



All of our environmental education programs focus on specific grade level curriculum connections. Descriptions are offered as general guidelines — if there are specific objectives that you would like to accomplish, please let us know. Although grade levels are recommended for each program, these are only guidelines.

## Program Costs

- \$150 per class (maximum 30 students) for a half day program
- \$225 per class (maximum 30 students) for a full day program
- Camping (programming not included) is \$6 per night per student with a \$75 minimum for the group



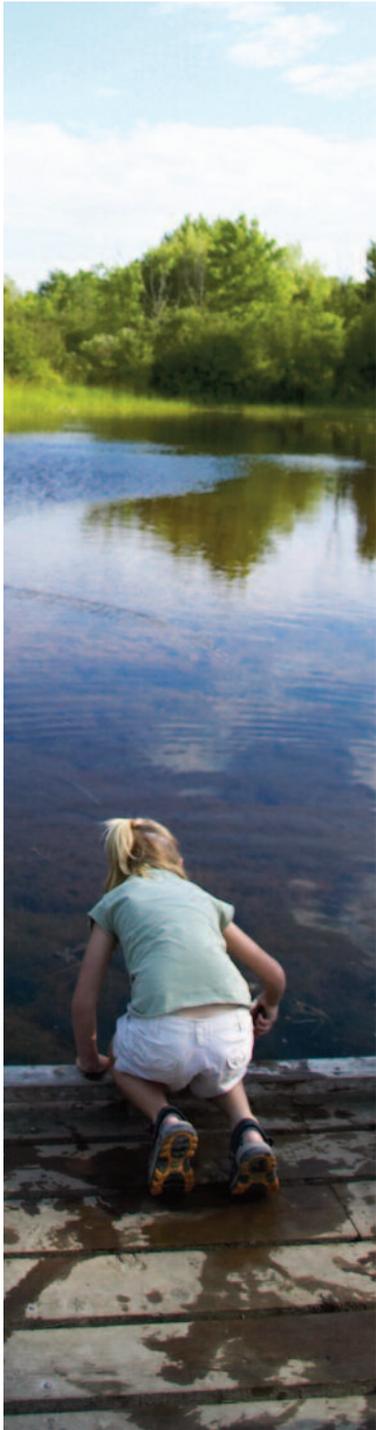
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## Outdoor Education Programs

# Baxter Conservation Area





**Baxter Conservation Area** is located on the shores of the Rideau River, five minutes south of Kars and North Gower. It is owned and operated by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

Baxter is 180 acres of mixed forest, open meadow, wetlands, beach, group camping areas and nut tree plantation. There are five kilometers of trails and boardwalks that provide wonderful, safe access for forest, meadow and wetland exploration.

The Patrick McManus Interpretive Centre is Baxter's program headquarters which can accommodate two to three classes as a starting point for an exciting day of outdoor learning.

#### **Our philosophy at Baxter**

is to provide students with a strong understanding of our natural world, how it functions and how we, as humans, fit into it. All our programs are interactive and experiential to provide students with a "hands-on" approach to learning about natural science in our "Ecology Lab."

If you don't see a program that meets your group's objectives, please give us a call — and our Interpreters will create one for you!

For more information about Baxter, fees and to book your program, please contact:

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## Winter Education Programs

Even though the cold winds are blowing, you and your class can enjoy Baxter Conservation Area during the winter months! Programs such as Outdoor Survival Skills, Orienteering, Instincts for Survival, and Naturally Artistic are also lots of fun in the winter and make great compliments to snowshoeing. Our Conservation Authorities & Resource Management Program and Team Building Program are also offered during the winter.

During the winter, Baxter also has a hill for tobogganing and a pond for skating. Toboggans and skates are NOT provided and pond availability is weather dependent. Please ask for more details.

#### **Winter Wonderland (Grade 1–6)**

Bundle up and prepare for a wild winter adventure! Explore the winter forest at Baxter and learn about how plants and animals have adapted to survive these cold Canadian months.

#### **Snowshoeing (grades 1–12)**

Come and experience one of the oldest forms of transportation in Canada! Students will learn how to safely travel with snowshoes and, once comfortable, follow the snowshoe trail through the forest and maybe even try snowshoe games.



# Education Programs

## Pond Ecology (K–grade 3)

By exploring Baxter's pond, students will learn about the diversity of life in a freshwater pond habitat and how these animals have adapted to life under water. Using nets, basins and fact sheets, students will get up close and personal with the animals that call the pond home.

## A Bug's Life: An Insect Study (K to grade 4)

Put on your detective's hat and investigate some incredible insects. Students use nets and containers to collect as many different creatures as they can to learn about what makes an insect an insect, how they have adapted to their environment, and what makes them so special to the natural world.

This program compliments Pond Ecology and the two go well together as a full day of program.



## Team Building (grade 6-12)

Students will lead through a series of team building and problem solving exercises. These activities are designed to help groups work more effectively together while developing useful communication and problem solving skills.  
*NOTE: Normally, offered as a full day program. Please ask about options.*

## Animals and Habitats (grades K–4)

Through a variety of interactive games and a nature hike, students will learn about the amazing animals (birds, mammals, insects, amphibians and reptiles) here at Baxter, the habitats they live in and what they need in order to survive (i.e. food, water, adaptations).

## Seeds of Change (K– grade 3, offered in the fall)

Fall is a wonderful time of year to explore the change of seasons. By looking at leaves and seeds, students will discover the concept of change, the life cycle of plants, and how the forest prepares for winter. Where do seeds come from? What do they look like? Where do they go and how do they move around?



## Unearthing Soil (grades 3–7)

Have you ever stopped and looked at the soil beneath your feet? Explore our living, breathing soil and some of the curious creatures that help maintain this important ecosystem ingredient.

## Plants and Habitats Program (Grade 1 to 3)

Explore the many habitats of Baxter and learn about the different plants, their importance and the role they play in our different habitats.

## The Secret Lives of Plants (Grade 3 to 12)

Using GPS units, navigate through a scavenger hunt to learn about the plants that Aboriginal people and early settlers used to help them survive the harsh Canadian wilderness.

## Naturally Artistic (Grade K to 12)

Get inspired by nature and the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy. Students will use the concepts of colour, form, shape, pattern, light and shadow to

create a piece of natural art that will be photographed. They will then have the opportunity to express their experiences through writing.

## Instincts for Survival (grades 4–12)

How do animals survive in their habitats? What are the skills of a predator? What is the human impact on animal life? Do you have the instincts for survival? This active wide game will help students understand some of the realities of the animal world and have a bunch of fun at the same time!

## Wetland Ecology (grades 4–12)

Investigate the diversity of living things found in a wetland ecosystem. Using nets, basins and identification keys, students will learn to identify plants and animals that inhabit them, the importance and function of a wetland, the different types, human impacts and what we need to do to protect and preserve wetlands.

### Outdoor Survival Skills (Grade 4–12)

What would you do if you were lost in the woods!? What things would you need to survive? Working in groups, students will have the chance to explore the concepts of shelter building, fire building, and outdoor cooking.

### Invasive Species (Grade 7–12)

What are they? Where did they come from? Are they good or bad? What can we do about them? Students will learn about and see a variety of invasive species up-close. They will also be given an opportunity to help remove some of these invasive species from Baxter.

### Overnight Camping (grade 6-12)

The possibility for a more extensive visit exists at our group camping area. The large clearing offers a campfire area, outhouses, and cut firewood. Take an evening stroll on the trails or gather round the campfire for some fun and games..

## Navigation Programs

### Knee High Navigation (Grade K to 2)

It is never too early to learn the basics of navigation! Students try their hands at using map and compass to work their way through a mini-orienteeing course.

### GPS and Geocaching (Grade 1 to 12)

Weave together technology, the outdoors, and physical activity! Get an introduction to GPS technology and how it can be used along with map and compass in navigation. Students will complete a mini geocaching treasure hunt.

### Conservation Authorities & Resource Management (Grade 1–12, Full-day Program)

CAs are local watershed management agencies that deliver services and programs that protect and manage water and other natural resources. Students will learn how CAs work and the role they play in environmental protection and management. The morning consists of a PowerPoint presentation and case studies with an interpretive hike focusing on resource management in the afternoon.

### Spring Water Awareness Program (S.W.A.P.) Resources (grades 1–6)

The RVCA is pleased to offer resources to teachers interested in promoting spring water awareness. As winter turns to spring, snow and ice begin to melt and waterways begin to fill up with cold, fast moving water. Children are often interested in exploring rushing streams and thawing ponds during the warm days of spring. However, these areas can be unsafe and it is important to teach students the dangers of these areas. Please go to the following link for more information:  
[www.rvca.ca/caareas/swap/index.html](http://www.rvca.ca/caareas/swap/index.html)

