



# Engaging with Nature

IDEAS FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND EDUCATORS

## Do some research!

- How much precipitation does Maryland get in an average September?
- What is the name of your local watershed?



Photo by Craig Freeland

### No Tech Activities

*No devices or apps needed*

#### Be the Storm

Go outside and be a storm!

- Find a place where you can make a lot of noise outside.
- Pick up some sticks and stones.
- Carefully, throw down the stones to signify the thunder.
- Drag the sticks to represent the constant drops of rain.

### Low Tech Activities

*Mobile device/Wi-Fi access*

#### Biodiversity Quadrants

Find out what lives near you.

- Find a place outside where you think you might find some critters.
- Use something straight to make a 12" x 12" square.
- Sit quietly for 10 minutes and note the organisms that crawl throughout the quadrant.
- Observe how weather can impact biodiversity. Try doing this activity before and after a weather event.
- Optional: Using a mobile device, take pictures of the quadrant and the things you find. Try to identify them using the iNaturalist app.

### Tell us about your programs & resources!

MAEOE is collecting information about Maryland ee Providers to share with educators, parents, and caregivers.

To feature your programs, professional development opportunities, and resources in this newsletter and on the MAEOE website,

[CLICK HERE!](#)

### Keeping Children Healthy During COVID-19

Tips from the CDC: <https://tinyurl.com/v62b444>

- Teach & reinforce preventive actions, like washing hands often & getting plenty of sleep.
- Stay active - play outdoors or take an indoor dance break.
- Stay socially connected with friends and family. Schedule phone/video chats; or write cards/letters.
- Watch for signs of stress or behavior changes.

### Outdoor Safety Tip

When you are outside, watch your step! Sometimes the most dangerous things outside are those that can throw off your balance. Watching out for roots and rocks while on trails is crucial for making sure you don't take a tumble.

## The Patuxent Research Refuge

The Patuxent Research Refuge is a 12,841-acre wildlife refuge located in Anne Arundel County & Prince George's County. It was established in 1936 and it is the only national wildlife refuge established to support wildlife research.

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/>



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

## In-School & After-School Programs and Resources

### Port of Baltimore Environmental Education Program

Includes in-class education, field trips, and professional development with an ALL-NEW virtual spin! Visit the E3 Portal (<https://rebrand.ly/e3portal>) to learn more about environmental initiatives and how to incorporate them into your online learning experiences! For more info contact: [outreachtours@menv.com](mailto:outreachtours@menv.com).

### Towson University

#### Center for STEM Excellence - Science Explorers Club

An after-school program that meets virtually via Zoom every Wednesday from 4-5 pm, and is open to MD 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. First session is 9/16. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3wozeh4>

### Towson University (<https://tinyurl.com/y5gotgg6>)

#### Distance Learning Resources for K-12

Free resources for teachers and students engaging in distance learning.

#### Virtual Field Trips for Students (Farm, Garden, Food, Sustainability)

Compiled by Great Kids Farm of BCPS (<http://www.friendsofgreatkidsfarm.org/>).

Check out this list (<https://tinyurl.com/y3mqva57>) of farm-based and related nature-based virtual programming opportunities for students.

Check out the MAEOE Calendar for more details on lots professional development opportunities!

<https://maeoe.org/calendar>

## Professional Development & Enrichment

### Earth Expeditions - Project Dragonfly

<https://tinyurl.com/y4mngqnm>

Miami University's Project Dragonfly is accepting applications for 2021 Earth Expeditions graduate courses.

### GLOBE Program 2-Day Virtual Workshop (9/24 & 10/8 from 3:00 - 4:30PM)

Overview of GLOBE observer app and program. 20-person limit. Flyer: <https://tinyurl.com/y5d5223a>;

To register: <https://tinyurl.com/y67l7smd>

### Goucher College - Infusing Ag in the Elementary Classroom

6 weeks of online learning and 2 virtual workshop sessions (including a virtual farm field trip!). Flyer:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4kd98qw>; To register: <https://ranger.goucher.edu/gradmis/maefreg.aspx>

## GLOBE Observer App

Join the GLOBE community and make environmental observations that complement NASA satellite observations. Help scientists studying Earth and the global environment. Contribute important scientific data.

To participate, download the app, register with an email address, then go outside and follow the prompts in the app to observe your environment. For more info: <https://observer.globe.gov/about/get-the-app>