



# Lamoille County Conservation District

*Conserving Our Natural Resources Since 1945*

## Lamoille County Nature Center 2022-2023 Junior Naturalist Series

**September: Snakes of Vermont:** Who can slip out of their skin, smell with their tongue and have teeth but can't chew? Snakes of course! Learn the who's who of Vermont snakes, slither around to see how a snake spends it's time and play a game of Ribbit-Hiss Tag as we learn about snakes.

**October: Bats are Beautiful:** We have nine species of bats in Vermont but how much do we know about these frequently misunderstood mammals? We'll investigate the basics of bat biology, their favorite foods, and learn about what it's like to be a baby bat. We'll also transform ourselves into bats to see what it's like to find food using only our ears to guide us!

**November: Busy Beavers:** Why ARE the beavers so busy? We'll take a "peek" into a beaver lodge to learn how beavers prepare for and survive the long cold winter, and learn of other environmental adaptations. We'll also explore the beaver's role as "nature's best engineers" and discuss how their work affects the landscape. Finally we will build a model beaver dam using beaver know-how!

**December: Powering the Planet – Solar Energy:** As we near the winter solstice, it is a great time to explore the earth's movements around our favorite star, the sun! In this lesson we will learn how the sun provides the energy for all life on Earth and how the sun's energy moves through the food chain allowing us to "eat sunshine" every day.

**January: Snow Secrets:** Do YOU know the secret of snow? How does a snowflake form and is every snowflake really different? How can snow keep things warm? Activities include snowflake collection and observation, snow melting experiments and a snow detectives' scavenger hunt.

**February: Foxes on the Move:** Come learn about Vermont's two types of foxes, the red and the grey. Practice fox-pounces, tried out our fox ears with a game of Fox and Mouse and learn some ways that foxes are more like cats than their dog relatives.

**March: The Wonders of Water:** Did you know that all the water on Earth right now is all the water we will ever have? The same water we drink is the same water that was on Earth billions of years ago, making its way around and around in the water cycle. In this lesson we will explore the fascinating properties of water with hands-on demonstrations and create our own "rainstorm symphony."

**April: Signs of Spring:** Have you heard the peep of the spring peepers or the gobbling of the tom turkeys? We will explore who is making all of that noise, emerging from dens, and who is coming home from winter vacation as spring begins in Vermont. We will try our hands at nest-building and act out the springtime serenade of frogs.

**May: The Soil Under Our Feet:** Almost every object you eat, wear or use can be traced back to soil. In this lesson we will learn what soil is made of, get a feel for soil texture and explore the beauty and variety of soil colors to make our own soil masterpieces. You'll never want to treat soil like dirt again!

**June: Birds of Prey:** What is a bird of prey? What do these amazing hunters of the sky eat and how do they catch it? Find out what types of birds of prey live in Vermont, where to look for them and how to identify them.

Activities can include inside and outside investigations, stories, games, and crafts. Programs are one hour for 4 year olds and up, 30min sessions available for younger audiences. The program fee is \$100 + mileage (\$70 for 30min sessions). For more information or to schedule a program contact Emily Porter-Goff at 888-9218 ext. 117 or [emilylccdedu@gmail.com](mailto:emilylccdedu@gmail.com)

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