



KINGSTON FIELD NATURALISTS



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Did you know that amphibians can breathe through their skin, or that some insects smell through their feet?!



The world around us is filled with natural wonder, and it is this world that first intrigues youngsters and fosters their curiosity. The Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN) sponsors youth programs to promote and support interest in natural history.

Junior and Teen Naturalists programs follow the school year beginning in September, and include both indoor and outdoor activities.

A wide variety of natural history topics are investigated every year — from ferns to fossils, and from birds of prey to bats! Conservation, and advocacy aimed at understanding and protecting our natural world are also important club interests.

JUNIOR NATURALISTS CLUB

Participants

- 6 to 12 year olds
- max. 80 juniors, in 4 age groups

Program Objectives

- to foster natural history interests in youth
- to enhance awareness of the natural world
- to provide enjoyment for young people through program activities

Meetings

Indoor meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evening of each month, 6:30 to 8:00pm, from September to May. Field trips are held on a Saturday once a month.

Activities

The themes for meetings and trips are natural history oriented — the emphasis is on investigation and fun! Hands-on activities, games and discussions are used to reflect the topic of each meeting.

Club members are encouraged to keep up their natural history interests over the summer months. The *Roland Beschel Prize* and the *Nan Yeomans Prize* are presented once a year to junior naturalists who complete nature projects.

The Stirrett Scholarship is available each year to a worthy junior naturalist to attend a nature camp.

TEEN NATURALISTS CLUB

Participants

- 13 to 17 year olds

Program Objectives

- to appreciate and learn about local natural history
- to enjoy the natural environment
- to experience various research and field techniques
- to be comfortable out of doors in any weather at any season
- to be involved in advocacy and projects to benefit the natural environment



Meetings

Meetings are held once a month from September to June. Most meetings are held as field trips, usually on a Saturday.

Activities

Teen naturalists participate in a wide variety of activities. These have included excursions to bird banding and butterfly banding sites, geology (rock and fossil) identification and collection, plant identification, and habitat investigations. Participants take part in hiking, canoeing and cross country skiing along the way!

Learning about habitat restoration, inventory techniques and preservation of species in a hands-on way are important activities.

Program Support

The Kingston Field Naturalists has a long history of supporting public interest in nature and in the protection and preservation of wildlife. The KFN has sponsored a variety of youth and adult activities since it was founded in 1949. The Kingston Junior Naturalists Program has been active in its present form since 1971, and the Kingston Teen Naturalists have been meeting for over 10 years.

Program Coordination and Leadership

The program is organized by volunteer KFN members with a background in natural history and education. Youth leaders are carefully selected from graduate and undergraduate university biosciences programs.

Membership

The cost for individual membership in the Junior or Teen program is \$20.00.

Application forms are available by phoning 613-389-6742, or 613-389-8338.

Applications will be received each year from August 15 to September 15 only.