



HCA VIRTUAL GUIDE

Environmental Education for Elementary Schools

Virtual Program Guide



Includes:

Live Stream Virtual Sessions

E.Y.E. Wonder Live Stream Programs

HCA Conservation Clips

Email: hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca

Bring the Outdoors – into your school with our Virtual – Eco Outreach programs



Virtual – Eco Outreach programs bring the outdoors – into your school

The Hamilton Conservation Authority is the area's largest environmental organization and is dedicated to the conservation of our local lands, wildlife and water resources. For over 50 years the HCA has provided interactive, outdoor environmental education opportunities for Hamilton's elementary and secondary students. Join us for options: Live Stream; E.Y.E. Wonder, & HCA Conservation Clips as we bring the outdoors into your school.

This guide offers three Virtual options:

Option 1: Live Stream Virtual Sessions

Option 2: E.Y.E. Wonder Live Stream Sessions

Option 3: HCA Conservation Clips

About Our Eco Outreach Programs: Whether you want to enhance your school program from your local grounds, or to have us teach from a virtual Microsoft Teams network to augment your in-class session, we can help. The HCA provides unique, inter-active, curriculum-linked programs which are led by professional education staff.

HCA Eco Outreach Team

- HCA Environmental Education Specialists
- Supporting Background Panel of Hamilton Conservation Authority Ecology Experts

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS:

Option 1. Live Stream Virtual Sessions

- 45 minute Virtual Program Sessions. HCA staff will operate from a variety of HCA Field Sites to provide opportunity for students to learn about the environment. These program sessions are directly linked to grade levels of study and curriculum requirements. Many of the sessions include worksheet materials which reflect the study session, often including experiment ideas and discussion points. [Click to see the list of sessions available.](#)

Option 2. E.Y.E. Wonder Series

- 15 to 30 minute Virtual Program Sessions. The virtual interactive series is designed to augment the in-class session allowing students to speak directly with Naturalists. Each class will register for sessions through Microsoft Teams with the HCA Education Staff. hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca
- For additional HWDSB information please contact Lee Ann Armstrong: Leader of Experiential Learning: lnarmstr@hwdsb.on.ca Cell: 289 – 339 – 6475
[Click to see the details for E.Y.E. Wonder Series](#)

Option 3. HCA Conservation Clips

- 2 to 5 minute pre-recorded film clips. Naturalists have recorded some of the key features and interest points found within our Hamilton Conservation Areas. **Note:** Available through our HCA web networks or Youtube starting in late spring 2021.
[Click to see the details for Conservation Clips](#)

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Option 1: Live Stream Virtual Sessions

Using Microsoft Teams, staff will operate from a variety of HCA Field Sites to provide opportunity for students to learn about the environment. These program sessions are directly linked to grade levels of study and curriculum requirements. Many of the sessions include worksheet materials which reflect the study session, often including experiment ideas and discussion points.

Sessions are 45 minutes in length and may be scheduled Wednesday-Friday throughout January to June 2021.

Note: Teams Invitations will be sent out from the Booking Teacher one day in advance of the program day.

Contact: Education through hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca to register your session.

Option 2: E.Y.E. Wonder Live Stream Sessions

Bring the Education Naturalist to your school with **E.Y.E. Wonder** (Exceptional Youth Explore) live stream. This is an interactive series in which students and teachers can ask questions and provide input on Conservation themes. Questions related to Science and the local Hamilton environment direct the sessions. The Environmental Education Team will chat directly with students to unravel myths and mysteries of our natural world. The virtual interactive series will augment the in-class session allowing students to speak directly with Naturalists on topics 'of the day'.

Sessions are 15 to 30 minutes in length and are scheduled for Tuesday mornings throughout January to June 2021.

Sessions are scheduled through Microsoft Teams: Connect with Lee Ann Armstrong: Leader of Experiential Learning for further HWDSB support information: lnarmstr@hwdsb.on.ca Cell: 289 – 339 - 6475

Note: Invitations will be sent out from hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca on the day of the booking. If you have already enjoyed a Live Stream session, these short visits are a great way to follow-up with additional questions.

Additional Note: Teachers are asked to provide 3 key questions or a focus topic in advance of their session. These discussion questions will allow the HCA staff panel to augment their answers with artifacts or demonstration models.

Option 3: HCA Conservation Clips

Education Naturalists have recorded some of the key features and interest points found within our Hamilton Conservation Areas. Clips include: **Winter: What's Alive; Weather Wise; Let's Explore Winter! Interactions in the Environment; Forest Nature Hike; Tracking; Wildlife Shelters; and more.**



Sessions are 2 to 5 minutes in length and are available through our HCA web networks or Youtube.

HCA Eco Outreach Team

- HCA Environmental Education Specialists
- Supporting Background Panel of Hamilton Conservation Authority Ecology Experts

Funding of these initiatives is provided by the HWDSB in partnership with the Hamilton Conservation Authority

BOOKING PROCEDURES: Option 1: Live Stream Virtual Sessions

- Complete the following **Eco Outreach Booking Request** form and email it in to the Hamilton Conservation Authority Education Email: hcaened@conservationhamilton.ca
- Teachers will be contacted to discuss all the details pertaining to the program
- Schools will receive a follow-up confirmation via email with the final program details & schedule

To arrange a booking, contact: Education: hcaened@conservationhamilton.ca

PROGRAM LISTINGS:

Option 1: Live Stream Virtual Sessions

Selection of Programs: Sessions are 45 minutes in length, scheduled through the week.

What's Alive: Animals and Insects: Find out what lives in the area with the expertise of an HCA instructor, learn what is needed in order for their survival. Students will study the clues that insects and animals leave behind. Additional activities will help students to expand their understanding of our local wildlife and their amazing adaptations.

Recommended for grade 1 – 3 *Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Understanding Life Systems – Habitats and Communities; Growth & Changes in Animals*

Fall Into Winter: Take a look at the seasonal changes that are occurring through these autumn days. We examine the subtle clues that relate to specific seasons such as where grasshoppers go in the winter & why insects want to hide in your home. From the roots to the leaves and seed requirements, plants react to the shorter days and cooler nights in unique ways to forecast how autumn transitions into winter. Animals and insects all go through distinct changes to welcome the cold of winter or the rush of spring & summer.

Recommended for grade 1 - 3 *Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Understanding Life Systems – Habitats and Communities; Growth & Changes in Animals*

Plants and Pollinators: Plants are amazing. They can live almost anywhere and they come in all different shapes, sizes and colours! Explore nature as it changes from one season to the next. Students will observe the seasonal changes in plants and discuss what is a pollinator and why do they need our help? Just as animals depend on plants (*producers*) for survival, flowering plants depend on animals (*pollinators*) for their survival. We will also investigate soil and discover its importance to plants, animals and people.

Recommended for grade 3 – 4 *Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Life Systems – Needs & Characteristics of Living Things; Growth & Changes in Animals; Habitats and Communities.*

Rocks and Minerals: Let's try a few rock experiments and discover what minerals are found in our kitchen cupboards! In this session we will examine some of the unique rocks that form our 3 main categories of Sedimentary; Metamorphic and Igneous rock. Time will be spent on examining Fossils, what they once were and where to find them.

Recommended for grade 4 - 5 *Curriculum Links: Science & Technology Understanding Earth and Space Systems – Rocks & Minerals*

Habitats & Communities: There are so many different habitats right in the school yard community! Some habitats are as big as a forest, others as small as a leaf. Find out what makes each habitat unique. We examine interaction and interdependence; food chains and ecological relationships within our environment.

Recommended for grade 4 – 6 Curriculum Links: *Science & Technology Understanding Life Systems – Habitats and Communities*

Diversity of Living Things: A healthy ecosystem is one that has a wide variety of living things. One of the important functions of conservation authorities is the protection of natural areas and the species of wildlife that inhabit them. How do we know what plants and animals need protection? Explore biodiversity, learn about classification, adaptation, local species at risk and what is being done to protect them.

Recommended for grade 6 Curriculum Links: *Science & Technology Understanding Life Systems - Biodiversity*

Forest Ecology: Forest Ecology is a delicate balance of habitat requirements. From the lower structures of the soil to ground cover and canopy growth, we examine natural regeneration and overall forest health. Cankers and sores; weather and insects; climate changes, drought & human interactions all affect a forest system. We discuss how Wind; Solar; Green Spaces; Water efficiencies & Crop lands are all connected to Energy Recovery and Sustainability.

Recommended for grade 6 - 8 Curriculum Links: *Science & Technology Understanding Life Systems - Biodiversity & Interactions in the Environment*



Option 2: E.Y.E. Wonder Live Stream Sessions

Sessions are 15 to 30 minutes in length and are scheduled for mornings throughout the school year.

Bring the Education Naturalist to your school with **E.Y.E. Wonder** (Exceptional Youth Explore) live stream.

PROGRAM SAMPLE LISTINGS:

Winter: What's Alive. Winter offers us a glimpse of the unique plants and animals that exist in our Hamilton Conservation Areas. Discover what's alive in winter! From rabbit runways to deer beds; milkweed seedpods to chickadee chirps - nature is inspirational!

Weather Wise: Let's Explore Winter! Look around for the seasonal changes and observe some of the natural treasures in your backyard, local park system or school yard. Watch for flocks of migrating birds; hibernating insects and other natural phenomenon. Let's ask our Naturalists!

Interactions in the Environment – We are all connected: Our food, clothing and even the clean water we drink is connected to a healthy ecosystem. Our forests, wetlands, fields and meadows all support a huge variety of life. Take a closer look at the way in which energy moves through ecosystems through food chains and food webs.

Tracks in the snow: Tips and tricks about how to read the signs left behind by wildlife. Tracks, scat and tunnels can be a way to find out what lives in our area.

Let's Talk Snowshoes: We take a look at a variety of snowshoes and discuss the importance of this method for winter travel from a historical perspective.

Winter Birds: Wondering why you are still seeing some birds during winter? Don't all birds migrate south? Let's take a closer look at a few birds that tough it out during the winter season and what they do to survive!

Frogs and their Calls: What is our tiniest frog that has such a loud voice in the spring? What frog sounds like a banjo and which one is telling us to 'get out of the swamp'? We will talk frogs in this segment.

What Lives in the Soil: Alive with life, soil is fundamental to the growth of all living things. Let's take a closer look at what lies below the surface of a forest floor. Interested in gardening and plants ... ask us!

BOOKING PROCEDURES: E.Y.E. Wonder virtual sessions

HCA Contact: Email to Education: hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca & schedule through Microsoft Teams.

HWDSB Contact: Lee Ann Armstrong: Leader of Experiential Learning: lnarmstr@hwdsb.on.ca Cell: 289 – 339 – 6475.

Note: Invitations for **E.Y.E. Wonder** will be sent out from hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca on the day of the booking. If you have already enjoyed a Live Stream session, these short visits are a great way to follow-up with additional questions.

Additional Note: Teachers are invited to provide 3 key questions or a focus topic in advance of their session. These discussion questions will allow the HCA staff panel to augment their answers with artifacts or demonstration models and research as required.



Eco-Outreach Booking Request Form

Option 2: E.Y.E. Wonder Virtual Sessions

Submit by Email to Education: hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca

Email: hcaenvd@conservationhamilton.ca

Note:

- Teachers will be sent a confirmation email following the pre-planning to identify details of the live stream visit.
- Due to Pandemic Restrictions, one application is required for each attending Teacher, to be completed by that Teacher.

SCHOOL / GROUP	
MAILING ADDRESS	
TEACHER CONTACT NAME	
Student Questions	<p>Sample: Why are garlic mustard plants called an Invasive Species?</p> <p>Sample: Why do the leaves of trees change colour in the autumn?</p> <p>Sample: What is a Habitat a Niche & an Ecosystem?</p>
GRADE	
NUMBER OF STUDENTS	
PROGRAM SELECTION <i>Please list your student questions</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
PREFERRED Date and Session 15 to 30 min E.Y.E. Wonder Series	Date: Session 1. 9 – 930 or Session 2 9:45 - 10 or Session 3 10:30 - 11
TEACHER CONTACT EMAIL	

PLEASE NOTE Due to the short nature of this E.Y.E. Wonder session, it would be helpful if teachers could provide student questions in advance of the program. Thank you.