

# BEEC School Programs 2023-24



Thank you for choosing Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center! We're very much looking forward to our time with you and your students. We're in our 29th year working with local classrooms, so for many of you the following are reminders. For folks new and old to BEEC, please read carefully and be in touch if you have questions!

At BEEC our mission is to foster experiences that inspire connection to the natural world and its many inhabitants; our School Programs are designed to both accomplish our mission and help your students meet Next Generation Science Standards at their grade level. Most BEEC programs happen outside, either in the forests and fields of our property on Bonnyvale Rd in Brattleboro, or on your school grounds and surrounding natural areas. A few of our programs happen in classrooms. For program descriptions please refer to our website:

<https://www.beec.org/what-we-do/school-programs/class-programs/>

Questions? Please be in touch with your BEEC Naturalist Educator:

Ellen Peters [Ellen@beec.org](mailto:Ellen@beec.org) or Sarah Tsalbins [Sarah@beec.org](mailto:Sarah@beec.org).

or School Programs Coordinator: Kristina Weeks [kristina@beec.org](mailto:kristina@beec.org)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Will my programs happen at BEEC or at my school?***

Programs can happen at BEEC or at your school. It would be wonderful if your class could come to BEEC for at least one field trip in the fall or spring! There are a few programs that are site specific, such as to a vernal pool or to the geology at BEEC. Typically field trips don't come to BEEC during the cold months of mid November to mid April when the bathrooms are shut down.

### ***When and how should I sign up for my programs?***

As soon as possible! The sooner you sign up, the better chance you will get your preferred dates. Your BEEC educator's google calendar will be shared with you in an email. You may book your programs directly using the 'appointment slots' feature on the calendar, or by emailing your educator or [edu@beec.org](mailto:edu@beec.org).

### ***How many chaperones do we need?***

We've found that it's best to have a ratio of at least 1:10 adults to students, and more adults is usually better. Please plan on having or bringing at least that many adults (staff and/or parents). Please communicate to your chaperones that BEEC's Naturalist Educators will be counting on them to help support the learning and all-around positive experience of the group.

***What do students need to bring and wear?***

Please review with your students and chaperones clothing and footwear that will keep them comfortable on the outdoor field trip, and review the [Note about Ticks](#) together. Basically: long pants, long sleeves, and hats, in fabric/layers appropriate for the season. Sturdy shoes for moving about on uneven terrain in the field and forest. Everybody should bring a full water bottle.

***What do classroom teachers need to bring?***

Teachers need a class roster, including emergency contact info for all students, and a first aid kit from the school nurse, including any prescribed medications needed for students. If your class usually eats a snack at the time of your BEEC program, please bring that snack, and let your Naturalist Educator know ahead of time so that they can build a snack time into your program.

***What about bug spray, sunscreen, and hand sanitizer?***

Follow your school guidelines for applying bug spray and sunscreen, and for having hand sanitizer available for your students. If possible, ensure that sprays and lotions are applied before your program begins. If you are unable to do this, let your Naturalist Educator know if you'll need a few minutes to do this, so that they can plan accordingly.

***Who will do the teaching (and manage my class) during our BEEC program?***

BEEC's Naturalist Educators are experienced teachers excited and equipped to lead BEEC programs. They will refer to you for guidance and support if a student or your class needs extra support during the program. BEEC programs are designed to be accessible to most learners. While the Naturalist Educator will be "in charge," teachers know their classes best and are encouraged to communicate with their Naturalist Educator if there's something they want to add or something we should do differently!

***What if I have a student with significant learning differences or needs?***

Please notify your Naturalist Educator if you have students for whom the program may need to be significantly modified. We're happy to work with you to create the best learning experience for you and your students.

***What should I tell my class before our BEEC program?***

We've found that teachers reviewing general field trip expectations, as well as the specifics outlined above for outdoor learning, helps everybody have a more pleasant and educational time. BEEC programs are designed to align with the units that many of you are teaching, so students will probably already have some familiarity with vocabulary and concepts. If you have students who need more purposeful previewing, please be in touch with your Naturalist Educator.

***How do we get to BEEC?***

Most classes come to BEEC via bus. We know that can be pricey! In the past teachers have come up with such creative solutions as soliciting parent drivers, requesting transportation funds well in advance from your principal or school's parent organization, or "buspooling" with another class. Some teachers have been able to successfully coordinate BEEC programs with other classes in their school to save on bus costs. Be in touch with your Naturalist Educator if you are considering this option so that we can ensure adequate coverage for multiple groups at the same time.

***How will we be greeted by our Naturalist Educator?***

If you are coming to BEEC for your program, your Naturalist Educator will greet you at the parking area, and guide your group to our courtyard where everyone will circle up for a welcome, and information about your program. If your program is happening at your school, your Naturalist Educator will let you know ahead of time the best way to meet and gather depending on what your program is.

***Can we come early or stay late (like, for lunch)?***

Yes, school groups are welcome to come early or stay later at BEEC after their program. Please let your Naturalist Educator know if you are interested (in case other groups have the same plan!). Regarding trash, etc. BEEC is "carry in, carry out." We suggest bringing a few plastic containers to transport your waste back to school where you can sort it into the appropriate bins.

***What if it looks like bad weather?***

We're able to successfully do most programs in most weather. If you're unsure, please be in touch with your Naturalist Educator. Factors we consider when rescheduling: strong winds, lightning, frigid temperatures, etc.

***What about photos?***

Many teachers take photos of their students during a program. This is welcome and encouraged - so feel free to bring your cameras and devices. Please share your photos with us, with student permission! We recommend that students leave their devices at home or on the bus.

***What about Medical Emergencies?***

Classroom teachers are expected to know what's in their first aid kits and how to use them. BEEC staff will support you in addressing the emergency and calling your school nurse, and 911 if necessary.

***What if my Naturalist Educator isn't feeling well or can't do our program for some reason?***

BEEC staff will be in touch with you ASAP to reschedule your program.

***Can I bring the BEEC lesson back to my school?***

BEEC Programs belong to BEEC, please don't replicate materials etc. to use on your own.

***What if I have feedback for my Naturalist Educator?***

Feel free to communicate with your Naturalist Educator about things that went well, and suggestions that you have for how to better support your students' learning experience. During the year you can use this [Feedback Form](#). At the end of the school year all teachers will receive an end of year feedback form. We encourage everyone to take the time to offer feedback through this format. Also, you may be in touch with BEEC School Programs Coordinator - Kristina Weeks [kristina@beec.org](mailto:kristina@beec.org) - at any time.