

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Wissahickon

Environmental Center is located in Northwest Philadelphia in Fairmount Park's beautiful 1800-acre Wissahickon Valley. The outdoor classroom consists of field, forest and stream habitat. The visitor center, known as the Tree House, features a native fish aquarium, touch exhibits and a naturalistic mural depicting the woodlands of the Wissahickon Valley. **215.685.9285.**

Pennypack Environmental Center

is located in 1600-acre Pennypack Park in Northeast Philadelphia. Overlooking Pennypack Creek the center is home to numerous species of birds and other wildlife. The center features an outdoor amphitheater, wildlife exhibits, 300-gallon native fish aquarium, bird blind and picnic area. **215.685.0470.**

Programs at our Centers

\$4 per person; 2 group leaders free per class. (minimum charge is \$40.)

Lesson Length

Preschool lessons are approximately one hour; all other lessons are 90 minutes or longer.

Deposit

A \$40 deposit is required to reserve your date. Reservations are not guaranteed until deposit is received. Checks payable to *Fairmount Park*.

Group Size

Group sizes are limited by the number of staff available.

Dress

All programs are held outdoors. Please have your students and chaperones dress appropriately. Program can be held rain or shine.



Pennypack

Environmental Center
8600A Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19115
215.685.0470

Wissahickon

Environmental Center
Tree House
300 Northwest Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118
215.685.9285

Discover Fairmount Park
in *Your* Neighborhood



URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL School & Group Programs



Pennypack

Environmental Center
and

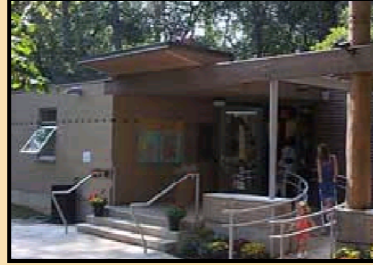
Wissahickon

Environmental Center

Learning is FUN at Fairmount Park's two environmental centers: **Wissahickon Environmental Center (WEC)** and **Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC)**. Call our centers for an exciting program for your class, summer camp, pre-school or group.



Wissahickon Environmental Center



Pennypack Environmental Center

Nature's Harvest: Apple Pressing!

Preschool - 3rd Grade
Fall

Bring apples for cider-pressing with our old-fashioned press. Hunt for wildlife food and observe seasonal changes.

Stepping Into Nature

Preschool – 3rd Grade
Year-Round

Take a nature ramble through the woods and explore different ecosystems found in Fairmount Park. Watch your class become comfortable with the outdoors.

'Wild' in the City

Preschool – 3rd Grade
Year-Round

Hike the trails in search of wildlife that inhabits Philadelphia and your own backyard. Learn the ecology of animals, the

habitats they live in, and the signs they leave behind.

What's Buggin' You?

Kindergarten & up
Spring - Summer - Fall

Learn the important role that insects play in our environment. Explore forest and field habitats with bug boxes to take a closer look at these critters. Learn some of the benefits of insects, as well as options for dealing with insect pests.

Lenape Life

2nd Grade & up
Year-Round

Discover how Native Americans lived in their environment & used primitive skills through hands-on activities. Students hike for plants used for tools, food & medicine.

Maple Sugaring

WEC: Pre-K & up
PEC: 4th grade & up: offered at Fox Chase Farm
February & March

Discover how trees produce sap and the steps involved in harvesting it to make syrup and sugar. Learn how to tap a tree. Boil sap to syrup. Winter tree ID, photosynthesis, weather and history are covered in this program. Students receive a maple treat.

Wissahickon Rocks!

3rd Grade & up (WEC only)
Spring - Summer - Fall
Learn why geology ROCKS! We'll learn the basics of rock identification and take a look at the amazing forces that have shaped the scenic Wissahickon Valley. Come prepared to hike.

Forest Ecology

3rd Grade & up
Spring - Summer - Fall
Students compare a forest and meadow examining habitats, soil and decomposition. Learn about the adaptations that help animals survive. Identify native and invasive plants and their role in the health of a forest.

Creek Creatures

3rd Grade & up
Spring - Summer - Fall
Using the creek as a laboratory, students determine stream health by identifying aquatic life. Discover how water is affected by land use within the watershed.

Beginner Birding

4th Grade & up
Year-Round
Learn the basics of bird identification. Hike through forest, meadow and nearby stream habitats listening and looking for birds. Each student is lent a pair of binoculars and taught how to use them properly.

Winter Owls

4th Grade & up
Winter
Learn the special adaptations of owls, dissect an owl pellet and hike to search for resident Great Horned and Screech Owls.



Orienteering Express

4th Grade & up
Year-Round
A lesson on reading a map and using a compass will prepare your students to follow an orienteering course through the woods.

Watershed Walkabout

4th Grade & up
Spring - Summer - Fall
Follow the path of water as it flows through a Philadelphia watershed. Find out how your actions affect the water quality and how you can help protect your watershed.

Farm and Forest Ecosystems

Preschool & up (PEC only)
Summer
Take a trip to nearby Fox Chase Farm! Learn about the farm animals that live on this 112-acre educational farm and the wildlife that live in the forest surrounding it. See how they interact with and affect their environment.



We're on the Go!

Let our outreach programs come to you! Most of our lessons can be tailored to your classroom/site or to a Fairmount Park location near you.

Programs: \$70 for the first group up to 35 students. \$50 for each additional group on that same day.

Length: 45 minutes



Our environmental centers' programs follow both the Pennsylvania Academic Standards and the School District of Philadelphia core curriculum.