross Knowlton

Choose 3 mini lessons to build your custom program.

Fall & Spring Programs

Community Programs

Footprints of the Past and Present

Humans have called the Katahdin region home for over 11,000 years. Join us as we journey back in time to explore the captivating history, rich heritage, and stories of the people of this region. Students will have the chance to step into a role as an active community member by doing a guided reflection or learning about career opportunities in the region.

Mini Lessons

- Katahdin Artists (K-12)
- Wilderness Survival (K-12)
- Trail Walk & Reflection (K-12)
- Wabanaki Peoples (2-12)
- The Logging Era (2-12)
- Careers in the Outdoors (6-12)



“My students had a great day. They loved the creative parts of the day, and the active parts of the day. The career panel was varied and opened eyes that there are a variety of opportunities right out our own back door.”

Choose 3 mini lessons to build your custom program.

Fall & Spring Programs

Community Programs

These Special Forests

The forests in the Katahdin region are unique and filled with biodiversity. These Special Forests is designed to introduce students to the fascinating world of forestry including getting to know plants in new ways. This program will open the door to understanding the vital role forests play and ask students to examine their own environmental ethics.



Mini Lessons

- Forest Bingo (K-5)
- Tree Identification (K-12)
- Nature Art (K-12)
- Parts of a Tree (K-12)
- What Does a Forester Do? (2-12)
- Community Science (6-12)
- Forest Uses (6-12)

Choose 3 mini lessons to build your custom program.



Nature Explorers Lesson

School Visits

Fall, Winter, and Spring

We make things easy and come to you! These programs take place at your school or meeting place. Our traveling educators will bring all the supplies needed to make this program memorable.

Trip Tips

Each program is designed to be 1-4 hours, which means you can host KLP for a full day at your school or for a shorter session. If you're unable to devote a full school day to a lesson but want your students to experience the full program, depending on KLP's availability, you can schedule multiple visits throughout the school year. Unless specified, programs can be adapted for all grades.

- Students must be prepared to be outdoors in all weather conditions. Several of these programs will need access to an indoor space for part of the lesson and to warm up between mini-lessons, however, the majority of these lessons will take place outdoors.
- Trips will be canceled for temperatures below 0 degrees or if driving conditions are too hazardous.
- KLP will strive to notify teachers of cancellations one day in advance.
- At least one teacher must be with the students during these programs. Teachers are expected to help with behavior management.



CONTACT US: KLP@FRIENDSOFKWW.ORG

School Visits

Fall, Winter, and Spring

Wilderness Survival and Safety

Grades: 3-12 | Time: 1-4 hours | Location: Outdoors

Prepare your adventurous students by equipping them with essential knowledge and skills to stay safe, confident and well-prepared during all weather conditions. We may include instruction on preparedness, building a shelter, starting a fire responsibly, navigation, foraging, and first aid. This lesson empowers children to navigate the outdoors with confidence while fostering resilience and self-reliance.

Leave No Trace

Time: 1-4 hours | Location: Indoors and Outdoors

Introduce your students to the principles of environmental stewardship and responsible outdoor ethics with this Leave No Trace lesson. Discover the seven Leave No Trace principles and their significance in preserving the beauty and integrity of natural spaces. Students will learn about the importance of leaving nature as they found it, reducing waste, and respecting wildlife and vegetation.

Wildlife Signs

Time: 1-4 hours | Location: Indoors and Outdoors

Embark on a tracking expedition through the landscape to identify and interpret animal tracks, scat, and other signs left behind by Maine's creatures. Students will uncover the hidden stories of animal movement, behavior, and survival strategies in winter. These skills cultivate patience, observation, and critical thinking abilities.





Maine Wild Animals

Grades: K-5 | Time: 1-4 hours | Location: Outdoors and/or in a gym
Explore and gain appreciation for the diverse array of resilient and resourceful animals found in Maine's forests. From majestic moose to elusive lynx and playful birds, students will learn about the characteristics, habitats, and unique adaptations of these creatures.

Forestry

Time: 1-4 hours | Location: Outdoors
Learning to identify trees and plants is at the heart of understanding the forest around us. In addition to identifying trees, youth will explore the life cycles and ages of trees, the importance of different species in the forest, and the ways forests change over time.

Community Scientists

Grades: 3-12 | Time: 1-3 hours | Location: Outdoors
By actively contributing to real-world research, students not only deepen their understanding of environmental issues but also contribute directly to the collective efforts aimed at safeguarding our natural resources. This lesson will inspire the next generation of scientists, environmentalists, and informed citizens, equipping them with the tools and motivation to make a positive impact.



Wildlife Signs Lesson

School Visits

Fall, Winter, and Spring

Nature Explorers

Time: 1-6 hours | Location: Outdoors

Unleash the spirit of curiosity and deepen your students' connection with nature through this awareness and observation lesson. Participate in challenges that sharpen awareness and encourage creativity. Students will draw what they see, sketch tracks, and record their reflections in a personal nature journal.

Nature Art

Time: 1-3 hours | Location: Indoors and Outdoors

The Katahdin region has been an inspiration to countless artists over centuries. Students will learn about the renowned artists who found inspiration here. We will then use nature as our inspiration to create our own nature art.



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Summer KROC Canoe Trip

Summer Programs

Katahdin Region Outdoor Collective

Students will hike, camp, canoe, and bike with beginner friendly instruction- no experience necessary! These programs allow students to take their connection to the outdoors to the next level, develop leadership skills, and make new friends. For students in grades 6-10 these programs promise unforgettable moments and personal growth. All programs in 2024 are free and meals are provided for overnight trips. Discover the best of the Katahdin region!



Summer KROC Trip

Katahdin Region Outdoor Collective (KROC) is a dynamic group of non-profits, individuals, businesses, and government organizations with a shared belief in the profound impact of outdoor experiences on youth wellbeing and the future vitality of the Katahdin region. Our collaborative efforts result in year-round opportunities for young individuals to foster a deep connection to nature, cultivate leadership skills, and become future land stewards.



Special Programs

Get Involved

Vacation Camp

During February and April school breaks, we collaborate with community partners to provide students in elementary school with a week-long learning experience. These programs promote a connection to community and nature with a heavy emphasis on giving back to the places we love.



Community Service Assistance

Are your students excited about giving back to their school or community? We're passionate about service learning and will help your students achieve success on their project.



Community Service Project

Special Programs

Give Back

Become a Member

Your annual Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters membership or business sponsorship directly supports the programming offered through the Katahdin Learning Project. Learn more and join us today at www.friendsofkww.org/membership



Membership Hike



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