



Connecticut Traveling Environmental Educators (CTEE) Program Guide



2026

Exploration - Environment - Education

Connecticut State Parks and
Public Outreach

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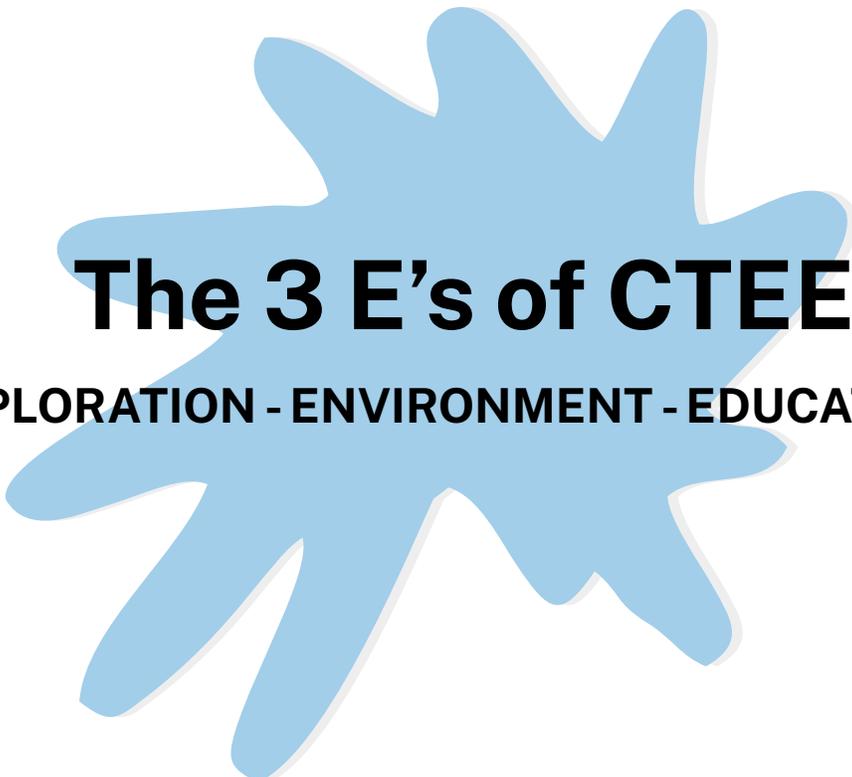


INTRODUCTION



What is CTEE?

Connecticut Traveling Environmental Educators (CTEE) is a statewide program within Connecticut State Parks and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.



The 3 E's of CTEE

EXPLORATION - ENVIRONMENT - EDUCATION

Where do we work?

CTEE is a very unique program because we have the capability to work out of any of Connecticut's 142 state parks and forests!

Who do we work with?

Naturalists within CTEE schedule events and programs with homeschool organizations, libraries, summer camps, and community groups. We also plan weekly programs that are free for the public! See the OUR PROGRAMS section for more information on the programs we host.



OBJECTIVES



Equity

Reach broad audiences throughout the State of Connecticut.

Partnership

Strengthen our local communities by partnering with our neighbors.

Comfort

Increase familiarity of the amenities available, by providing a friendly face within State Parks.

Stewardship

Raise our guests' awareness of the environment, sustainability, nature, and their role in the world around them through education and experiences.

Culture

Provide access to the untold stories of indigenous peoples and histories important to Connecticut through our programming.

Experience

Create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to do science through inquiry, exploration, and discovery.

Accessibility

Strive to make this community accessible and convenient for people of all abilities and needs.





For Homeschools

Ecology

Our ecology programs encompass topics focused on how ecosystems function, as well as how individuals interact with each other and their environments. We can discuss food webs and ecological niches, the water cycle, symbiotic relationships, conservation, keystone species, and fire ecology. Adaptable to all age groups.

Geology

Programs focused on geology can include the rock cycle, geologic time and the formation of fossils, mineralogy, plate tectonics, and volcanology. Geology programs can be adapted to all age groups.

History

History programs can include diverse topics such as fire wells, railroad, indigenous voices within a historical context, guided walks at historical sites, archeology, and anthropology. Suitable for all ages.

Biology

Biology programs can cover a variety of topics, dependent on where the program is held. We can adapt this program to focus on different environments and the species found there. Potential topics can include entomology, marine biology, herpetology, paleontology, etc. Adaptable to all age groups.

Agriculture and Climate

Programs with an agricultural focus can include forestry, natural resources, energy, climate, land-use planning, and sustainability. These programs would be suitable for all age groups.

Outdoor Skills

Programs with a focus on outdoor skills can include fire building, orienteering/compasses, first aid, and natural disaster preparedness. These programs are for children 14 and older, as we may be using live fire (depending on daily forest fire danger reports), and discussing some complex topics.





For Libraries, Summer Camps, and Youth Organizations

Animals

Our animal program provides a closer look at local ecosystems and native wildlife. Some activities include exploring adaptations through a skull and track matching game, as well as making a habitat web of Connecticut ecosystems. This program also explores the adaptations of our live animals, which participants can meet and learn more about. Can be adapted for all ages.

Plants

The plant program explores the native plants of Connecticut through activities like our outdoor “Plant Bingo” and flower dissections. Participants will learn more about how plants work and what plants they can find in their own backyards and parks! They will also learn the cultural, medicinal, and historical importance of our native plants. This program can be adapted for any age group.

Insects

Our insect program allows participants to get a closer look at native insects and their important role in Connecticut's ecosystem. Insect activities include using microscopes to view insects and an outdoor catch-and-release activity.

Participants will also have the opportunity to meet our Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches and learn about insects' places in the food chain. This program can be adapted for all ages.

Geology

This program explores the geological history of Connecticut, through maps and rock samples. During this journey through time, participants will learn how different rocks in Connecticut formed, including how the trackway at Dinosaur State Park came to be. Other activities include scientific drawings of rock samples and rock show-and-tell. This program can be adapted for all age groups.

Nature's Energy

The Nature's Energy program allows participants to discover how energy flows through an ecosystem. Participants will have the chance to take a look at the Sun using basic astronomy equipment. Through mapping activities, they will explore how energy moves through Trophic Pyramids, and how the Sun's energy affects our everyday lives. This program can be adapted for all ages.





For the Public

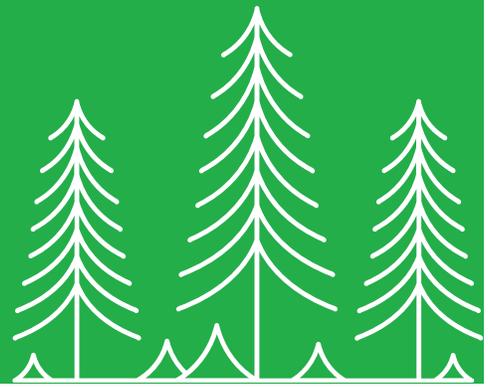
CTEE aims to provide environmental education and experiential learning for people of all ages and backgrounds. Our public programs allow park staff to access members of our community, and vice versa. We seek to bring people to Connecticut's lesser-known parks and forests in an effort to spread appreciation for our state's natural beauty, through the promotion of environmental stewardship and awareness. Program topics include birding, exploration of varied habitats, animal tracking, sustainability, and much more.

Join us for our public programs and get outside!

See the [CT State Parks event page](#) for the list of scheduled programs.



CONTACT US



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