

# Sharpe Reservation Winter Day Programs

*All winter day programs are hands-on and based on the concept of experiential education.*

*The following programs are available upon request.*

*Please select one program for each 45 minutes to one hour of your planned stay (Minus time for lunch)*

**Birds in our Backyard:** Winter is a wondrous time to discover the birds that live around Sharpe. From our heated bird-observation area, students will be introduced to bird watching as a life-long pursuit.

**Dirty Water:** Students will learn about the effects of human activities on the environment. They will study a simulated historical reconstruction of the pollution of the Hudson River, attempt a hands-on cleanup or remediation effort, and decide the impact on plants, animals, the environment, and other human activities.

**Finding your Way:** Students will learn to read a map and complete an orienteering adventure through Camp Hidden Valley. This lesson will include the fundamentals of maps, topography, and directional points.

**Home in the Forest:** Step into the sleeping forest as we focus in on the plants and trees and how they create the ideal habitat for its residents.

**Make Tracks:** Students make an animal track using Plaster of Paris that they can take home. The tracks are made using rubber molds based on the animals found here at Sharpe. This activity is meant to complement “**Wildlife in Winter**”, but can be done separately. *A \$15.00 materials fee will be charged, only time for one class per day.*

**Papermaking:** Students will learn the history of papermaking, and will practice the techniques of papermaking using recycled paper and natural materials. The finished product will be theirs to keep.

**Planetarium:** Look up at the night sky and experience the solar system in our 49-seat planetarium. Consider making a sundial or star clock to round out your planetarium visit.

**Sap to Syrup:** AVAILABLE IN MARCH ONLY. Tap a maple tree and begin the process of turning sap into syrup. The class will reveal the historic and economic importance of syruping in New York State. Tasting the finished product is, of course, a must!

**Sensory Trail:** Students will be engaged in a blindfolded adventure that focuses on sensory awareness and development. Fair weather and low or no snow cover is required for this activity.

**Snowshoeing:** We provide the snowshoes, your students provide the sense of adventure! We strongly discourage cotton socks and boots are a *must*. Only available if snow conditions are favorable.

**Survival:** Students will learn and prioritize some basic skills for staying alive in the wild, including building a simple shelter called a “debris hut”.

**A Walk in the Woods:** Get outside and take a nature hike!

**Wild Weather:** Students will become meteorologists and begin to forecast the weather as they are introduced to a variety of weather concepts and measuring instruments.

**Wildlife in Winter:** Examine the adaptations that have developed over time that ensure the animals survival through the northern months.

**Worms, Worms, Worms!:** A hands-on look at worms and worm behavior will be included in an inquiry-based lab session. Students will observe first hand the importance of decomposers and their place in the Web of Life.

## **Suggestions for a Thematic Approach**

***Recycling or Responsible Use of Resources:*** Home in the Forest, Papermaking, Sap to Syrup, & Worms, Worms, Worms!

***Interrelationships/Forests:*** Home in the Forest; Worms, Worms, Worms!; Birds in our Backyard, Wildlife in Winter, & A Walk in the Woods

***Animal Life:*** Wildlife in Winter, A Walk in the Woods, Make Tracks, Birds in our Backyard

***Other Worlds:*** Planetarium, Wild Weather, Star Clocks or Sundials

***Outdoor Skills:*** Survival, Sensory Trail, Finding Your Way, Snowshoeing, & Wild Weather