



## Special Programs and Services

### Earth Days

Shared year-round, Earth Days are one of Earth Spirit's most popular programs. This unique experience involves a full day of diverse environmental education sessions for an entire school and includes the following:

- **Planning:** For first-time participants, Earth Spirit staff will conduct a planning meeting with school personnel in order to discuss the logistics, content and details of the Earth Day. Schools that have already participated in an Earth Day will plan with our staff via phone, email and/or fax. Completed schedules will then be sent to the school for their review and eventual dissemination to faculty and staff.
- **Logistics:** The school day is generally divided into ten, twenty-five minute sessions. Each class, depending upon school size and the number of instructors, usually participates in eight to ten of these session periods.
- **Content:** Earth Spirit provides six to ten instructors for Earth Day, usually determined by school size. Schools also have the option of providing additional instructors (usually one or two) in order to increase student participation and/or reduce school costs. Instructors teach each topic concurrently and student groups will rotate from session-to-session throughout the day. A sample of some of the most popular topics include:
  - *Live Animal Demonstrations*
  - *Ecology Hikes*
  - *Wildlife Adaptations*
  - *Skulls and Bones*
  - *Earth Awareness*
  - *Wildlife Puzzles*
  - *Native American Studies*
  - *Herbalism*

### Ecology Expeditions

Earth Spirit offers a variety of unique and challenging residential experiences at selected facilities in both Western New York and at locations outside of the area. These experiences, ranging from an overnight to a full week in residence, may involve a program focused in the areas of Ecology Field Studies or Survival Skills Training. Earth Spirit staff will coordinate and conduct these expeditions at any of the following locations:

- *Letchworth State Park*
- *Allegany State Park*
- *Adirondack State Park*
- *Algonquin Provincial Park*
- *Everglades National Park*

Our staff has been leading expeditions to these locations for more than twenty years with private and public schools, field studies classes from the University at Buffalo, and the general public.



### In-Service Workshops

Earth Spirit has designed various in-service workshops for school, community or corporate personnel who are interested in enhancing their knowledge and abilities in the outdoor classroom. Sessions may range from a half-day experience to an extended series of programs. Workshop topics may include:

- *Being a Naturalist*: involves training participants in the mechanics and methods of conducting environmental education programs.
- *Field Ecology*: these programs are focused upon field studies in the areas of general ecology, conservation biology and environmental analysis.
- *Curriculum-Based Programs*: here we coordinate with teachers/leaders to develop environmental curriculum that is relevant to existing curriculum requirements.
- *Special Topics*: involves special interest topics in the areas that include (but not limited to):
  - *Nature Attunement*
  - *Survival Skills*
  - *Herbalism*
  - *Wildlife Studies*

### Site Development Projects

Earth Spirit staff will coordinate with schools, community groups or corporations in order to develop natural areas into functional wildlife preserves or educational centers. These services may include:

- *Site Analysis*: involves research and field work in the areas of historic land use patterns, soil surveys, habitat analysis and floral/faunal surveys.
- *Management Plans*: involves the development of trail systems, trail guides, infrastructures, wildlife management projects, ecology demonstration areas, and other services.
- *Education Programs*: here we develop and implement a variety of environmental education programs for either teacher/leader training or student/youth/public programming.

Earth Spirit staff has provided these services to private and public schools, municipalities, and county governments during the past thirty years.