

228-06 Northern Blvd.  
Douglaston, NY 11363



**APEC**



## **Alley Pond Environmental Center**

### **Environmental Studies for Grades 6-12**

Our secondary education programs focus on supplementing Junior High, Regent's and Advanced Placement curricula in the sciences. Through hands-on experiences implementing the scientific method with environmental testing, sampling, and observations in the field, students gain a true sense of ecology in New York City's natural habitats.

### **APEC Class Visits**

All programs provide educational concepts about various aspects of Alley Pond Park's living environment that will enrich the NYC science curriculum objectives. Look inside for a listing of our programs.

### **How to Arrange a Visit:**

Class visits are by reservation only. To schedule a trip or for further information call the Upper Grade Coordinator in the Education Department at (718) 229-4000. We begin scheduling for the current school year the last week of August.

### **Please Keep in Mind:**

- Classes are limited to 30 participants.
- Program length is generally 2 hours.
- Visits to APEC include a walk on Alley Pond Park's trails and a field component.
- We recommend students and teachers wear heavy shoes and warm clothing during colder months and insect repellent during warmer months.

### **Program Fees:**

- The class visit program fee is \$7.00 per student.
- There is a fee of \$3.00 per parent/chaperone; no fee for teachers/paraprofessionals.
- The minimum fee for all programs is \$50 per group/class.
- To confirm your trip, send a \$50/class deposit IMMEDIATELY. Otherwise we will be forced to give your date to a class on the waiting list. If cancellations are made at least one month in advance, a full deposit refund or an attempt to reschedule will be made. There are no refunds for programs cancelled less than one month prior to program.
- The balance for the program is due on your trip date.

### ***The Nature of Water***

Investigate the steps of the water cycle and explore what happens as water travels through a watershed system. Focus is on the chemical, biological and physical properties as well as social and cultural implications of water use. Program will include discussion on pollution and hands-on water quality testing.



### ***Wetland Systems***

What is the importance of these ecosystems? Compare the complex ecology of salt and fresh water wetlands. Learn about the diversity of organisms that inhabit these ecologically sensitive areas. Students visit a fresh water pond and a saltwater marsh to perform population surveys and analyze the water quality of these magnificent wetlands.



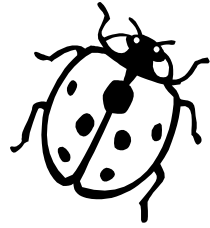
### ***Endangered Species***

Why are so many plants and animals on the brink of extinction? Students learn about past periods of mass extinction, the characteristics of endangered species and the human activities associated with extinction. Learn how scientists and the government have responded to the plight of threatened species. Students will learn about local endangered plants and animals and what they can do to help the species continue to survive.



### ***Invertebrate Lifestyles***

Did you know that this often neglected group of animals accounts for 95% of the Animal Kingdom? Students are introduced to basic taxonomy and the scheme of classification while learning about these fascinating organisms. Focus is on 3 groups—mollusks, annelids, and arthropods.



### ***Evolution and Adaptations***



What adaptations make each animal unique? Why have certain animals evolved in a particular way? Students explore different physical and social adaptations, such as camouflage and parenting. Students compare animal types by observing and touching live animals from our collection. Focus is on 4 vertebrate animal groups— amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

### ***Forest Ecology***

Participants will learn about the stratification of and the inhabitants found in an eastern deciduous forest. Students will discuss the anatomy of trees and the functions of their parts. Explore Alley Pond Park's forest while practicing how to identify a tree using its leaves and a dichotomous field guide.



### ***Ecosystems of Alley Pond Park***

Through studying the ecosystems of Alley Pond Park students learn about the components, trophic relationships, energy flow and the cycling of chemical elements found in these units. Students visit and compare four ecosystems found in the park—forest, pond, salt marsh, and meadow. Ask about custom options.



### ***Soil Quality***

Program provides students with an in-depth understanding of soil and its formation. Discussion focuses on the importance of soil quality in urban areas. Students measure the pH, nutrients, and characterize the soils found in Alley Pond Park.



### ***Custom Programs and Outreach Visits***

Work with APEC staff to organize a program that will complement your current curriculum. Topics range from native plant identification to air pollution studies. Can't visit APEC? We'll come to you with outreach programs at your school. Call APEC's diverse and experienced staff to discuss your program ideas!

**Make deposit check payable to APEC (\$50 per class)  
Please send check and confirmation form to:**

**Alley Pond Environmental Center  
228-06 Northern Blvd.  
Douglaston, NY 11363**

**Please complete tear off and return with deposit check.**

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**Confirmation Form**

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**School**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact Teacher**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Trip Date and Time**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Topic Selected**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**#of students**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**#of adults**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Deposit sent \$**



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