

## What planning help is provided to schools?

All participating teachers receive a manual with pre and post field trip activities. Workshops are also required and provided to prepare leaders for the three trips. When available, scholarship funds can be furnished, and advice on locating alternative funding sources is provided.

## What does the program include?

One comprehensive fee covers transportation, teacher training, teacher manual, day field trips to Gateway seashore, Stony Kill Farm and two nights lodging, meals, and program activities at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center.

## For further information:

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## Program Recognition

1995 Conservation Ed. Program Award - NYS Conservation Council  
1992 L.L. Huttleston Achievement Award - New York State Park Council  
1985 Farm Education Youth Program Team Award - Cornell University

## What are the Goals of Operation Explore?

### Helping Students:

- \*To acquire a lifelong appreciation of the natural environment.
- \*To understand the interdependence of all living things.
- \*To recognize their roles as stewards of the land, air, and water locally and globally.
- \*To develop problem-solving skills and greater self - confidence.

### Assisting Teachers:

- \*To supplement the curriculum with experiences in outdoor environments.
- \*To understand the role of environmental education in the curriculum and it's value in developing science literacy.
- \*To use environmental education as a model for interdisciplinary learning.

### Working with Parents:

- \*To provide an opportunity for parents to interact with their children and teachers in a cooperative effort which supports year-long learning.
- \*To recognize that the natural environment is an exciting learning place for their children and themselves.
- \*To support their children toward lifetime exploration in the outdoors with their family and friends.
- \*To promote appreciation and stewardship of natural resources in local communities.

## Discover...

*Environmental Learning Year Round*



## Operation Explore

*"I have always seen OPEX as a farmer sowing many different kinds of seeds in children. What roots and grows in each student varies, but always leaves them better people"*

Glenn Ruckstuhl

OPEX Coordinator

# Where do you go on the field trips?

## Operation Explore

### *Environmental Learning Year Round*

The best way to learn about the environment is to be a part of the environment. Operation Explore allows New York City public school students in grades four through six, their teachers and parents, to do just that.

For over twenty-five years, Operation Explore has linked classroom science activities with the outdoors. Three distinct but interrelated environments - aquatic, farm, and forest - are explored in a hands-on way through day and overnight experiences. Last year 30 classes from all ten Regions of NYC participated.

Operation Explore is nationally recognized and has the distinction of being New York City's largest, most comprehensive and longest running environmental education program. More than 40,000 students, 1,500 teachers, and 2,000 parents can attest to these successes.

## How is this exciting program coordinated?

Operation Explore is a partnership of six agencies directly offering services to the New York City community. These are: the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; New York City Department of Education; National Park Service at Gateway National Recreation Area; Cornell Cooperative Extension; New York City Department of Environmental Protection; and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

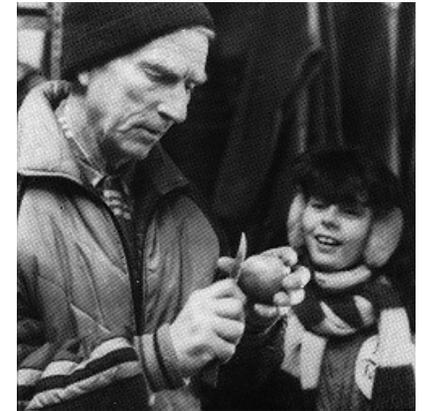


## The Seashore

Classes visit a coastal habitat at Gateway National Recreation Area in Queens, Brooklyn or Staten Island where the seashore habitat is explored. National Park Service Rangers guide students throughout the day, ensuring a focused and professional educational experience.

## The Farm

A visit is made to a working farm at the Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center in Wappinger Falls, NY. Here students learn how their food is produced and discover the interdependence of urban and agricultural communities. Everyone gets to see and do things they may have never experienced before: a chance to plant seeds, feed cows, and grind corn.



## The Forest

During the same trip, the class travels to the Taconic Outdoor Education Center at Clarence Fahnestock State Park in Cold Spring, NY, for a two-night environmental education experience. In small field groups, students explore the dynamics of forest and aquatic habitats and their inhabitants. From early morning until bedtime, students, teachers, and parents are connected to the outdoors in a personal way. It is an experience that lasts a lifetime.

