



# Assateague Island National Seashore

## Environmental Education: Classroom Programs

Available from September - April, depending on staff availability

### Grade K & 1

### Feathers & Hair: What Animals Wear!

Learn about amazing animal body coverings, what they are made of, and how they help animals live in their environment. Together we read a book that illustrates these features, and use both tactile and visual exploration to discover animal parts. First graders also participate in a game of Four-in-a-Row featuring game cards with animal images and clues. Flexible program time: 45 – 70 mins.



#### Next Generation Science Standards

**LS1.A. Structure and Function** (*K-LS1-1.*) | **LS1.D. Information Processing** (*1-LS1-1.*)

### Grade 2

### Habitat Hunt

Explore barrier island habitats and discover how they work. Put magnifying glasses and students' senses to work observing artifacts from the island's ecosystems, imagining how they function, and thinking through physical and behavioral adaptations. Flexible program time: 45 – 70 mins.



#### Next Generation Science Standards

**LS4.C. Adaptation** (*3-LS4-3.*) | **LS2.C. Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience** (*3-LS4-4.*)

### Grade 3

### Horse Genetics: Create an Assateague Horse!

Students decode a DNA “recipe” for an Assateague horse to observe how variations in DNA lead to the inheritance of different traits. Strips of paper (representing DNA) are randomly selected and used to assemble a linear DNA molecule. Students read the DNA molecule to create a drawing of an Assateague horse, and compare it with others in the class to note similarities and differences. Flexible program time: 45 – 70 mins.



#### Next Generation Science Standards

**LS3. A. Inheritance of Traits** (*3-LS3-1.*) | **LS3. B. Variation of Traits** (*3-LS3-1.*)

### Grade 4

### Scat Sleuths

Students discover nutrient cycling in a barrier island ecosystem. Using silicone wildlife scat molds, students identify the associated animal and identify a diet sample that fits the animal's feeding strategy and habitat. Students identify each animal's place in the web of life and explore through their role in energy transfer. Flexible program time: 45 – 70 mins.



#### Next Generation Science Standards

**LS2. A. Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems** (*5-LS2-1.*) | **LS2. B. Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems** (*5-LS2-1.*)

### Grade 4 & Up

### Riding the Waves

How do waves work? Explore energy and motion through understanding ocean waves. Engage logical reasoning skills with activities. All students engage with kinesthetic props. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes draw diagrams to explore wave motion. Middle school classes additionally use equations to calculate wave features. Flexible program time: 45 – 70 mins.



#### Next Generation Science Standards

**PS4.A. Wave Properties** (*4-PS4-1.*) | **PS4.A. Wave Properties** (*MS-PS4-1.*)