

# The Trustees Martha's Vineyard School Programs

Coastal and Farm-Based Educational Opportunities



**FREE**  
hands-on, outdoor  
learning experiences  
across the island



Dear Teachers,

The Trustees is excited to provide you and your students with a variety of experiential education programs here on Martha's Vineyard. We offer place-based and STEM oriented learning opportunities for grades pre-K to 12 through our Claire Saltonstall Education Program (CSEP) in coastal studies, and The FARM Institute's farm-based education. Both programs focus on a variety of topics and learning areas, while adhering to state curriculum frameworks. Our goal is to provide you with a local resource to explore island habitats with your students.

The Trustees is committed to enriching student learning by utilizing our diverse properties on the Vineyard as outdoor classrooms—connecting island students to our coastal landscapes and a working educational farm. Through these hands-on experiences, students gain a better understanding of and appreciation for our island environs. These compelling, recurring interactions provide island students with a lifelong passion for conservation and the natural world.

All school programs with The Trustees are FREE to island school groups. We look forward to seeing you out on our properties!

*Molly Peach Mayhew*  
Island Educator  
Martha's Vineyard

*Lindsay Brown*  
Engagement Site Manager  
The FARM Institute



## Our Programs

# Claire Saltonstall Education Program (CSEP)

The Trustees established the Claire Saltonstall Education Program (CSEP) in 1991 to provide place-based education for island school children. Through the CSEP, students have the opportunity to engage with Trustees' properties while conducting field studies that align with school curriculum frameworks. Place-based education emphasizes hands-on, experiential learning. Students living on Martha's Vineyard are encouraged to learn, explore, lead, and problem solve through the CSEP.

Each program generally consists of an in-class component followed by a field session.

# The FARM Institute (TFI)

The Trustees welcomed The FARM Institute, located on the historic Katama Farm in Edgartown, into our family of properties in 2016. We are pleased to continue the free field trips to Martha's Vineyard students that have been a long-standing TFI tradition. The FARM Institute's land, plants, and animals provide opportunities to learn about environmental stewardship, science, math, food production, and much more.

Field Trips use our working farm as an interactive classroom and include hands-on, experiential lessons with a mix of classroom and field time.



# CLAIRE SALTONSTALL EDUCATION PROGRAM (CSEP) - COASTAL STUDIES



## **LIGHT & LIGHTHOUSES** | Grade 1

Study the properties of light and learn about local flora and fauna while visiting the Cape Poge Lighthouse!

*Curriculum Frameworks: 1-PS4-3, 1-PS4-4, K-2-ETS1-1, K-2-ETS1-2*

*Field Session: Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge (2.5-3 hrs)*

## **REASONS FOR SEASONS** | Grades 1 & 2

We take a hands-on look at Mytoi Garden on Chappaquiddick to explore the changing seasons throughout the year.

*Curriculum Frameworks: 1-ESS1-2, 1-LS3-1*

*Field Session: Mytoi Garden (1 hr)*

## **RESTORING HABITATS: NATIVE PLANTS, BARN OWLS & BUTTERFLIES** | Grades 1 - 3

Students aid in habitat restoration through propagating native plants, discovering pollinators, and building homes for barn owls. Project varies by season and need.

*Curriculum Frameworks: 1-LS10-1, 2-LS2-3 (MA), 3-LS1-1*

*Field Session: Long Point Wildlife Refuge & Wasque Reservation & The FARM Institute*

## **SURVIVOR: PLOVER EDITION** | Grades 1, 2 & 3

Students explore the worlds of shorebirds by understanding what animals need to survive and how they are adapted to the coastal environment.

*Curriculum Frameworks: 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, 2-LS2-3 (MA), 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 3-LS4-5 (MA)*

*Field Session: Long Point or Cape Poge Wildlife Refuges (1.5 hrs)*

## **LANDFORMS & MAPPING** | Grade 2

We introduce students to a variety of landforms on Chappaquiddick. Students learn to map and compare these landforms through hands-on activities.

*Curriculum Frameworks: 2-ESS2-1, 2-ESS2-2, 2-ESS2-3, 2-ESS2-4 (MA), 2-LS4-1*

*Field Session: Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge (2 hrs)*



# CLAIRE SALTONSTALL EDUCATION PROGRAM (CSEP) - COASTAL STUDIES



## **EROSION & WEATHERING** | Grade 2

Students study the differences between erosion and weathering and witness examples of both through field studies and an in-class experiment.

*Curriculum Frameworks: 2-ESS2-1, 2-ESS2-4 (MA), 2-PS1-2, K-2-ETS1-2*

*Field Session: Long Point Wildlife Refuge (1-1.5 hrs)*

## **COASTAL LIFE** | Grade 3

Students discover coastal and marine animals while studying topics of heredity and traits.

*Curriculum Frameworks: 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2*

*Field Session: Long Point Wildlife Refuge (1.5 hrs)*

## **GEOLOGY ROCKS! (PART 1)** | Grade 3

Make rocks and minerals come alive as we help your students investigate the Vineyard's glacial history through hands-on activities and a field visit to the glacial moraine.

*Curriculum Frameworks: Earth & Space Science; Science Practices (S1): Asking Questions and Defining Problems*

*Field Session: Menemsha Hills Reservation (1.5 hrs)*

## **EXTREME WEATHER** | Grades 3 & 4

Students investigate weather patterns and the relationship between the atmosphere and the ocean. We cover topics of sea level rise and the importance of salt marshes.

*Curriculum Frameworks: 3-ESS2-1, 3-ESS3-1, 4-ESS2-1, 4-ESS3-2*

*Field Session: Long Point Wildlife Refuge (1.5 hrs)*

## **GEOLOGY ROCKS! (PART 2)** | Grade 5

Dive deeper as students uncover erosion and weathering, and take a closer look into rocks and minerals during a field visit to Menemsha Hills.

*Curriculum Frameworks: Earth and Space Science; Science Practices (S1): Asking Questions and Defining Problems*

*Field Session: Menemsha Hills Reservation and/or Norton Point Beach (1.5 hrs)*

## **NAVIGATION** | Grades 5 & 6

Learn basic navigation skills with a trip to Menemsha Hills and in-class activities that include constructing a play-dough topographic map!

*Curriculum Frameworks: History & Geography: 1,2,3,4*

*Field Session: Menemsha Hills Reservation (1.5 hrs)*

## **LAND USE HISTORY** | Grade 5 & 6

Students study the history of land use at Long Point Wildlife Refuge, from Native Americans, to early settlers, and current use.

*Curriculum Frameworks: History & Social Science: Concept Skills (2,3,7); Learning Standards 5.6*

*Field Session: Long Point Wildlife Refuge (1.5 hrs)*

## **NATURE WRITING** | Grades 5 - 8

Students use the natural surroundings of The Trustees' properties to learn nonfiction writing through drawing, writing, poetry, and art.

*Curriculum Frameworks: English Language Arts and Literacy, Writing Standards: 3*

*Field Session: All Trustees' Martha's Vineyard Properties (1.5 hrs)*

## **OYSTER ECOLOGY** | Grades 5 - 8

Students study the biology and ecology of oysters and the role of oysters in our local waters. This program includes oyster dissection.

*Curriculum Frameworks: 5-ESS3-1, 6.MS-LS4-2, 7.MS-LS2-1, 7.MS-LS2-2, 7.MS-LS2-4*

*Field Session: Cape Poge, Long Point, or Norton Point (1 hr)*



## **SEAWEED REPRODUCTION & PHENOLOGY** | Grades 9 - 10

Explore our coastal communities to study seaweed reproduction, phenology (climate and seasonal change), and biophilia (seaweed art). This program includes classification and identification.

*Curriculum Frameworks: HS-LS2-1, HS-LS4-1*

*Field Session: Cape Poge or Long Point Wildlife Refuges (1.5 hrs)*

## **MARINE ECOLOGY** | Grades 9 - 12

Students study marine invertebrates, biological classification, and evolution through in-class and field session on Trustees' properties.

*Curriculum Frameworks: HS-LS1-2, HS-LS4-1, HS-LS4-5*

*Field Session: Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge (1.5 hrs)*

## **UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE** | Grades 4 - 12

This adaptable program explores climate change for any age! The field session includes measuring coastal change and studying sea level rise.

*Curriculum Frameworks: 4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS2-1, 4-ESS3-1, 5-ESS3-1, 6.MS-ETS1-1, 7.MS-ESS2-2, 7.MS-LS2-5, 8.MS-ESS2-1, 8.MS-ESS3-5, HS-ESS2-2, HS-ESS2-4, HS-ESS2-6, HS-ESS3-1, HS-ESS3-3, HS-ESS3-5, HS-LS2-7*

*Field Session: Wasque Reservation (1.5 hrs)*



## **WHAT ELSE DO WE OFFER?**

- CSEP Summer High School Internship (Grades 11 & 12)
- Independent studies & mentoring
- In-class lesson plans and materials for teachers (can be picked up at our office)

Looking to study another topic? Let us know! We can modify and develop any new programs.

**For more info or to register for a CSEP program, contact Island Educator:  
Molly Peach Mayhew | [mpeach@thetrustees.org](mailto:mpeach@thetrustees.org) | 508.693.7662 x 1001**



# THE FARM INSTITUTE (TFI) - FARM-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS



## **STONE SOUP** | Grades PreK-1

Visit the farm during harvest season and glean vegetables from our garden through a fun scavenger hunt. After the harvest, we listen to the story Stone Soup, and prepare a soup of our own!

*Curriculum Frameworks: 1-ESS1-2, 2-LS2-3, a variety of PreK-3 ELA listening standards*  
*Duration: 1 hour at TFI*

## **SURVIVOR: FARM EDITION** | Grade 2

There is a giant web of dependence on a farm. Learn how the food, water, shelters, temperature, plants, seeds and animals are all intertwined on our farm by using models and making visual observations!

*Curriculum Frameworks: 2-LS2-3*  
*Duration: 1 hour at TFI includes class time and field walk*

## **SHEEP TO SWEATER** | Grade 3 & 5

Students come to the farm during our lambing season, observe lambs and their mothers in their winter paddock, and walk through the steps of processing wool for clothing. The lesson is customizable to fit a variety of needs, including STEM.

*Curriculum Frameworks: 3.12, 5.11*  
*Duration: 1.25 hours at TFI includes class time and field observations*

# THE FARM INSTITUTE (TFI) - FARM-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS



## **FARM ANIMAL LIFE CYCLES & HEREDITY** | Grade 3

Investigate a variety of animal groups' traits and heredity. What's the life cycle difference from a bird to a mammal? How does heredity and trait patterns shape the breeds we choose to raise? Are there environmental factors that could affect growth of different animal groups?

*Curriculum Frameworks: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2*  
*Field Session: 1.25 hours at TFI includes a class session and field walk*

## **FARM WEB** | Grade 5

Interactions on the farm! From compost, soil, plants and animals, we take a look at the multiple interactions that occur among our departments and animal groups here at the farm.

*Curriculum Frameworks: 5-LS2-1, 5-LS2-2*  
*Duration: 1.5 hours at TFI includes class time and field stations*



## **WHAT ELSE DO WE OFFER?**

- The Farm Institute: Farm-Based Educators hired for FARM camp! (ages 18 and up)
- The Farm Institute: Farm-Based Educators in Training (ages 14-17)
- Independent studies & mentoring

Looking to study another topic? Let us know! We can modify and develop any new programs.

**For more info or to register for a TFI program, contact:**  
**[tfieducation@thetrustees.org](mailto:tfieducation@thetrustees.org) | 508.627.7007**

# What our participant teachers have to say:

"Allowing our students to access a wide variety of natural locations on the island while learning about native species, geology, and the history of land use was a treat. Many of our students had never been to the locations that we visited."

• *MV Regional High School Teacher*

"Thank you for your positive energy today! The 6th grade was excited about their ability to successfully "read" the compass and the contour lines on the map! I was happy to see some students who have struggled in day-to-day classes but who actually "got" the concept of elevation and direction!! These opportunities offer students a fabulous venue to show what they know and help to throw a spotlight on those who don't always succeed in a classroom but who are able to understand and use their knowledge in the "real world"."

• *5th & 6th Grade Teacher, Edgartown School, CSEP Navigation Program*

"[The Trustees staff] was truly excellent at tailoring education for our group. Their love for our community, teaching and for children was evident in the way they taught. We are lucky to have such a great resource!"

• *Grades K-1 Teacher*

"Love how accommodating the Trustees are. [They] do a great job supporting my classroom work and designing engaging activities."

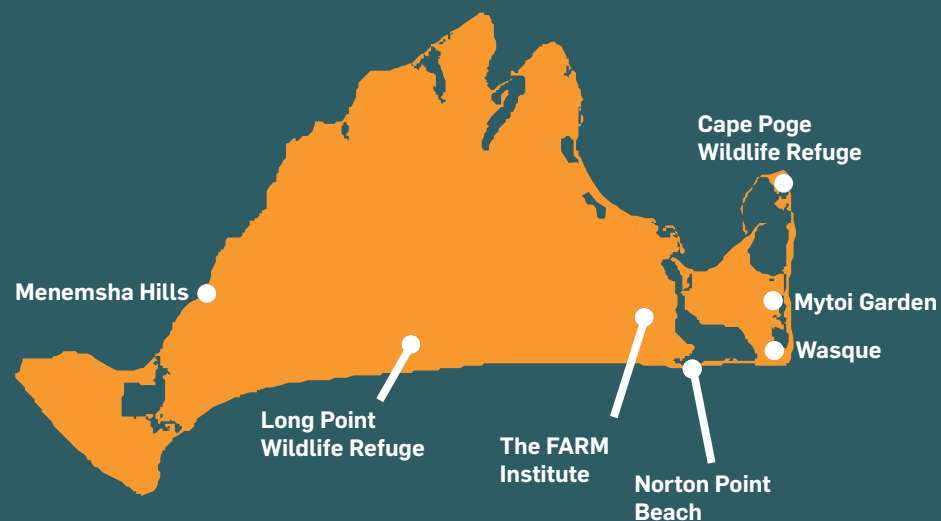
• *MV Regional High School Teacher*

"We are still learning how to interpret the science standards for the grade level we teach. Your help with this is greatly appreciated."

• *Grade 2 Teacher*

"Thank you for providing and supporting science in our schools."

• *3rd Grade Teacher*



## About The Trustees



Founded in 1891, The Trustees is Massachusetts' largest conservation and preservation organization. Our 116 properties (including 7 on Martha's Vineyard) span 27,000 acres across the state—from working farms, landscaped and urban gardens, and community parks, to barrier beaches, forests, campgrounds, inns, and historic sites. They include 75 miles of coastline, 350 miles of hiking trails, and eleven historic homesteads. We are a nonprofit supported by members, friends, and donors.





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