

CAPITAL DISTRICT

Campership Program (CDCP)



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



DEC Summer Camp Scholarship Opportunity

Do you reside in Albany, Troy, Rensselaer or Schenectady? Do they have an interest in plants, animals, insects or anything that exists in nature? Do they have a sense of adventure? Does science and biology excite them? Have they shown an interest and concern about environmental conservation and sustainability? And do you think your child needs to unplug and experience the outdoors? If you answered yes to any of those, the CDCP offers students 11-17 years old (must be 11 by December 1, 2025), an opportunity to earn a **Campership** scholarship for one **FREE week** at one of DEC's Environmental Education Summer Camps. Transportation, meals, lodging, and equipment loans are available.

Camperships are limited. For more information, please contact the program coordinator. **Sign up ends April 1, 2025!**

Monthly Field Trips

Visit new places, hike new trails, explore and discover hidden worlds, and learn new outdoor hobbies and skills. Every month the CDCP hosts a free field trip for urban youth between the ages 11-17 years old. All trips are led by a DEC environmental educator and trips are within a two-hour radius of Albany, NY. Students will explore local hiking trails, challenge themselves to reach new scenic sights, learn new skills such as bird watching, fishing, plant and wildlife identification, map reading, geocaching and compass orienteering. Participating students will also engage in various community service projects or community science projects to improve our environment.

For more information about trip dates, trip details and how-to sign-up, please contact the program coordinator.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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MONTHLY TRIPS

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Upcoming Trips for 2025

February 1	WINTER LIVING CELEBRATION	<i>Being outside is a year-round activity! Let's head over to the Rodgers Center to have fun and play games while we celebrate winter.</i>
March 8	MAPLE SUGARING OPEN HOUSE	<i>Join us for an introduction to maple sugaring, from tap and sap to syrup at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center.</i>
April*	ANNUAL FISH STOCKING	<i>A free fishing clinic help DEC release rainbow trout into 6 Mile Waterworks and learn how to fish! Family friendly event.</i>
May 10	JOHN BROWN LIVES DAY	<i>Connect with other campership students while we celebrate abolitionist (person who worked to end slavery) John Brown's life at John Brown Farm.</i>
May 17	CAMP VISIT	<i>Come get a sneak peek at Camp Pack Forest in preparations for your week at camp! Family friendly event.</i>

*To be announced.

FAQ

How do I sign up for a field trip and is there a cost?

Field trips through the CDCP are free and typically on a Saturday. Please contact the program coordinator to sign up and for information about the trip. Space is limited. A minimum of 2 students are needed to run a trip.

How old do you have to be to go on a DEC field trip?

Campership field trips are for camp-aged students 11-17 only, including children turning 11 before December 1, 2025. Field trips are pre-camp experiences to help students get accustomed to the outdoors and try new skills such as hiking and fishing prior to summer camp.

Is transportation available? How long are field trips, and how far will you go?

Transportation is available. Students must be dropped off and picked up at the designated pick-up location, currently at Thomas O'Brien Academy Science and Technology. Trips can last between two to four hours. Most trips will be local: 15 minutes to two hours away from Albany, with occasional trips further away.

What does my child need to bring or wear?

The sign-up form will have details on the activity, what to bring, and what to wear. Most trips are physically active so packing water and wear sturdy weather appropriate footwear. The trip leader will pack some healthy snacks for everyone to share. Contact the coordinator before the RSVP date if this is a concern.

Who is supervising my child?

DEC staff members will be leading and supervising the trip. If you are interested in chaperoning or attending a field trip, contact the coordinator for a volunteer application, please be aware that students seating takes priority. Please notify the coordinator of any health concerns prior to the trip.