

CLOSTER NATURE CENTER NEWS

P.O. BOX 80, CLOSTER NJ 07624 closternaturecenter.org

By the pond on Ruckman Road

SEPTEMBER, 2023

New This Fall!

Semester-long programming for our **After-School Nature Classes!** Plan your child's schedule in advance with our full 12-week session!

Register early for 10% discount (available on semester-long signup only)

Member fee: \$270 for 12 weeks

Non-Member fee: \$324 for 12 weeks

Classes are limited to 15 children maximum

Depending on availability, 4-week session enrollment will start after September 2nd

Member Fee: \$100 for 4-weeks

Non-Member fee: \$120 for 4-weeks

For more information, visit our website at www.closternaturecenter.org or sign-up directly on Community Pass: <https://register.communitypass.net/closter>.

Come join Nature Marc for a Season of Nature Fun and Science

We will follow the natural world as summer turns to fall.

Animals, hikes and exploration will all be a part of this wonderful autumn after-school program.

12-Week Session: Fall, 2023...September 12 to December 14

Tuesdays- Pre-K4 and Kindergarten

Wednesdays- 1st- 3rd grades

Thursdays- 4th-6th grades

1- Sept 12, 13, 14

2- Sept 19, 20, 21

3- Sept 26, 27, 28

4- Oct 3, 4, 5

5- Oct 10, 11, 12

6- Oct 17, 18, 19

7- Oct 24, 25, 26

8- Oct 31, Nov 1, 2

9- Nov 14, 15, 16

10- Nov 28, 29, 30

11- Dec 5, 6, 7

12- Dec 12, 13, 14

Naturalist's Notes:

The start of school in September can be a tough time for many kids, since change is often difficult to handle. Going from sleeping in most days and playing at the pool, to rising early and having homework five days a week can be shock to the system. I feel for them...kind of.

Personally, I love going back to the schools, since a big part of my mission is getting kids excited about science and nature. Bringing my science programs to schools, breaking up school days with something fun and interesting, and knowing that kids are learning and being exposed to aspects of science that don't typically end up in their curriculum is one of my great joys.

As a teacher, my goal is to share new information in a format that is engaging and enjoyable in the hope that this knowledge will sink in and help students understand the world in new way. A good education should expand our horizons, open our eyes and prepare us for the future. I often think about these three simple ideas and try to infuse them into the lessons that I share with elementary school kids.

It is more important than ever for us to use our understanding of science to move towards a sustainable future for humankind; one in which the natural world is cherished and protected, not only for our sakes, but for all that we share this planet with. This change in mindset has turned out to be difficult for many adults to pull off. Luckily for us, for our children, and for our children's children, kids are ready, able and willing to handle this change.