



Teacher Trainings

Join Coastal Rivers' Director of Education Sarah Gladu and Education Assistant Angela DesVeaux for one-hour online trainings on teaching science and culture topics outdoors. See the schedule of training topics below.

Through the trainings you will have the chance to:

- Learn more about or review a topic
- Add to your toolbox of activity and project ideas, tailored to grade/age level (most are outdoor activities, but will also include inside components)
- Network with other teachers and share tips and tricks

In addition, we have **kits of tools and supplies to loan out**, on a first-come, first serve basis, that correspond with each topic. Note: you do not have to participate in a training to use a kit.

For more information

Go to www.coastalrivers.org/events-programs/for-schools-groups/ or email Sarah Gladu, Director of Education and Citizen Science (sgladu@coastalrivers.org) or Angela DesVeaux, Education Assistant (adesveaux@coastalrivers.org).

How to register

The trainings are **free of charge**.

To help us be on target with our recommendations, **please register at least 1 week prior** to the program. During registration you can let us know what grade/ages you are teaching and whether there are specific Maine Learning Standards you'd like us to focus on.

All programs will be recorded. If you are registered, you will receive a link to the recording and all associated resources.

Register online at <https://www.coastalrivers.org/events-programs/for-schools-groups/teacher-trainings/>

Teacher Training Schedule

All trainings are from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM except where noted.

10/21 Taking your class outdoors – hints and hazards

Sarah and Angela will share some time-tested tricks of the trade. Make your outdoor classes even MORE successful and learn new ways to extend and expand outdoor learning for your students. We will also share some walking games you can use to enhance your class' travel to and through the outdoors. Please "come" to class armed with a nature fun fact with which to amaze and astound your fellow teachers.

10/28 Pollinators, seeds and fruits

So how does plant reproduction really work? This review will boost your confidence, even if talking about reproduction with your students is not really your "thing." We will share a great variety of activities and projects to do with your students.

10/28 Who are the Wabanaki? (4:45 – 5:45 PM)

Review basic history and discuss food through the seasons, shelter design, and canoe travel. share resources, art projects, math games and games you can play with students all from Wabanaki culture. Sarah will be on site at the Whaleback middens and provide on-site interpretation during this program.

11/4 Maps and Orienteering

It will be helpful to have a compass with you for this training, if you have access to one. We will review how to use a compass and share activities with which to challenge your students. For younger students (under age 10), we will share mapping project ideas and related material.

11/18 Geology of Maine

What teacher has not had a student bring a rock to them to admire? Kids love rocks! And rocks help us meet the Maine Learning Standards. In this unit, we'll review Maine's geologic history and go over tips for teaching about rocks and what they tell us.

The above trainings are live and available for registration on our website. If there is sufficient interest, we will add more trainings as follows:

12/2 Tremendous Trees

Review how trees work and how to build a model tree. We will provide a range of tree identification activities for all ages, and talk about microhabitats as well as tree/animal relationships. This can be extended into more forest ecology or applied to the maple syruping program later in the year.

1/13 Birds of Midcoast Maine

Fostering a love of birds can open up a world of nature to a child. Learn how to teach basic bird identification. We'll also share several activities that will help students understand their behaviors and adaptations.

1/27 Mammals of Maine

Join us to learn about the mammals of our region, with a focus on tracks and signs. This program will integrate mammal adaptations for survival and identifying how animals interact with their habitat – both biotic and abiotic factors.

2/3 Predators

Fear and fangs! Check out our mammal skulls and learn how to discuss adaptations with your students. Discuss the role of predators in the ecosystem (*Spoiler alert: they do not control population size. But disease and resources do!*) We will also share some games and other activities to use with students.

2/24 Maple Syruping

Teaching how trees work and enjoying some sap with your students is easy and fun. We will talk about maple trees, syruping, learn a Wabanaki story about maple trees and how to set this up for a class activity. This is a great segue to phenology (the study of timing in nature) and nature journaling.

3/17 Climate Change (appropriate for students over age 12)

A great place to start learning about climate change is involving students in phenology studies. This can be an opportunity for practicing data collection and analysis. We will talk about how to do this with students and share several citizen science projects that you may want to participate in with your students.

3/31 The Damariscotta River Estuary

Estuaries are among the most imperiled ecosystems on earth and yet they are highly diverse and productive. We will discuss what the terms *biodiversity* and *productive* mean and how to teach these concepts in a meaningful way to your students. We will see a short slide show about the Damariscotta estuary (which we can share with you to use with your students).

4/28 Raising Oysters in the Damariscotta

In this unit, we will teach you how to do an oyster dissection with your students, step by step, so they can learn about how oysters function. We will also look at how local aquaculturalists raise oysters on the Damariscotta. If you want to bring your students to a walk-able oyster growing site at Salt Bay Farm on Belvedere Road, we can let you know how. There many local connections this program can offer – marine industry, engineering, restaurant industry, local food, cooking, and more, so where you take this with your students could be quite wide-ranging.

5/5 Soil – How Water Effects Soils Over Time

The formation of soils, and how water in particular impacts soils and entire landscapes over time, is incredibly interesting and offers a wealth of hands-on activities for students. Based on a class we offered to Kristie Houghton's students a few years ago, this programming could lead to further work in geology or gardening!

5/19 Aquatic Invertebrates

Using Zoom, we will look at a wide variety of aquatic invertebrates, and discuss identification and behavior. This is a gratifying topic as you can take your students to any pond or stream to look for critters – and they love it. They will ask to do it again and again. We will share a number of follow-up activities including a comparison of different habitats.