

the *Fresh Air* fund  
**SHARPE RESERVATION**

**Sharpe Reservation Winter Day Programs**

**Outdoor Classes:**

**Animals of 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. Explore animal adaptations that ensure the animals survival through the seasons. To enhance your animals of the forest experience, a second lesson option could be:

**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. *A \$15.00 materials fee will be charged, only time for one class per day.*

**Birds in our Backyard:** This class introduces students to the birds that inhabit our forests. Bird adaptations, feeding patterns, identifying features, migration, and bird fun facts. If time allows, students will learn about the use and care of binoculars, basic bird songs and calls, and field observation. (Partially indoors)

**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.

**Hike:** Explore the trails of Sharpe Reservation while learning about leave no trace principles and best practices for hiking preparedness and safety.

**Pond Study:** Students will discover the interdependence of living things as they catch, observe, and release the creatures that make ponds and streams their home. Students will determine the health of the pond based on the variety of species they identify by using dichotomous keys and field guides.

**Sap to Syrup:** 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! *Availability is weather dependent.*

**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:** Get outside and take a nature hike on snowshoes! We provide the

snowshoes; your students provide the sense of adventure! 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”

### **Indoor Classes:**

**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.

**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 in our planetarium. All shows will point out familiar constellations and current objects visible in the sky (such as: planet locations, comets, meteor showers and other celestial events).

To enhance your planetarium experience, a second lesson option could be:

**Planispheres (daytime shows only):** Create your own planisphere—a simple tool used to discover which stars and constellations are visible in your area on a specific date. Planispheres can be used for a multitude of tasks including navigation and storytelling (*additional fee of \$0.50 per planisphere made on card stock paper*).

**Wild Weather:** Students will become meteorologists and learn about what makes weather. Students will participate in experiments to understand the forces that create weather and how we measure and forecast weather. Students will give a weather report at the end of class.

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